

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2007

Present: Cllrs, P. Risborough (in the Chair), B. Bale, G. Chandler, J. Dowsett, S. Gilford, K. Pickis, A. Jones and N. Whinton.

In Attendance: P Gill Clerk, County Cllr R Hall Dist Cllr C Howard and PC Mark Randle.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs M Cox and K Rossiter

2. **Chairman's Announcements:** None

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting:**

The minutes of meeting held on 1 November 2007 having been previously circulated were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by Cllr S Gilford and seconded by Cllr K Pickis. Agreed one Abstention.

94.07 Matters Arising – For Information Only:

Item 86.07 - Back up service: The Clerk confirmed that a daily Steady Backup service was now in place and working well.

4. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared.

5. **95.07 Policing Issues:** PC Mark Randle reported that there had been 11 calls. The main call was regarding the damage to the school and anti social behaviour in the vicinity of the school. Regrettably the school's CCTV system was inoperative at the time. PC Randle has arranged for a colleague to try and repair the system. There was an assault near the Blue Lion pub which is still being investigated. The results of the speeding survey just pass the threshold to allow for the irregular deployment of the Safety Partnership van on the A338 and the local force is on the list for the deployment of a "Smiley Face" speed indicator.

Cllr Chandler joined the meeting at 7.45.PM

6. **Adjournment for public comments/questions:** Meeting adjourned at 7.50.p.m. WCC Cllr Hall reported the following: The fight to stop the creation of Unitary Authorities continues and those involved in the appeal expect it to be won. A transition Cabinet comprised of eight County Cllrs and eight Cllrs from the Districts will form up in January 2008. Their output will be scrutinized by a group of eight Cllrs drawn from the County and Districts.

KDC Cllr Howard had little to report but offered some advice regarding the planning appeal process and how the Members might best influence the outcome.

The meeting reconvened at 8.01pm

7. **96.07 Finance Report:** Cllr Dowsett presented the report for October. (Copy attached). He then gave an overview of the process of drawing up the draft budget for FY 08/09 and informed Members that he was confident that he would get it ready for presentation at the January meeting and thus allow them to be able to set the Precept for FY 08/09. He also explained that he was working on drawing up a draft capital expenditure forecast for FY 09 -11 which he would present to Members at a later date.

Committee Meeting: Cllr Risborough reported on a meeting of the Property & Finance Committee, held prior to this meeting, the draft minutes of which will be circulated in due course.

River Bourne Fields Development: Cllr Risborough presented the draft justification written by Cllr Cox in support of the release of £25K from KDC. The Members accepted the draft and agreed that it should now go forward to KDC as soon as is practicable and commended Cllr Cox on an exceptionally well written and argued justification.

Agreed Nem Con
Action Cllr Cox

The following cheques were authorised:

Clerk's salary Sep-Dec - £ 894.88p

Clerk's expenses Sep-Dec - £193.19p

NTT Europe online- Steady Back up invoice - £1.78p

M Wells – Ash tree felling - £550.00p with the proviso that Mr Wells comes back and completes the work to the complete satisfaction of the Members. The Clerk is not make payment until Cllr Pickis has checked on Friday 7 December that Mr Wells has carried out the work and once Mr Wells has presented an invoice for the correct amount (£550.)

Action Cllr Pickis & Clerk

Proposed by Cllr Risborough and seconded by Cllr Chandler that the report as presented be accepted and the cheques as presented be authorized. Agreed Nem Com

8. **97.07 Planning Report.** Cllr Whinton presented the planning report (copy attached, and displayed on the notice board).

– Cllr Whinton presented a draft response stating in some detail the Council's objections to this application which the Members accepted should go to KDC. After a lengthy discussion regarding the best way to gather supporting evidence of objections within the village and in the interests of democracy and transparency Members decided to raise a petition to draw comment from across all areas of the village. Cllr Whinton agreed to draw up a draft petition and to circulate it to Members for comment in the next few days. The Chairman reminded Members that there was still a need for the Cadley Road traffic survey to be carried out. Members decided that as further discussion on this matter was required it is to be listed as an agenda item at the next PC, so a small working party can be established if necessary. Throughout this discussion, KDC Cllr Howard offered some sage advice for which the Members expressed their gratitude. Members were reminded that the appeal hearing is to take place at 10.00am on 30th January in the Village Hall.

Proposed by Cllr Gilford and seconded Cllr Jones that the report as and draft objections response as presented be accepted. Agreed Nem Com

Action Cllr Whinton

9. **98.07 Property Report:**

Cllr Risborough had nothing to report. Cllr Bale gave an update on the meeting held, in November, with teenagers from the village and highlighted the fact their preference was for a Youth Shelter (Rekk Tube) with 12 seats and aluminium panels which they thought was cool! The teenager's views were incorporated into Cllr Cox's letter of justification (see Item 96.07) for the release of the £25K.

Skips for plastic and cardboard waste will be at Everleigh Road on Wednesday 6th February 2008 between 1000 & 1230.

10. **99.07 highway Matters:** A number of the Members have received complaints about the current road works in and around the centre of the village. Members took the view that overall, the works were of benefit to the village. The pros and cons of having traffic lights on the A338 was discussed and Members concluded that now might be a good time to consider revisiting the Village Design Statement with a view to making a case for a pedestrian crossing on the A338 in the area of the village shop. Moreover, it was agreed that a separate meeting may be needed to take this forward and that this matter should be carried forward to the February meeting with a view to setting a date for a separate meeting.

Cllr Bale asked if anyone knew of £25K that her father thought had been set aside as a result of the closure of the railway station. None of the Members were able to shed any light on this subject and Members requested that Cllr Cox to write to KDC and to contact ex Cllr Rob Harrison to see if they can provide any information.

WCC Parish Steward Scheme: Next visit 15th January.

Cllr Bale to be notified of any work needed in the parish as soon as possible.

Proposed by Cllr Gilford Seconded by Cllr Jones that the report as presented be accepted.

Agreed Nem Con

Action Cllr Bale/Cox

11. **100.07 General Matters:**

Bus Shelters: Cllr Chandler briefed Members on the progress of the Bus Shelter. In particular he drew attention to the fact that he has received **verbal** confirmation from KDC that they will meet 50% of the overall costs. However, the Council will have to meet the full costs and then claim the 50% from KDC. Members authorised Cllr Chandler to order two Bus Shelters at cost not to exceed £5000 + VAT subject to receiving written confirmation from KDC that they will meet 50% of the overall costs.

Members commended Cllr Chandler for his efforts.

Proposed by Cllr Dowsett and seconded by Cllr Gilford

Agreed Nem Con

Action Cllr Chandler

Great Mere: Cllr Pickis reported that the Ash tree had been felled and Members authorised her to look at options for the sale of the timber. (Also see item 96.07)

Proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Gilford

Agreed Nem Con

Action Cllr Pickis/Clerk

12. **101.07 Co-option of Councillor(s):** One vacancy remains as a result of the May 2007 election and anyone interested in becoming a councillor should contact the Parish Clerk for details.

13. **Date of Next Meeting:** Was confirmed as 3rd January 2008 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm