

COLMWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Colmworth Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7.00pm at Colmworth Village Hall

Present: Councillor Palmer, Councillor Marsh, Councillor Frew, Councillor Pegler and Councillor Ball.

Apologies: None received

In Attendance: Three members of the public and Borough Councillor Sharanjit Sira.

Clerk: Lizzie Barnicoat

2024/48 Apologies

No apologies for absence were received, though noted that Councillor Palmer to arrive late as at local authority briefing.

2024/49 Declarations of Interest for the meeting

No declarations of interest received.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at this point.

2024/50 Public Open Forum

Resident feedback on local highways matters received, as well as vegetation clearance along a right of way. Councillors thanked residents for their helpful information which would be used to aid discussion during the formal part of the Council meeting.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at this point

2024/51 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 7th November 2024

The Council accepted the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Councillor Marsh Proposed. Councillor Frew Seconded. All in favour

Councillor Pegler signed.

2024/52 Bedford Borough Councillor report

Councillor Sira had shared report between meetings, circulated to Councillors and Chronicle.

Borough Councillor Ward report summary given to those present, support offered to attend local community police meeting once date confirmed.

2024/53 Planning

To consider any planning applications received after the publication of the agenda if applicable, none had been received it was noted.

Cllr. Palmer arrived at this point of the meeting from the Local Plan briefing delivered to Town and Parish Councils. The local authority were awaiting confirmation of the request for an extension to the deadline for the revised Plan sent to the Inspector, also noting that no formal announcement at present on Universal Studios. Meeting discussion included potential speculative planning applications coming forward including potential vulnerability in the local area, Councillors to continue to monitor closely.

Decisions to be noted:

24/01791/FUL new detached double garage complex (Revised Scheme) at The Squirrels Grovelands Farm Colesden Road Wilden - Permitted

09/02093/AOC 06/01937/FUL:- condition - 21 - Archaeological works - (Erection of one and a half storey detached dwelling with integral garage and formation of new vehicular access and bridge over moat) at Land Adjacent The Moat House Church Road - Disposed of

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2024/54 Highways, East-West Rail and Rights of Way

EWR matters – consultation draft response confirmed by all present as agreeable had been submitted it was noted, thanks given to Cllr. Palmer for work on this. Planning Inspectorate statutory process also outlined with only a four week response period discussed, Cllr. Palmer drafted response was agreed to be submitted, Clerk to action.

VAS device on Wilden Road update, pole extension now in place, device is fully operational and order for new base plates actioned, signs now installed it was noted.

The issue with heavy good vehicle sign was raised as well at the meeting with Parish Council funds had been used for those £500, feedback was that this would be looked into by the Officer. Still no feedback received, as the Parish Council would like to discourage such vehicles from using the local road network, Mayor Wootton to liaise with Wilden. No feedback to share to date, this had been followed up with Officer supporting with the Channel End vehicle movements.

Heavy vehicles being reported at Channels End, had continued to be pursued, Borough Council Officer had been helpful with review of the maintenance and usage issues being experienced alongside assurance the matter would be monitored. Additional signage had been installed by the local authority, Clerk asked to feedback that signage size could be better placed to give drivers more advance warning the road is not suitable for such vehicles.

Rights of Way – concern raised by some residents regarding the clearance of a path between Honeydon Road and Country Park, it was noted clearance work had ceased. Parish Council communication had been shared with the contractor to ask for clarity and update, it was agreed that a follow up communication be made to try and better understand future plans for the area.

2024/55 Village matters

The Parish Council currently has vacancies it was noted and there is the ability to co-opt.

Work was being done on arranging a Coffee with a Cop event that would enable an invite to the wider local community so the event was better attended. It was confirmed that 22nd March was preferable and that the Parish Council would fund the hire of the hall for the event, Clerk to book venue and share details with neighbouring parishes of the event asking for volunteers to kindly come forward to assist with refreshments.

2024/56 Country Park, Playing Field, Gardening Club and Triangle

Councillor Marsh has continued with inspections, these have been circulated to Councillors, thanks were given to Councillor Marsh for the ongoing support with the play equipment.

Councillor Pegler to write to Manor Farm Barns residents to thank them for the support with the Christmas lights.

2024/57 Finance

Review receipts and authorise payments – see below, the Full Council approved and agreed the following payments, resolution passed. Full transaction report circulated to all.

Backlight Ltd	Administration services	£903.55
HMRC	PAYE expenses	£321.81
Colmworth Village Hall	Quarter 4 hire of hall costs	£31.50
These payments below are only for ratification		
Public Works Loan Board	Loan repayment	£677.95
Ionos	Monthly charge for November email	£22.20
Ionos	Monthly charge for December email	£22.20

The budget for 2025/26, circulated and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council for the financial year ahead, this included NALC salary agreement and reserve levels allocations. The precept for 2025/26 was unanimously agreed to be set at £17,491.00, resolution passed. Clerk to submit.

A428 Community Fund application had been submitted it was noted, deadline early February so outcome not expected for a few months.

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7pm, Thursday 1st May 2025 at 7pm, Thursday 3rd July 2025 at 7pm, Village Hall.

Actions/Updates:

This continue to be displayed in the action tracker below.

Correspondence list – to update

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
Regular Colmworth Trumpet communications received
Playground & Public Park Services promotional information
EWR Local Representatives Group communications – circulated
CPRE November and December 2024 Newsletter
Bedford Borough Council Parish and Town Council Network Meeting information - circulated
Morelock communications regarding VAS device – followed up
Bedford Borough Council Street Trading Consent Applications received - All Consent Streets Outside the Town Centre
Bedford Borough Council Officer communications regarding heavy goods vehicles
A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet project updates
Community Volunteering in Bedford Borough information
Borough Cllr Sira report – circulated, shared with Chronicle editor
Ionos invoice for emails November – agenda item
Public Works Loan Board repayment notification – agenda item
Ionos invoice for emails December – agenda item
Local community police team Coffee with a Cop event communications – agenda item
Morelock Signs bottom plate order communications
BATPC Finance training programme information
CPM Playgrounds Ltd communication regarding play area
Communication regarding footpath number 10 clearance – responded to, followed up
Borough Council Ward Fund communications regarding application – actioned
Borough Councillor SS The Cambridgeshire Classic 2025 Event Plan
Borough Council Officer communication regarding bins not being emptied – followed up
Communications regarding Christmas lights powerful
BBC communication regarding Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control new locations – circulated
BATPC Chairmanship training
BATPC Updated communications and breakthrough training
Resident communication regarding Channels End highways usage – actioned, agenda item
BATPC Affiliation fees communication
Bedford Borough Council precept supporting information and declaration 2025-26 – circulated
Communication with neighbouring parishes regarding a joint local community police event – agenda item
Clapham Parish Council holding an East West Rail event
Average speed camera communication from neighbouring parish – responded to
BBC Road Closure emergency notice for Colesden Road, Colmworth - forwarded

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

