

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr M Cox (Chairman)

Cllrs M Chandler, J Dowsett, Simon Gilford, P Risborough, K Rossiter, N Whinton,
County Cllr R Hall, Dist Cllr C Howard, PC M Randle, and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Pickis.
2. **Chairman's announcements:**

Cllr Cox offered his thanks to Vice Chair Cllr Risborough for dealing with council matters during his absence due to illness.

Community First AGM: This will take place at 7.00 pm on 3rd October at The Corn Exchange, Devizes preceded by a reception and displays at 6.00 pm. Any councillor planning to attend to contact the clerk.

SW Regional Assembly: A review of pitch requirements for gypsies and travellers in the SW region is being carried out. To be circulated to councillors.

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Cogdell: Cllr Cox expressed the thanks of the Council to Mr and Mrs Cogdell for replacing the missing hanging basket on Blue Lion Green and for counting the letters on the War Memorial prior to its renovation. Clerk to write letter of thanks.

Flood Wardens Seminars: These will be held on 9th October (Cranbourne Chase); 10th October (Salisbury) and 11th October (Dorchester). Details available from Cllr Cox.

WCC Meet & Greet evenings: These will take place on 10th October (Devizes), 17th October (Chippenham), 18th October (Trowbridge), 22nd October (Salisbury) and 30th October (Marlborough). Councillors wishing to attend please contact Cllr Cox.

Wiltshire Local Transport Plan: Paper copy available or on-line at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/transport-policy/local-transport-plan/transport-publications.htm>

Wilts & Swindon Aggregates/Minerals and Waste Plans: Consultation documents (close 14th September and 5th October) are available in either paper format or online at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning-home.htm>
3. **Minutes of last meeting** held on 8 August 2007:

The minutes were agreed as a true record.
Proposed by Cllr Whinton seconded by Cllr Chandler. Vote 6 for 1 abs. Carried.

63.07 Matters arising – for information only: None.
4. **Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Rossiter declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 Planning Appeal K/56043/VAR.
5. **64.07 Code of Conduct:**

It was agreed to explicitly adopt Para 12(2) of the Model Code of Conduct.
Proposed by Cllr Cox seconded by Cllr Gilford. Agreed nem con.

Standing Orders: Cllr Cox outlined his proposal to create a combined Finance and Property Committee. If the Council proceeds with this he will amend the standing orders to reflect this.
6. **65.07 Appointment of Committee members:**

It was agreed to appoint Cllrs Chandler, Dowsett and Risborough as members of a combined Finance and Property Committee.
Proposed by Cllr Gilford seconded by Cllr Cox. Vote 4 for 3 abs. Carried.
The current system of holding a full council meeting to deal with planning applications will continue.
7. **66.07 Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair:**

It was agreed to appoint Cllr Risborough as Chair and Cllr Dowsett as Vice Chair of the newly created Finance and Property Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Cox seconded by Cllr Rossiter. Agreed nem con.

8. **67.07 Policing Issues:**

PC Randle reported 15 calls had been received during the past month.
Vehicle speed checking will be carried out in the parish in the coming weeks.
Regular patrols will be made in Saunders Meadow Play area.

9. **Adjournment for public comments/questions: 7.57 pm.**

County Cllr Hall urged councillors to attend the WCC Meet and Greet evenings to learn about plans for the formation of the new unitary authority.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Howard for his help in pursuing the refurbishment of the Saunders Meadow Play area.

Cllr Howard said that the District Council will continue to carry out its duties until the new WCC Unitary authority comes into being in April 2009 assuming that nothing happens which changes the existing plans.

He reported the ways being considered by KDC to protect its capital reserves of approximately £20 million from being transferred to the new unitary authority when it is formed. KDC's decision is to cancel capital expenditure already budgeted for on the grounds that any capital assets acquired may not be appropriate for the new authority when it is formed, and reallocate that money amounting to some £2.6 million as follows:

£1.3 million to social housing, to which the Government will be legally obliged to add £2.6 million.

£1.3 million into community assets with grants of up to 40% or more of the cost being available. Rules will apply to the allocation of these grants but it looks as though this is an interesting 'one off' opportunity to obtain funding for a number of projects in the Kennet area.

Full information will be available later in the month.

The meeting reconvened at 8.20 pm.

10. **68.07 Finance Report:**

Cllr Dowsett presented the report for July and August.

Letter of thanks: A letters of thanks has been received from Victim Support Wiltshire.

Bank signatories: It was agreed that Cllrs Cox and Dowsett be appointed signatories on the Scottish Widows account and that Cllr Dowsett be added as a signatory on the Lloyds TSB account. Proposed by Cllr Whinton seconded by Cllr Chandler. Agreed nem con.

The following cheques were authorised:

J H Sedgwick £460 (Beechwood Gardening Service 4th of 6 monthly invoices for grasscutting).

RBS Software Solutions £58.75 (ALPHA software maintenance for 1 year).

KDC £747.88 (grounds maintenance Apr/May/June 2007).

Proposed by Cllr Dowsett seconded by Cllr Cox. Agreed nem con.

11. **69.07 Planning Report:**

Cllr Whinton presented the planning report for July/August 2007 (copy attached, also to be displayed on the notice board and parish website.)

Planning appeal K56043/VAR: Removal of condition 4 of planning permission K53810/F to allow unrestricted occupancy of the dwellings at Highlands Park Farm, Collingbourne Ducis, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 3EG. Appellants name: PI and MJ Helme.

After discussion it was agreed that the Council support its original statement objecting to the removal of condition 4.

Proposed by Cllr Whinton seconded by Cllr Dowsett. Vote 6 for 1 abs. Carried.

Planning Application PI.11/07 K/57226/F: Proposed new 4 bedroom family dwelling in garden of property 11 Church Street, Collingbourne Ducis. Applicant: Mr and Mrs S Casey. It was agreed that the council object to this application on the following grounds:

“The construction of this large scale property would significantly alter the appearance of a Conservation Area and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The property would change the locality’s topography and its height would make it a very visible structure overlooking the village. There is a strong possibility of archaeological remains in this ancient part of the village near the church, which is known to be on Saxon foundations Concerns over issues of access during construction works.”

Proposed by Cllr Whinton seconded by Cllr Gilford. Agreed nem con.

12. **70.07 Property Report:**

Cllr Risborough presented the property report for July/August 2007. A bench at the Knapp has been repaired. A shelter that has been built by local teenagers on the recreation ground is to be investigated as a possible site for a custom made youth shelter.

Saunders Meadow Play area: Cllr Cox reported on the meeting between representatives of the Parish Council, KDC and Persimmon Homes at which it had been agreed that following certain criteria being met the Parish Council would eventually take responsibility for the play area.

Recycling skips: Skips for plastic and cardboard waste will be at Station Approach on Wednesday 3rd October.

13. **71.07 Highway Matters:**

Planning Application for the Andover Airfield site: Following discussion it was agreed that a letter be written to TVBC objection to the proposed Tesco distribution centre.

Proposed by Cllr Cox seconded by Cllr Gilford. Agreed nem con.

Rights of Way: Cllr Cox reported that parish byways and bridleways are in reasonable condition but many of the footpaths are not. He will pass on his findings to KDC and WCC.

14. **72.07 General Matters:**

WCC Emergency Planning Parish Exercises 2007: It was agreed that the council participates in this year’s Parish Exercise on Monday 26 November at Berrynarbour, Cadley Road, Collingbourne Ducis. Clerk to confirm to WCC.

Proposed by Cllr Gilford seconded by Cllr Rossiter. Agreed nem con.

Appointment of new Clerk: It was agreed that Cllrs Cox and Risborough interview prospective candidates following the publication of an advertisement for the vacancy for a Parish Clerk. They were delegated to appoint a suitable applicant to take up the position with effect from 1 October 2007.

Proposed by Cllr Dowsett seconded by Cllr Rossiter. Vote 5 for, 2 abs. Carried.

Bus shelters: Cllr Chandler reported on various options currently under discussion. He and Cllr Risborough to investigate sources of additional funding during the next month and report back at the next meeting.

Great Mere: One quotation to fell the ash tree has been received. When two additional quotations are received a decision which to accept will be made.

15. **73.07 Co-option of Councillor(s):**

Two vacancies remain as a result of the recent election and anyone interested in becoming a councillor should contact the Parish Clerk for details.

13. **Date of next meeting:** 4 October 2007 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall.

On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked Mrs Margaret Allcorn, the outgoing Parish Clerk, for her unstinting service and dedication to duty over the past seven years and wished her well in the future.

The meeting closed at 9.23 pm.