

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 2 MARCH 2006

Present: Cllr P Shields (Chairman)

Cllrs B Bale, P Carter, G Chandler, P Cogdell, C Price, J Robinson, A Still, A Stone
and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr M Cox and Sgt N Porter.
2. **Casual vacancy:** There is still a vacancy for a parish councillor which will be filled by co-option. Anyone interested should contact the Parish Clerk for further information.
3. **Chairman's announcements:**

Rural Affordable Housing in Sustainable Communities: WALC's first joint conference on this matter will take place at The Corn Exchange, Devizes on Friday 24 March between 9.30 am and 3.00 pm. Any councillor wishing to attend should contact Cllr Shields.

S E Kennet Community Area Health Group will be holding its next meeting on Wednesday 23 March at Ludgershall Scout Hall. Anyone, councillor or otherwise, would be welcomed as there is currently only limited representation from the rural parishes in the community area.

S E Kennet Councillors Forum will hold its next meeting at 7.00 pm on Monday 6th March in Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. There is a twenty minute session for questions or representations by members of the public.

Tidworth Community Area Festival will be held on Sunday 30th July at Tedworth House. It is hoped that all parishes in the community area will participate.

'Recognising Endeavour' Community Area Awards 2005 will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 15 March at Ludgershall Memorial Hall. Awards to be presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire. Both councillors and the public are invited to attend.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 2 February 2006:
The Minutes were agreed as a true record.
Proposed by Cllr Still seconded by Cllr Price. Agreed nem con.
11.06 Matters arising: None.
5. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
6. **12.06 Policing Issues:**
Sgt Nigel Porter was unable to attend because of a major incident in Ludgershall but had given the clerk a brief telephone report. He assured the PC that positive action is being taken against those responsible for recent damage and arson to village property. It is anticipated that Tidworth Section will have a 31% detection rate when final figures are received. Sgt Porter plans to hold a meeting with representatives of local parishes.
Cllr Cogdell reported on the recent distraction burglary in Sunnyhill. The van thought to have been used was found by police after it had been dumped.
7. **13.06 Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act:**
Mr Robert Draper, Acting Principal Environmental Health Officer for KDC, clarified some of the ways this Act will impact on parish councils when it comes into force on 6 April 2006. The guidance states that employees authorised by the parish council can issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog control orders. Of prime interest are changes to dog control legislation where the new Act creates additional offences relating to fouling, dog free areas and keeping dogs on a lead. KDC is planning a Dog Fouling Order (DFO) that will be Kennet-wide and will replace its existing one. £75 fines will be set. Should a parish council decide to issue fixed penalty notices it must ensure it has adequate resources to pursue any unpaid fines as KDC will not enforce an Order on their behalf. PCs may set their own fines and collect and use monies raised in this manner. Training of appointed officers is to be organised by DEFRA. The Act specifically states that parish councillors are not permitted to enforce it.

It is unlikely the new Order will be in place by 6 April as KDC has been advised by DEFRA that it must hold a consultation exercise with parish councils. Once the draft consultation document has been checked against the awaited official Regulations Mr Draper will send it to PCs who should expect to receive it during the coming month. Mr Draper then answered questions from those present. The Chairman thanked Mr Draper for his presentation and Mr Draper then left the meeting.

8. **Adjournment for public comments/questions – 8.06 pm.**

District Cllr Still updated the meeting on the impending changes to parking regulations. From September the enforcement of parking regulations in Kennet will become the entirely the responsibility of the District Council including yellow lines, bus and taxi bays etc which were previously enforced by WCC. Eight additional traffic wardens will be appointed and penalty enforcement increased.

The meeting reconvened at 8.13 pm.

9. **14.06 Finance Committee Report:**

Cllr JW Robinson presented the monthly financial statement for February 2006.

Litter patrol: It was agreed that following the trial period a contract for one year be entered into with Tidworth Trust continuing the existing arrangement of one operative for four hours per week subject to quarterly reviews.

Proposed by Cllr Still seconded by Cllr Cogdell. Agreed nem con.

Letters of thanks: Letters of thanks for donations have been received from the Great Mere Community Conservation Group and Splash.

Request for donation – St John Ambulance: Consideration of this is to be deferred until the next meeting as funds are not available in the current financial year.

The following cheques were authorised:

Tidworth Trust £136.00 (Litter Patrol – February 2006).

Proposed by Cllr Robinson seconded by Cllr Bale. Agreed nem con.

15.06 Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Price presented the report for February 2006. To be displayed upon the noticeboard.

16.06 Property Committee Report: Cllr Shields presented the report for February 2006.

Recycling skips: The final recycling skips (for garden waste and cardboard) in the current financial year will be at Station Approach on Monday 27 March between 8.00 and 10.30 am.

Cricket square posts: The new visible taller posts are now in place around the cricket square. Clerk to write letter of thanks to the Cricket Club for expediting this matter.

Burial ground: The PC is still in receipt of only one quote for repairs to the fencing around the burial ground. Anyone who knows of other contractors who might be interested in quoting for this work should contact Cllr Cox or Cllr Shields.

Property Committee meeting to be held to consider quotations.

Bus Shelters: The PC will investigate possible funding support for the replacement of the bus shelters in the coming year as it is felt that the continuing deterioration in their condition may make further ongoing repairs uneconomic.

Recreation ground: The perimeter of the recreation ground needs clearing of debris. Cllr Shields to organise a working party. In the meantime Cllr Chandler offered to approach the Cricket Club to enquire if it would be prepared to incorporate some of the work into its annual "spring clean".

10. **17.06 Highway matters:**

Bridge repairs: Cllr Shields said he was pleased to report that repairs to the bridge parapet and rails at the Chicks Lane junction have been completed by WCC.

Right of way, Sunton: The collapsing brickwork has now been repaired.

Meeting with WCC Highways representative: It is regretted that no further contact has been made by Mr Ian Postlethwaite since the initial letter following his visit. He has been on sick leave during the past month and Cllr Shields undertook to follow up on all the matters raised at this meeting upon his return.

30 mph signs on Chicks Lane: Cllr Shields expressed his appreciation to the Village Hall Trustees for their letter to WCC indicating their concern about the mis-positioning of these

signs in Chicks Lane. So far he has received two local opinions on the possible closure of this part of Chicks Lane - both opposing any such closure.

11. **18.06 General matters:**
Best Kept Village Competition 2006: After discussion it was decided not to enter this year.

12. **Date of next meeting:** 6 April 2006 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.