

COLMWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Colmworth Parish Council held on
Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 7.10pm at Colmworth Village Hall**

Present: Councillor Pegler (Chair), Councillor Palmer, Councillor Brightman, Councillor Knight, and Councillor Frew.

Apologies: Parish Councillors Patricia Ball, Malcolm Marsh and Borough Councillor Tom Wootton.

In Attendance: Four members of the public.

Clerk: Lizzie Barnicoat

2022/14. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Councillors Patricia Ball, Malcolm Marsh and Borough Councillor Tom Wootton.

2022/15 Declarations of interest

There was a declaration of interest from Councillor Pegler during the Denybrook consultant considerations, there were no further declaration of interests received for the meeting.

2022/16 Sergeant John Killick, Local Rural Community Police Team, in attendance

The new Police Priority setting meeting on 10th January had taken place, the feedback from the meeting had been shared on various platforms for residents with the new priorities being anti social behaviour and vehicle related incidents. Sargeant John Killick was welcomed to the meeting, outlining police work in the local area. The police very much welcome local intelligence on motor vehicle offences, as well as related anti social activities. In the last three months there have been eight crimes reported in the parish, these were outlined. Items raised which are of concern, included an increase in lorries, particularly large horse boxes using village roads such as Wilden Road, which cause difficulty with vehicles trying to pass, Sargeant Killick offered to follow this up with the local equestrian centre where these HGVs are accessing. Lorrywatch details were also given, scheme being run by the local authority, Clerk to look into this in more depth.

It was asked if the private security services used locally report into the police, it was detailed this information is shared. There was a question relating to cross border working with Cambridgeshire and whether intelligence is shared, this is done with county lines and hare coarsing as areas of focus. It was reminded that if residents see hare coarsing taking place then as it is a crime being witnessed, it should be reported through to 999. Sargeant Killick also updated those in attendance on the increase in capacity within the local police team as well as drone capability being used to assist with gathering intelligence.

Sargeant Killick was thanked for his time and took leave at this point of the meeting. The Clerk to share the useful information in the usual various local village platforms.

2022/17 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 6th January 2022

The Council accepted the minutes as a true record of the meeting on 6th January, Councillor Frew proposed, Councillor Brightman seconded, all in favour, resolution passed.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at this point

2022/18 Public Open Forum

An update on Denybrook was raised, this would be covered during the agenda it was noted.

Steve Evans, on behalf of the Friends of St Deny presented an update on the classic car event which they were looking to resume in April on the first Sunday of every month through to October. The event raises money for the Church and it was asked if the field could be used, noting they have rubber mats as well as public liability insurance in place for the event, as well as notifying the police of the event to minimise impact.

Chronicle articles were welcomed.

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The Chair reconvened the meeting at this point

2022/19 Planning

22/00002/LBC Link between garage and annex bedrooms, conversion of garage to annex living room and associated works to curtilage listed building at Channel End Farm, Channels End Road – the Parish Council unanimously agreed to submit no objection to the application.

22/00001/FUL Link between garage and annex bedrooms, conversion of garage to annex living room and associated works to curtilage listed building at Channel End Farm, Channels End Road - the Parish Council unanimously agreed to submit no objection to the application.

22/00354/CPNQ Prior notification for change of use from an Agricultural building to a dwellinghouse(s) (Use Class C3) including associated building operations reasonably necessary to convert the building at Tenacres Little Staughton Road – Cllr Palmer outlined the process with this application to the local authority, it was noted the local authority legal team are following up on a matter relating to this, it was agreed that the Parish Council to await Officer clarity before comments are collated..

22/00327/LDE Cert of Lawful Use and Dev (existing) Retention of dwelling (C3) and occupation without compliance of an agricultural occupancy condition at Tenacres Little Staughton Road – the Parish Council unanimously agreed to explore how to respond to this.

22/00308/LBC and 22/00307/FUL Internal and external alterations and renovations, including removal of render and the addition of timber cladding, replacement porch, new timber pergola in courtyard, the addition of new windows, replacement doors, removal of wall in courtyard and replace with fence and replacement garage door. Replace gas fire with open fire grate/wood burning stove, removal of faux timbers, re-fit shower room, remove and replace staircase at Tideswell, Church Road – the Council unanimously agreed to have no objection the applications, the Council support the proposals.

Bedford Borough Council Local Development Scheme update, Councillors had received a copy of the latest communication from the Borough Council Officers which notified the Borough Executive Committee would receive the Local Plan 2040 report at their meeting scheduled on 27th April and the timetable remains on schedule for the Plan inspection. It was asked that clarity on declarations of interest relating to the Local Plan to be shared by the Clerk.

Review of Planning at Bedford Borough Council update, noted that the Parish Council input had been submitted on the internal review undertaken. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee report consideration had been shared with Parish Councillors.

Decisions to be noted

21/02902/FUL Erection of front porch and new raised roof at Angleshades, Queens Road- Permitted

2022/20. Ward Report

Report received, circulated, items noted in Cllr Wootton's absence were that recently the refuse collation had not taken place so the recycling bins along Wilden Road had not been emptied, the Clerk to follow up.

2022/21 Highways, East-West Rail and Rights of Way

EWR matters – Cllr. Palmer had continued to engage in this, including the East West Rail Bedfordshire representatives Group meeting.

The Save Our Greenfields campaign information had been shared in the parish and a number of residents joined the walk recently.

Highways matters included: Clerk had requested, received, circulated and published the December and January average speed camera data to various platforms as usual. Concerns were raised over the condition of Queens Road, it was asked that the Clerk to request an inspection of the highways with Councillor Frew to share pictures of the areas requiring attention so these could be logged with the Highways Helpdesk.

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The Council had shared through various platforms the notification of the Wilden Road carriage works commencing, Cllr. Knight was thanked again for the support with this. It was discussed that more work has been done than expected by the local authority, however, there is a gap by the kurb where the area drops away significantly so wide vehicles are going off the verge and causing damage to the new highways. Clerk to feed this back and kindly ask for a site meeting to address this, Councillors Knight and Pegler willing to attend. Channels End Road also to be reported as a number of the potholes along this route are more than a tennis ball deep, so all these items to be taken to the Borough Council.

The Parish Council had been notified that their application to the Police Road Safety Fund seeking a grant of £2,500 to be used toward purchasing a Vehicle Activated Sign for the village, had been successful with an award of £5,000 being granted. The Parish Council discussed the next steps and agreed the Clerk to check the battery/solar options to aid understanding regarding longevity of the battery life if the site is partially shaded. The Clerk to arrange a site visit to look at potential places to locate the highways poles for a device(s), with Councillor Pegler to follow up with residents of Channels End and Wilden Road to ascertain if volunteers interested to support with the management of the data from the VAS unit(s). It was noted that there were some concerns over the use of the VAS units and how effective they would be.

Bedford Borough Council were seeking responses to consultation on Extra Powers for Council to Enforce on the Roads relating to moving traffic offences. The Parish Council noted the information.

Horse lorries on Wilden Road continue to be a problem, it was agreed that in addition to the follow up being done by Sargeant Killick, information to be placed in the Chronicle by the Clerk and enquiries to be made with the local authority regarding Lorrywatch.

Rights of Way matters – following the last meeting and concern raised by the Councillors regarding the repairs needed to the bridge by the Country Park, the Clerk had re-reported this. The repair had been undertaken it was noted.

There had been ditch clearance work carried out by a landowner who had left mud and spoil on a right of way which was causing problems for horse riders and pedestrian users. This had been followed up in between meetings by the Clerk with the Borough Council Officer. Councillor Pegler to contact the Officer to reiterate the danger of items being dumped on public land.

2022/22 Village matters

Local Plan and Dennybrook – a further £100 donation kindly received from a local resident to support with funds for the planning consultant. It was noted the consultant dialogue continues to be on ongoing with the Oxford to Cambridge Arc no longer going ahead.

Richard Fuller MP had visited the parish recently, residents had been able to raise local issues with him. Items raised had included East West Rail and Denybrook, with a letter being sent to the Transport Minister with Richard Fuller having included a cover letter on this matter.

The Council agreed that a follow up letter to be sent to ensure the concerns of residents over the significant impact East West Rail and new housing proposals will have on the village. Cllr. Palmer was thanked for collating a letter which Councillors unanimously agreed to support be sent to Mr Gove MP.

Community litter pick event was discussed, the date agreed, 2nd April to be checked with the local authority ahead of being placed in the Chronicle for promotion, with the local authority as usual providing the equipment and collecting the waste.

Operation London Bridge guidance document, example protocol shared, requested NALC information from BATPC, awaiting document. Councillors felt it was important for the village to be prepared so this to be continue to be investigated. The planting of a tree to mark the Jubilee is being looked into as well.

It was unanimously agreed that the classic car show have access to the field, with the issue of dogs being on the field discussed. It was noted that there should be a reminder that dogs are not allowed on the field areas.

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2022/23 Country Park, Playing Field, Gardening Club and Triangle

Councillor Marsh has reviewed and condensed the inspection documents, Cllr. Marsh was thanked for his work on this, it was noted the recent inspections had been carried out. There had been a list of items which would require attention and these to be collated to enable the work to be quoted for.

Councillor Frew had provided a useful update for all, circulated ahead of the meeting. 25 trees as part of the Queens Canopy had been planted and these to be formally recorded by the Clerk on the official website.

Country Park – to agree invite and date for a village meeting was discussed by Councillors. It was felt having a Working Group of Counillors, Knight, Marsh, Frew and Pegler to meet with the Country Park volunteers remotely to discuss their ideas and establish a way forwards to be followed up.

It was noted that there had been the discovery of three non native species of tree recently planted in the Country Park. There were also concerns that the bin at the park is not being emptied by the Borough Council, the Clerk to follow up the collection arrangements with the local authority.

2022/24 Queens Jubilee celebrations

Discussions had been held with Village Hall Management Committee, Councillors Pegler and Knight fed back the Village Hall have kindly offered to open up with the field to be used for the congregation of the village to celebrate the Jubilee. It was agreed that dogs would be allowed on the field, however, they must on the lead and all waste to be cleared up. The Parish Council was unable to vote on making resources available for the event as it is not clear at present what support is needed.

2022/25 Finance

Review receipts and authorise payments – see below.

Receive the bank reconciliation – it was circulated ahead of meeting, no budget concerns it was noted.

The Full Council approved and agreed the following payments, resolution passed.

Backlight Ltd	Administration services	£826.17
Cloud Next Ltd	Website hosting invoice	£132.00
Scribe Accounts	Package cost	£345.60
These payments below are only for ratification		
Ionos	Monthly charge for January email to be ratified	£11.40
Ionos	Monthly charge for February email to be ratified	£11.40

The Clerk had circulated a summary document collated for the management of the defibrillator maintenance checks. Thanks was given to Cllr. Brightman and the resident who are undertaking the regular checks going forwards.

The Council do require a cabinet to enable the facility to be kept water tight, the estimated for this will be in the region of £500, with a Ward Fund application to be made in April. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council contribute £50 towards this project, resolution passed, Clerk to arrange.

A Community Chest grant application could be made in the interim for this project, but presently it was noted is not needed.

Garden Club request for payment from garden club funds to St Denys £50.00 noted and approved.

Tree plaque ratification resolved by those present, a British Legion plaque to be purchased for £150 including the stakes.

BATPC affiliation fees renewal to be a future agenda item

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 5th May 2022 at 7pm, Village Hall –to be held in the Randall Room.

Actions/Updates:

Regular social media and village circulation communications have continue to be made between meetings.

Chronicle Councillor article submitted.

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The Clerk had submitted the precept request to the local authority.
 Clerk had included the more detailed information received from the local authority regarding excessive lighting of a property when it is impacting on nearby households, with the guidance and clarity from the local authority Environmental Health Officer, on various local platforms.
 It was suggested that the Village Hall maintenance contractor may potentially be able to be used for Council items, contact details received.
 The light by the defibrillator the Village Hall update was they are trying to find a battery operated PIR light to help with this as a temporary measure.
 Manor Farm Barns Christmas lights meter reading received, Clerk to follow up and feed this back to the electricity company.
 Little Staughton Road flooding issue on highway, site meeting requested with Area Highways Inspector, Rikie Dawkes new Officer.
 Village Hall booking dates confirmed for 2022.
 The options for a new noticeboard at the Park had been carried forward to the budget meeting in September, project on hold at present.
 Country Park Working Group to be included in the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Group list of recognised habitat areas, ongoing? update
 VAT reclaim ongoing
 Councillor Marsh had received access and training information for the Parish Council website, contact details and updates also made to the Council website. Clerk to set up new Councillor email account.
 Council website details had been included on the agenda and minutes as suggested at last meeting.
 The follow up communication with the Village Hall Management Committee suggesting a meeting, relating to the report from them of a branch from an over hanging tree causing a concern. – any update?
 The bank mandate had been completed to enable the Clerk to have read only access to the bank accounts online, as well as Councillor Marsh being added as a bank signatory. Awaiting confirmation both these new arrangements were now live.
 The Green Lane bin was reported to the local authority for emptying and it was asked what regular emptying schedule is it on. The local authority response outlined it is emptied every 2 weeks in line with the General waste collections, the next collection being 11th January. Clerk has sent picture with exact location details to new Borough Officer of the Green Lane bin and asked it is added to the regular schedule.

Clerk asked to include information on how to subscribe to the village website updates in the Chronicle article.

Correspondence list

NALC Events Bulletin emails
 Age Partnership email promoting services
 BBC Planning weekly list email
 Online playgrounds promotional information
 CPRE update emails
 NFP Workshops bid writing information
 Beds Police crime statistics – circulated
 Chronicle article communications - submitted
 Parish and Town Council Network Meeting information – circulated
 BBC Agenda for Standards Committee
 Regular Colmworth Trumpet communications received
 Payroll service provider communications – ongoing
 BBC highways regarding average speed cameras data - forwarded
 Police Community Priority Setting 10th January meeting information feedback – circulated
 PCC confirmation of outcome from application for Road Safety Fund received
 Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Services Consultation Budget and Action Plan is launched
 Sgt Killick communications regarding coming to Parish Council meeting
 Member of the public communication regarding hire of the Village Hall – responded to, linked with Village Hall
 Manor Farm Barns: Funding of Village Triangle electricity communications
 Resident concerns with highways flooding copied into communication with Highways Helpdesk

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Playground & Public Park Services promotional information
Village Hall communications regarding light by the defibrillator
PCC Ward Council meeting events – circulated
Cloud Next pricing increases
Village Hall booking dates confirmed for 2022
Setting the Police budget for 2022/23 - there's still time to complete the survey
Bedford Borough Council Officer communications regarding bridge repair by Country Park
Street Trading (new application), outside of town centre, ALL CONSENT STREETS
Join your EWR Local Representatives Group communications
Bedford Borough Local Development Scheme information
Fly tipping reported to Bedford Borough Council
BATPC Office - Enquiry re Any Available Office Space
Garden Club request for payment from garden club funds to St Denys
BBC communication regarding Odell Neighbourhood Plan
Platinum Jubilee 2022: Ideas for Commemorations
Resident communication regarding Queens Jubilee celebrations – responded to
Advertising the New Anne Robson Trust Pre-bereavement Helpline
Free tree opportunity from Bedford Borough Council
BATPC affiliation fees renewal to be a future agenda item
Webnos communications regarding defibrillator
Resident communications regarding defibrillator
New Community Policing Priority communication – circulated
CPRE February 2022 Newsletter
Operation London Bridge communications
NALC policy Consultation Briefing - OFCOM Postal Regulation Consultation
Bedford Borough Council communication regarding Extra Powers for Council to Enforce On Our Roads
- Have Your Say on Moving Traffic Offences – circulated
BATPC Finance training – circulated
Bedford Borough Council 20220208 C12057 Wilden Road, Colmworth - Resurfacing Works information
New PCSO information
Bedford Borough Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Consultation for 2022/23
– circulated
Great British Spring Clean 2022: Will You Take Part?
Bedford Borough Local Plan 2040 communication
UK Power Networks: Our preparation for Storms Dudley and Eunice
Concerns regarding landowner damage from recent ditch works – followed up
National Highways A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements update – forwarded
Update on Review of Planning at Bedford Borough Council – forwarded
EWR Bedfordshire Local Representatives Group Rescheduled Meeting Date
Information regarding Wilden Road, and Chequers Hill Colmworth 2021-095
CPRE March 2022 Newsletter
BFR 2015, Colmworth Village Hall, Church Road, Bedfordshire, MK44 2JX (M00000009134) : Site
Check submitted (1065)

Meeting closed at 9.45pm