

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN COLLINGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 3 March 2011 AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllr M Cox (Chairman), Cllr G Chandler (Vice chairman), Cllr K Pickis Cllr N Williams Cllr P Risborough and Cllr M Catton.

In Attendance: Mr P Gill (Clerk), Wiltshire County Cllr C Howard, and two Members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr A Jones

Absent: Cllr B Bale.

2. **Chairman's announcements:** The Chairman drew attention to the following:
The Best kept Village Competition which Cllr Pickis agreed to lead on.

3. **Minutes of last meeting:**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 January 2011 having been previously circulated were agreed as a true record with one amendment to the item numbering.

Proposed by Cllr Cox seconded by Cllr M Catton

Agreed nem con

48.10 Matters arising. None that do not appear on the agenda.

4. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Cox declared a pecuniary interest in planning application E/11/0136/TCA at item 51.10.

5. **49.10 Policing Issues:**

No report was offered. However Cllr Chandler informed Members that Speed Watch training was scheduled for 6-8pm on 10 March 2011 in Collingbourne School and that another session was being considered.

6. **Adjournment for public comments/questions: 7.37pm.**

A member of the public asked about the number of speed guns that would be available to the Speed Watch members to which Cllr Chandler replied that he would endeavour to find out at the training on 10 March. In response to a question regarding litter in Chicks Lane and the bed of the River Bourne the Chairman explained that Chicks lane is a Wilts Council responsibility and that the litter should be report via CLARENCE, and that the Parish Council's litter picker had fallen ill and that a new contract should be in place by the end of the month.

Wilts Councillor Howard provided the following report:

The Budget was agreed on 22nd February the main features of which are:

No increase in Council Tax this year, and probably next year as well. Wiltshire is making savings of about £44 million over the next two years, of which £28 million is in 2011/12. The savings are being achieved by a combination of 240 staff redundancies in 2010/11 and 170 in 2011/12, and improvement in procurement procedures. Wiltshire is in a much stronger position than its neighbours. Hampshire and Somerset are each making about 1500 people redundant, and Gloucestershire is closing almost all its libraries. Wiltshire is keeping all libraries open, and is increasing funding for road repairs and care of the elderly, in addition to carrying out the major capital expenditure on the leisure centres and to concentrate most of the Council's offices on four hubs at Trowbridge, Salisbury, Devizes and Chippenham. Part of the reason for our comparative success is the savings already achieved on the change to a unitary council in 2009. Collection of plastic bottles and cardboard is scheduled to start at the end of October, and households will be provided with additional black bins with blue tops for the fortnightly collections. The optional free garden waste collections are due to start in February and green bins will be provided to those who do not already use this service. The Council plans to do all it can to improve broadband speeds as soon as possible, and large sums have been allocated for this. It has become apparent that some companies are deciding not to move to or stay in Wiltshire due to poor broadband speeds in parts of the county, and economic development is vital to the prosperity of the county. Patching is to be carried out on the A 346, the A342 and the A338 south of the village prior to surface dressing in the summer. Chicks Lane is due for repairs this year, and works are scheduled to be carried out on Cadley Road, including the very bad section at the eastern end.

He then answered questions regarding the depriving of the A338.

The meeting reconvened at 8.10pm

7. **50.10 Finance Report:**

The Clerk presented the Income and Expenditure report along with Bank Reconciliations produced from the accounts package and the latest bank statements.

The following cheques were noted and/or presented for authorisation as per approved contracts or IAW Standing Orders:

Bawden Ltd (Grass Cutting - IV 7590) £476.76

P Gill (Verio- Domain Name) £19.50

J Halfon (Litter Contract January) £180.00

Bawden Ltd (Grass Cutting- IV 7712) £486.90

P Gill (Verio – Annual Fee) £130.25

Authorise bills and cheques for payment:

Chairman

Sarsen Housing (Knapp Hill Play Area) £5

First Clean (Bus Shelters) £24

Clerk's Salary & Expenses £892.86

Proposed by Cllr Risborough seconded by Cllr Williams that the report as presented be accepted and the cheques as presented be noted or authorised.

Agreed nem con

Payment Anomaly. Having considered a letter from Collingbourne School re possible payment anomaly Members agreed that there was an anomaly and that the school was to be credited with the difference.

Proposed by Cllr Cox seconded by Cllr Pickis.

Agreed nem con

Action: Clerk

Account Signatories. After a verbal brief by the Clerk Members again agreed to remove all existing signatories of the Scottish Widows Account, less Cllr M Cox and to add Cllr N Williams and Cllr P Risborough.

Proposed by Cllr Cox seconded by Cllr Catton.

Agreed nem con

Action: Clerk

8. **51.10 Planning Report:** Cllr Williams presented the planning report

E/11/0186/FUL. Erection of new two storey dwelling at Station House, Collingbourne Ducis. Having considered the application the Members raised concerns that the proposed dwelling would be within the conservation area, be above the skyline, be higher than neighbouring properties and overlook a number of properties in Saunders Meadow. Given these concerns the Members agreed to not support the application.

E/11/0194/FUL. Extension of an existing cattle building at Sunnyhill Farm, Collingbourne Ducis. Having considered the application Members agreed to defer to the decision of the planning Officers at Wiltshire Council.

E/11/0136/TCA. Works to a large ash tree at St. Andrews Church Collingbourne Ducis. Having declared pecuniary interest Cllr Cox left the meeting. With Cllr Chandler in the Chair and Members having considered the application Members agreed to defer to the decision of the planning Officers at Wiltshire Council.

Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Pickis that the report be accepted.

Agreed nem con

Action: Clerk

9. **52.10 Property Report:** (Cllr Cox in the Chair)

Litter Picking Contract. Having considered the options available at such short notice the Members agreed to award the contract to Wiltshire Council at an annual cost of £1732.12 based on a fortnightly pick.

Proposed by Cllr Cox seconded Cllr Risborough.

Action: Clerk

Recycling skips: The system is under review and possible future dates have yet TBC and once known will be posted on www.collingbourne-ducis.com.

10. **53.109 Highway Matters:**

Potholes in Cadley. Although this item was covered in the Wilts Councillor's report he was asked to inform Wilts Highways on behalf of the Parish Council that while repairs to Chicks Lane would be welcome, the present poor state of Cadley Road is of much greater importance to the village and they would

prefer any available resources to be concentrated on Cadley Road rather than Chicks Lane.

Wilts Parish Steward Scheme. The Steward will now operate on a “find & fix” basis; in the meantime villagers should inform Wiltshire Council as soon as possible of any work needed in the parish via CLARENCE on 0800 232323 or email clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk.

11. **54.10 General Matters:**

Royal Wedding. Having considered the possible options the Members agreed to allocate £360 in support to the school or other village organisations commemorating the occasion. Members want to see something tangible and identifiable for the money and a subcommittee consisting of those Members present will consider requests for funds.

Proposed by Cllr Cox seconded by Cllr Williams.

Action: Subcommittee

Clerk’s Terms & Conditions. Having considered a verbal brief from the Clerk Members agreed that the terms and conditions were due for review and that the review was to be conducted by Cllrs Cox and Catton prior to the next meeting.

Action: Cllrs Cox & Catton

Standing Orders & Financial regulations. Having considered the need for a review Members agreed that Cllr Cox was to conduct the review with support from the Clerk.

Action: Cllr Cox & Clerk

12. **55.10 Co-option of Councillors:** Having met the statutory (LGA 1972 Sect 79 & 80) eligibility requirements Rodney Haverson was co-opted as a Member of the Council. Cllr Haverson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office (LGA 1972 Sect 83). Two vacancies exist as a result of the resignations and anyone interested in becoming a councillor should contact the Parish Clerk for details.

13. **Date of Next Meeting:** The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Annual Parish Meeting on **Thursday 12 May 2011 at 7.00 pm.** to be followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. The meeting closed at 20.55pm.

Signed:

Chairman: