

COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN COLLINGBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7.30

Present: Cllr. M. Cox (Chairman), Cllrs. G. Chandler, N. Williams, K. Pickis, K. Rossiter, P. Risborough, A. Jones, N. Whinton.

In Attendance: PCSO M. Downham and representative of the CPRE

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs. B. Bale, B. Crompton, WCllr. C. Howard, P. Gill

2. **Chairman's announcements:**

The chairman drew attention to Wiltshire Council's document "Wiltshire 2026 – planning for Wiltshire's future" which refers to proposed limited development in Collingbourne Ducis. The covering letter and a weblink had been distributed prior to the meeting by email. A hard copy and the associated CD to be held by the clerk. He also noted that various other documents had been distributed by email since the last meeting - hard copy to be held by the clerk.

3. **Minutes of last meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st October 2009 having been previously circulated were agreed as a true record after minor correction.

Proposed: Cllr. Cox, seconded Cllr. Williams.

Agreed nem con

47.09 Matters arising: none that do not appear on the agenda

4. **Declarations of interest:**

Cllr. Cox declared an interest in the overhaul of the church clock as he is church warden. However, it was agreed the church would not benefit from this to any greater extent than members of the community at large.

Cllr. Chandler declared an interest in item 9 as a member of the cricket club proposing work on the recreation ground trees.

5. **48.09 Policing issues:**

PCSO Downham reported a number of minor crimes in the parish ranging from poaching and damage caused by a runaway car to a domestic incident and problems with mini mopeds.

She reported that illicit door to door salesmen were operating in the area and asked residents to be on their guard.

She had, with the help of another officer, checked vehicle speed through the village but had only issued one fixed penalty – this was probably because drivers had warned each other of police presence in the direction they were checking. Traffic going the other way could not be checked at the same time. There had not yet been an opportunity to check late in the evening and PCSO Downham confirmed that she was very aware of the issue at that time of night.

There was not yet a release date for PC Bayliss to Tidworth – councillors noted their concern at the delay.

6. **Adjournment for public comments/questions: 7.40pm**

The Parish Council were presented with certificates from the CPRE for the Best Kept Village competition. This is the 51st year of the competition and Collingbourne Ducis had come 1st in the District round and 4th in the county against villages such as All Cannings, Broad Hinton, Chirton, Biddestone, Steeple Ashton, Hindon and Liddington. The certificates to be displayed in the notice board for public viewing.

WCllr. Charles Howard had sent reports regarding the integration of the previous district councils into Wiltshire Council and also the Council's planning strategy document and 2010 budget. Noted that Wiltshire intend to sell off 97 premises and that government grants to Wiltshire could be cut back, leading to a cut in services and/or increased Council Tax.

Meeting reconvened at 7.55pm

7. **49.09 Finance:**

Clerks Salary: The recently agreed national salary levels were noted.

Finance Report: In the clerk's absence, the chairman presented the Income and Expenditure report along with bank reconciliations as produced from the accounting package and bank statements.

The following cheques were noted as per approved contracts in IAW Standing Orders:

Bawden Ltd (Grass Cutting) £466.61 x 2 (PVs 39 & 44)

Wilts Council (Euro Bin) £121.39

R Marsh (Litter Bin holes) £16.10

J Halfon (litter/ROSPA) £180

The chairman noted that Wiltshire Council had posted a cheque, not yet received, for £5,130 for the Parish Council to carry out footpath work (discussed at item 10).

Proposed Cllr Cox, seconded Cllr Chandler that the report be accepted.

Agreed nem con

Church clock: Members considered the approved budget and projected end of year figures. Noted that a grant application for 50% of the clock overhaul will be considered at the Area Board on 16th November. It was agreed that, following that Board meeting and subject to the parish council having project management responsibility for the work, a non competitive order for the work be placed on Gillette and Johnson in accordance with their estimate of 27th July 2009, which they had re-confirmed by phone to the chairman just prior to this meeting.. One other quote had been requested by a churchwarden at the end of September but none had been received in spite of a reminder. Gillette and Johnson were noted to have considerable experience with tower clocks of this vintage, had serviced this particular clock for very many years so were familiar with it and that their itemised breakdown of the work appeared good value.

Proposed: Cllr. Whinton, seconded Cllr. Williams. 1 abstention. None against. **Agreed. Action: Clerk Draft Budget for 2010/11:** Finance and Property committee to review, noting requirement for the precept to be fixed by beginning January 2010. **F&P committee to note**

8. **50.09 Planning Report:**

Cllr. Whinton presented the report. There were no new applications. None had been refused. Results of the ongoing appeal at Acorns awaited. Report to be displayed in notice board.

Proposed Cllr Cox, seconded Cllr Pickis that the report be accepted.

Agreed nem con

9. **51.09 Property Report:**

RoSPA report:

Lightmain, recent contractors for the skateboard equipment, have undertaken to modify the equipment to address issues raised in the report.

Sutcliffe Play have been asked to quote for maintenance issues due to wear and tear raised in the report. It was agreed to delegate consideration of the quote and the ordering of the necessary work to the Clerk.

Proposed: Cllr. Whinton, seconded Cllr. Risborough

Agreed nem con. Action: Clerk

Recreation ground: A letter from the cricket club requesting permission for them to carry out tree work and the removal of a tree adjacent to their practice nets was discussed. Noted that the club has an on-going project to refurbish the nets area. After discussion, the work as stated in the letter was approved subject to the Parish Council being indemnified by the cricket club, confirmation to the clerk that their chosen contractor carries suitable insurance and that the removed tree is replaced with two suitable variety of saplings of reasonable size (say, 3 metres).

The chairman reported that the recent grant application for funding for swings had been unsuccessful. It was agreed swings be included in next year's budget.

F&P committee to note

Proposed: Cllr Cox, seconded Cllr Whinton, 1 abstention, none against

Agreed

Play Areas: WCllr. Howard had passed on an email regarding transfer of ownership of the play areas in Saunders Meadow and Saxon Rise which members had noted. The contents were clearly a routine response and had no specifics, which the meeting felt rather discourteous to our Wiltshire Councillor who had requested specific information. The date of the relevant meeting was given as 15th December 09. The chairman noted insurance implications of such a transfer, but also that 106 monies and budget appeared to come with it. Cllr. Williams noted that the litter bin door in the Saxon Rise area had never shut properly and might create a risk of trapped fingers as well as spilt litter. She expressed surprise that Wilts Council's weekly inspections had not picked this up. Clerk to draw to the attention of relevant officer. **Action Clerk**

Benches: Agreed to delegate ordering, finalising positioning and installation at Knapp Hill to the clerk.

Proposed: Cllr. Whinton, seconded Cllr. Chandler

Agreed nem con

Burial Ground: It was agreed to delegate consideration for the quote for crown lifting and ordering of the necessary work to the Clerk.

Proposed: Cllr. Whinton, seconded Cllr. Risborough

Agreed nem con

Recycling skips: Skips for plastic & cardboard waste will be at Station Approach on Wednesday 16 December 2009 between 10.00am & 12.30pm. A full list of future dates has been posted on <http://www.collingbourne-ducis.com>.

10. **Highway Matters;**
Wilts Council Parish Steward Scheme. The date of the next visit is 2nd December, and Cllr. Bale should be notified of any work needed in the parish as soon as possible. **Action: Cllr Bale**
Highways Improvements: No report was available
Chicks Lane Footpath: The chairman reported that the requested funding of £5,130 had been released by Wiltshire Council and a cheque had been posted, though not yet received. This figure included a small contingency above the lowest quote. Quotes had been received of £12,726.00, £9,947.25 and £4,885.00. The lowest quote was from Drinnan of Pewsey who recently carried out the satisfactory project on the recreation ground. It was agreed that on receipt of the funding the clerk should order the work from Drinnans, who have reconfirmed their quote and can carry out the work before the Christmas holiday.
Proposed Cllr Whinton, seconded Cllr Jones. Agreed nem con
30mph wheelie bin stickers:
Cllr. Jones reported on quotations she had received. She also reported that circular stickers appeared to be illegal, so had asked for square. Two companies had quoted for 300mm square in quantities of 1,000 off at £900 and £790 and one company for 240mm square 1,000 off at £430. There followed discussion – there are about 420 domestic properties in Collingbourne Ducis – people in cul-de-sacs would probably not want one – would only be seen by drivers one day per week - etc. all of which could make them expensive per sticker for those who do want one. Neighbouring Parish Councils could perhaps be asked if they want to collaborate. Chairman to raise at Area Board as it is an issue the Board might want to take on across the community area.. Cllr Jones was thanked by those present for doing the research. **Action Chairman**
11. **53.09 General matters:**
Bus shelters: Cllr. Chandler still following up and noted the need to try to get a grant before the financial year end. **Action Cllr Chandler**
Allotments: Nothing to report.
Great Mere: The chairman had not managed to contact the chairman of the Great Mere group but will persist. **Action Chairman**
Community Outreach: Chairman reported that the Link scheme had recently had a presentation about the switch off of the analogue TV transmitters from Help the Aged, who have a lot of valuable information on the subject. Unfortunately, Parish Councils are not within their brief. However, it was reported that some parts of the village who receive from Mendip will have analogue TV switched off during 2010, at which time the digital terrestrial TV signal will be increased significantly (currently it has been capped at 20% of its full power). Most of the rest of the village is affected in 2012 when the Isle of Wight analogue transmitter is switched off and digital similarly increased.
12. **54.09 Co-option of Councillors:** One vacancy remains as a result of the resignation of Cllr Gilford 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 7.30pm on Thursday 3 December 2009 in Collingbourne Primary School.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm