

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7th APRIL 2005

Present: Cllr P Shields (Chairman)
Cllrs B Bale, P Carter, C Price, JC Robinson, AH Still
and seven members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Cogdell, Cox, Molyneux-Downs and JW Robinson, and County Cllr Mark Connolly.
2. **Chairman's announcements:**
 - Highway Maintenance 2005/6:** Wiltshire County Highways Partnership will present their plans at The Kennet Valley Village Hall, Lockeridge at 2.00 pm on 23rd May. Please let the Clerk know if you wish to attend.
 - North Wessex Downs AONB Forum 2005:** The annual meeting is on Friday 20th May from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm at Temple Farming, near Rockley, Marlborough. Please let the Clerk know if you wish to attend.
 - Kennet Community Safety Partnership:** We are invited to send two Councillors to a Safety for All event at the Bouverie Hall, Pewsey on Monday, 25th April from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Please let the Clerk know if you wish to attend.
 - Be a Brick, St John Ambulance Wiltshire:** We have received a letter requesting donations to Buy a Brick for the new Headquarters in Devizes. Although it is not our policy to contribute as a Parish Council to national charities, if any individual would like to do so the Clerk has donation forms.
 - School and Village Hall footpath:** We are in receipt of a copy of a letter sent by the Village Hall Management Committee to WCC expressing their concern over the lack of amenity lighting on sections of the footpath from Gilberts Piece to the Village Hall. This Council supports such efforts to get immediate corrective action.
 - Community Awards 2004:** At last night's awards ceremony in Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire presented Certificates to the following nominees from this Parish: Mrs Jane Crook for her tireless efforts in promoting and staging Rural Arts Events in the Collingbournes and Everleigh.
Mr Richard Carter on behalf of those involved with the setting up of the new Link Scheme.
Cllr Brenda Bale on behalf of the Group behind the fundraising for Knapp Close Play Area.
Mr Rodney Haverson for his work on the Courier. Mr Haverson also received a Shield for his outstanding contribution to communications in the three villages covered by the Courier over the past ten years.
The Chairman offered his congratulations to all the nominees and the organisations they represent.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 3rd March 2005.
The Minutes were agreed as a true record subject to one amendment as follows to be included during the adjournment:
"County Cllr Mark Connolly said that this would be the last meeting he would attend as he will no longer be County Councillor for the Parish owing to the Ward boundary changes. The Chairman thanked Cllr Connolly on behalf of the Parish Council for his work over the years, particularly his ongoing efforts in connection with the provision of the new school."
Proposed by Cllr JC Robinson seconded by Cllr Price. Agreed nem con.
17.05 Matters arising: None
4. **Declaration(s) of Interest:** None.
5. **18.05 Policing Issues:**
There was no report as no representative of Tidworth Constabulary was present.
6. **Adjournment for public comments/questions – 7.41 pm.**
District Cllr Still reported on District Council matters and said Mr Bob Hussey is the new Area Officer for this Parish.

Wiltshire County Highways Partnership has started work on the dual-use footpath/cycleway between the two villages.

Scout Leader Anna Cox drew the meeting's attention to the need for teenagers to have somewhere to meet in the village.

7. The Chairman explained that there would be no report from the KDC Dog Warden. He then introduced Ms Melanie Jezzard, Community Safety Officer for Wiltshire Fire Service.
- Presentation by Ms Melanie Jezzard, Wiltshire Fire Brigade:**
- Ms Jezzard explained that there were six fulltime fire stations in Wiltshire of which only two were 24 hour manned stations. The rest (which includes Ludgershall) are retained. This means that their personnel have fulltime jobs elsewhere which in turn means that it is unlikely that they could reach their target of getting to a fire within their 20 minute callout time. As part of a Government campaign £40,000 has been allocated to supplying and fitting two smoke alarms free of charge in each home which is outside the 20 minute callout zone. These new 10 year smoke alarms will be fitted one to each floor. They do not require batteries and incorporate a 'hush' button and a test button. They will be refitted in ten years time. Strict security precautions are in place and no outside agencies will be used. When a householder contacts Wiltshire Fire Brigade to ask for them to be fitted a uniformed officer will arrive in a Wiltshire Fire Brigade vehicle at a pre-arranged time to do the job. Ms Jezzard left leaflets which will be distributed in the May edition of the Courier to households in the Parish. Finally Ms Jezzard explained that the most effective fire containment measure a householder can take is to ensure that all internal doors are shut at night.
- Ms Jezzard then answered questions from those present.
- The Chairman thanked Ms Jezzard for an interesting and informative presentation.

8. **Presentation by Ms Nicky Warden, Wiltshire Wildlife Fund:**
- Ms Warden explained that Wiltshire Wildlife Fund has nearly 1,000 volunteers and over 60 staff. The 'Sustain the Plain' programme aims to improve the quality of life for people who live in the 65 parishes around Salisbury Plain. She herself is Project Officer for the Salisbury Plain Community Wildlife & Heritage Project. This project gives advice about specific sites and supports communities in the wildlife mapping of their local area. The Plain constitutes 40% of the chalk downland in the entire country. She went on to outline the importance of Salisbury Plain for insects and birds and said it had the largest concentration of archaeological heritage sites in the UK.
- Following her recent visit Ms Warden went on to give her impression of The Mere and how it could be developed as a village amenity. The slightly more than 1 acre site comprises regenerating scrub and trees. Her recommendations were:
- Surveys to discover what is already there in the way of plants, trees, insects and birds. She offered to find experts with specialist knowledge about particular species who might be able to come and help volunteers.
 - Boundaries to be made more definite by planting hedges, living screens, fencing, hedge-laying, etc.
 - Access to The Mere could be improved, a Right of Way runs through it and could be improved by making simple pathways and bridges across winter-flowing ditches.
 - Improve the habitat for wildlife – create glades/log piles, clear some of the area to let the light in. Cut the vegetation on the more open area near the R Bourne twice a year in early and late summer to encourage the growth of wildflowers. Some plug plants could be introduced and bird boxes put up.
 - Other ideas were log seating and living sculptures such as willow structures (domes/tunnels).

Ms Warden gave details of organisations which might offer funding for the project and outlined how she herself could help. She then answered questions from those present.

The Chairman thanked Ms Warden for an interesting and informative presentation and said he was sure she had inspired everyone to make a start on The Mere project.

The meeting reconvened at 8.38 pm.

9. **19.05 Finance Committee Report:**
- The Clerk presented the monthly financial statement for March 2005.
- Letters of thanks:** These have been received from St Andrew's PCC and Wiltshire Air Ambulance.
- Request for donation:** It was agreed that a donation of £300 be made to Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall. Proposed by Cllr JC Robinson seconded by Cllr Carter. Vote 3 for 2 abstentions.

Parish Burial Ground: The reviewed fees were approved. Proposed by Cllr Shields seconded by Cllr Price. Agreed nem con.

Insurance: The Chairman gave details of a comparison which had been carried out by Cllr JW Robinson between cover from our existing insurance provider and a quotation from WALC/Community First. As the provision was much the same and the premium required by the latter considerably lower it was agreed to follow Cllr Robinson's recommendation to change our provider to Community First.

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

The following cheques were authorised:

KDC £722.62 (grounds maintenance Oct/Nov/Dec 2004).

J Robinson £52.00 (councillor's travel expenses).

Clerk's quarterly salary £706.16 and expenses £138.23.

WALC £220.81 (annual subscription 2005/6).

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

20.05 Planning Committee report:

Cllr Price submitted the report for March 2005. (To be displayed on the notice board.)

21.05 Property Committee report:

Cllr Bale presented her report.

CD Village Hall trees: A letter has been received from the Village Hall asking the Parish Council to seek approval from KDC for trees adjacent to the tennis court to be felled. Cllr Bale reported that KDC said no formal consent is need but consideration should be shown for nesting birds and bats. If there is more than 5 cubic metres to be felled then a felling licence should be obtained from the Forestry Commission. The Village Hall Committee will be advised accordingly.

Recycling skip service: Green garden waste will not be collected from the kerbside as the take-up in this parish has been too low. However this means that we will be give priority for the recycling skip service which is to be reintroduced. Cllr Bale will liaise with the Clerk to arrange times for skips for green garden waste, plastic bottles and cardboard.

Paper recycling: Anyone who did not receive a newspaper recycling box can telephone Kennet District Council on 01380 724911 to obtain one.

10. **22.05 General matters:**

Collingbourne Comrades Club: An application has been made for a change of use for the site from a community building to private housing. The meeting discussed the viability of this valuable community facility's use by local youth groups and whether grant funding might be available. The Parish Council supports the exploration of the Comrades Club's suitability for use as a community facility.

Proposed by Cllr JC Robinson seconded by Cllr Price. Agreed nem con.

11. **Date of next meeting:** 12th May 2005 at 7.00 pm.

Annual Parish Meeting to be followed at approximately 8.15 pm
by the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.**

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm.