

COLMWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Colmworth Parish Council on Thursday 15th February 2018 at 7.30pm in the Roman Room of the Village Hall at Colmworth.

Present: Cllr. E. Pegler (Chairman), Cllr. L. Knight, Cllr. P. Ball, Cllr. B. Brightman, L. Crawford (Clerk), and five members of the public.

1. Apologies Cllr. T. Frew

2. Declarations of Interest and Confirmation of Changes to Registers of Interest

Cllr. E. Pegler declared an interest in the planning application for Low Farm.

3. Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10th January

Having been previously circulated the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. E. Pegler and seconded by Cllr. L. Knight.

4. Public Open Forum

The Clerk presented a summary of the Local Plan.

A number of parishioners spoke to express their support for the plans not to impose development on Group 3 villages. A parishioner suggested that we contact other Group 3 village to find out how they would be responding.

Parishioners were not in favour of large scale wind power in or near our parish due to the proximity to villages.

A parishioner suggested that there was now no real need for a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. E. Pegler explained that the parish council are taking advice on this and would be discussing it at the next meeting in March.

A parishioner asked the Parish Council to talk to the land agent about the ditch opposite Holland House. Cllr. B. Brightman explained that she was already in contact with them regarding this matter.

A parishioner asked the Parish Council to report the new laurel hedge at The Barns to Highways as it is too close to the road. Cllr. L. Knight has already reported this to Highways following a request from a parishioner at the last meeting.

Another parishioner had asked a question about the land at the Barns and Church Farm which had been designated as Village Open Space. The Clerk explained that it was not registered as a Village Green or similar but agreed to find out why this land had been designated as Open Space.

5. Planning applications.

Application number	Description	Location	Deadline
17/03558/LBC	New window opening. Internal alterations to converted stable building to form bathroom.	Low Farm, Wilden Rd, Colmworth MK44 2NN	06/03/2018
18/00267/FUL	One and two storey side extension	Little Homestead Channels End Road Colmworth Bedford	07/03/2018

		Bedfordshire MK44 2NR	
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Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the application at Low Farm. Proposed by Cllr. B. Brightman and seconded by Cllr. P. Ball. **Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the application for an extension at Little Homestead.** Proposed by Cllr. E. Pegler and seconded by Cllr. B. Brightman.

6. Bedford Borough Council Local Plan to 2035

- Do we consider that the plan is legally compliant?
- Do we consider that the plan is sound?

It was resolved that the Parish Council write to say that we do not know whether the plan is legally compliant but the Parish Council are supportive of the plan's proposals for Group 3 villages (ie not to impose development without the support of the local community and Parish Council) and of the plan's selection of Colworth Garden Village. However, we don't believe that Colmworth or its neighbouring parishes are suitable for large scale wind development due to proximity to villages and Little Staughton airfield. We are also concerned that the Mayor has signed up to the National Infrastructure Commission's (NIC) Report on development along the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Bedford-Cambridge Corridor which requires 1 million extra homes to be built in this corridor. We are concerned that the Local Plan could be changed after submission without further consultation. We do not believe that this area can support any additional homes beyond the 19 000 proposed in this submission document and we do not believe that any changes should be made without further consultation. Cllr. E. Pegler proposed and Cllr. B. Brightman seconded. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of this proposal.

7. Finance

- **Consider opening an account with Jewsons**
This will enable the Clerk to purchase items for the Country Park, Playing Field and for general maintenance direct from Jewsons on account and pay by bank transfer. This will enable the Parish Council to reclaim VAT. The credit limit on the account is £1000 but she would only have approval to spend up to the total amounts on the list of approved payments for that budget item. **It was resolved that the Clerk should open this account.** Cllr. E. Pegler proposed and Cllr. B. Brightman seconded the proposal.
- **Transparency Code Grant Application**
Funds have been made available for the Parish Council to buy a computer. £350 for a computer and £200 for software. The Council currently uses the Clerk's personal computer. **It was resolved that the Council should apply for grant funds to buy a computer and software.** Cllr. E. Pegler proposed and Cllr. L. Knight seconded.

8. Consider need for a locum while Clerk is away in August

It was resolved that the Parish Council should not employ a locum for the whole period but may pay a Clerk by the hour to stand in if an extraordinary meeting was called. Cllr. L. Knight proposed Cllr. E. Pegler seconded.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th March 2018 7.30pm