

COLMWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Colmworth Parish Council held on
Thursday 5th September 2024 at 7.00pm at Colmworth Village Hall**

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

Apologies: Councillor Pegler to arrive late it was noted.

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

Clerk: Lizzie Barnicoat

2024/25 Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2024/26 Declarations of Interest for the meeting

Noted that Cllr Marsh declared an interest in planning appeal item, no further comments received.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at this point

2024/27 Public Open Forum

Concern over Denybrook coming forwards with the change in government recently, it was noted there would be a Local Plan update detailed during the meeting that would cover this item.

Great Staughton 20 mph speed limit noted, could Colmworth have a 20mph zone question received. It was detailed this 20mph zone is a county wide initiative by Cambridgeshire. Disappointment expressed that average speed camera coverage does not cover those who travel off certain roads.

Coffee with a Cop at Wixams feedback and request for a meeting in this area.

Councillor Pegler arrived at this point of the meeting

Channels End resident heavy goods vehicles feedback, improvement has been seen following engagement with the company and the local authority with thanks given. There is an additional sign to be installed by local authority showing it is not suitable for heavy goods vehicles, with an alternative access route for these vehicles being looked at by the Officer as well.

Large vehicles delivering online orders travelling along Queens Road causing issues blocking the road, there was a suggestion to look at widening the road by having a passing area. Clerk to follow up with Dave Murphy and Iain Booth to see if passing areas are a possibility with site meeting welcomed for Councillors and residents.

Contributions were welcomed for the next edition of the Chronicle.

Seeking clarity from the local authority on the exact timings of the road closures relating to the Anglian Water works as the village has seen an increased flow of vehicles, Clerk to follow up.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at this point

2024/28 Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 3rd July 2024

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

Councillor Marsh – Proposed. Councillor Frew– Seconded. All in favour

2024/29 Bedford Borough Councillor report

Councillor Sira reported fly tipping is on the increase so reporting is encouraged, changes to bus services in the rural areas have been reviewed so important to feedback on changes. Grants available through the Borough Councillor Ward Fund, £800 allocated to the parish, as well as the National Lottery Community Fund.

Richard Fuller MP is meeting with the solar farm developer nearby it was noted.

2024/30 Planning

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Councillor Marsh declaration noted for this item. Notification of application gone to appeal for 23/00550/FUL erection of detached dwelling at Land Adjacent To The Grove Queens Road noted, no action required as application has gone to appeal.

Councillor Palmer gave an update on the Local Plan, the Planning Inspectorate had received a letter from the government outlining that the revised approach is that there is not expected to be a delay in the progressing of Local Plans. The Planning Inspector has confirmed they will honour the delay given to Bedford Borough Council. The local authority response to the Inspector was outlined, it included information on a meeting with National Highways taking place early September, that the new allocation consultation have taken place with those affected, whilst being mindful that Universal Studios decision announcement is also impacting on the Local Plan progression.

Bedford Borough Council Draft Statement of Community Involvement consultation information received. Bedford Borough Councillor training event for Parish Councillors on 12th September information circulated.

To consider any planning applications received after the publication of the agenda if applicable, none received.

Decisions to be noted

24/01000/LBC Full Lime mortar repoint and brick restoration to north, south and west walls of the property, with patching repairs to the east wall at Milking Parlour 4 Church Lane – Permitted

24/00871/FUL New access and vehicle crossover at Tenacres Little Staughton Road - Permitted

2024/31 Highways, East-West Rail and Rights of Way

EWK matters – nothing to report. Encouragement of awareness of Richard Fuller MP local events to aid parishioners to have access and information in a timely manner to the village, Councillor Sira to feedback.

VAS device on Wilden Road Clerk had shared with Councillor Pegler the pole diameter to enable additional brackets to be purchased for the other highway poles. Pole extensions had been ordered from the local authority to help improve functionality, there had been liaison with Morelock regarding the device as well as it appeared to be intermittent. Initial data had been shared with Councillors, and sent to local community police PC Kerry Jones. The data was discussed, with the bank of evidence to be used to push for more traffic calming measures such as extension to speed limits potentially. Additional base plates on the other highways poles suggested, Clerk to get quotes for additional base plates, plus Clerk to support getting engineer to visit the site and look at the existing device. It was agreed that Clerk to add data to website and share with Chronicle.

A428 Community Fund up to £15,000 can be applied for with next application window open from early November to end of January, further device application discussed, with at the November meeting, the Parish Council to look at finance options for future devices, Clerk offered to complete additional application for funding through this Fund..

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 is being followed up with Officer supporting with the Channel End vehicle movements.

Heavy vehicles being reported at Channels End, liaison with nearby residents continued as well as follow up with local authority Officers. Simon Dudley is monitoring the impact the vehicle movements are having on the highways and associated damage. Clerk had also made further enquires relating to the license the vehicles are associated with, this has been followed up and remains ongoing.

Average speed camera data request for latest data had been shared with local authority and the previous data was shared in the Chronicle.

Rights of Way – Clerk had circulated previous seasonal vegetation map which had been compared against the latest map received, noting only very small areas are cut. Cllr. Plamer had been linked and attended a site meeting with the local authority Officer to look at the areas, given that changes are possible to the cutting schedule. Summary of the communications with the local authority shared, with Parish Council seeking support from Borough Cllr Sira to assist with keeping more rights of way accessible.

2024/32 Village matters

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The Parish Council currently has vacancies it was noted and there is the ability to co-opt. Defibrillator policy document had been updated, with some items reviewed by Councillors, it was noted the code had been shared with Councillor Pegler. Noted confirmation received from current insurance provider that within the current policy schedule on page 3 it details the all-risk cover, which provides protection for up to £34,000. It was unanimously agreed with updates talked through at the meeting that with the updated changes incorporated, it was confirmed that the Council to approve the document, resolution passed.

Request to be placed in next Chronicle seeking volunteers to come forward to help with checking the device, Clerk to action.

The new Sergeant Sarah Cluff, who Councillor Pegler and the Clerk had welcomed the opportunity to engage with her and her team, giving future meeting dates, still no response it was noted. There had recently been a police priority setting meeting, feedback from the meeting had been shared with Councillors and would be placed in next Chronicle. Bedfordshire PCC information on NFU Rural Crime event 6th November at Scald End Farm information shared and to be sent to Chronicle.

Village Hall old bench in car park has been restored it was noted.

2024/33 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. Previous item was the cleaning of the matting around the safety equipment which was now done it was noted.

Councillor Marsh had sought costings for maintenance following the work identified in the recent inspection report from CPM Playgrounds with quotes sourced for the platform that needed replacing. It was ratified that this repair had been needed to be actioned between meetings to ensure safety of the equipment.

Ward Fund request to be put forward to Borough Council seeking support with replacement platform on play piece needed, Clerk to follow up.

Councillor Marsh had reshared the latest inspection reports after the July meeting it was noted and the Clerk had fed back to the individual who had requested to access the field, giving permission.

Items for the Country Park had been purchased including new bench donated by the Gardening Club. Life buoy follow up to check the correct item is purchased, it was unanimously agreed to fund a purchase of a new suitable buoy which would be covered by the Council budget already allocated of £250.

Country Park posters made by the children from the nursery which was welcomed by Councillors and ready to be installed as well as to be placed at Playing Field.

Sign by the bird hide has been damaged at the Country Park it was detailed, so this to be followed up with the local police by the Clerk.

Hazard removed around the stumps associated with the previous bench which is being refurbished.

Sign to state no motorbikes by the Honeydon access point could be more visible, support and help offered with this.

Bin capacity item for consideration had been received from the local authority to increase capacity of existing bin up to 240L, to be a budget discussion but would be an ideal project for securing funding, however, the issue remain about who would empty the bin so follow up by the Clerk requested on will the local authority empty the bin, as the Council would like a static bin the local authority will empty. No answer to Clerk email still, to be chased again. No update still.

Hedge cutting in Country Park discussed, having a hard cut of the hedge back had been explored, Agriplant were unable to quote for this it was noted.

2024/34 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
BATPC	Membership renewal	£100.00
These payments below are only for ratification		
W T Saunders Ground Care	Paths mowing 2	£106.08

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W T Saunders Ground Care	Playing Field cut 4	£88.20
W T Saunders Ground Care	Playing Field cut 5	£88.20
CPM Playgrounds Ltd	Repairs to equipment	£360.00
Ionos	Monthly charge for July email	£22.20
CPRE	Membership renewal	£36.00
Ionos	Monthly charge for August email	£22.20
Nina Frew	Country Park expenses reimbursement including bench	£82.63

Financial Regulations updated document uploaded to the website.

Savings account opened, Parish Council ratification made to enable interest to be gained, resolution passed.

Bedford Borough Council Special Area Expenses information circulated, Clerk to arrange submission.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7pm, Thursday 9th January 2025 at 7pm, 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

CPRE July and August 2024 Newsletter

Colmworth Village Hall booking communications confirmed dates - circulated

Puddleducks communication for summer fete –responded to

Bedford Borough Council Parish and Town Council Network Meeting information - circulated

Morelock communications regarding VAS device – followed up

Bedford Borough Council Officer communications regarding highways pole extension – actioned

Bedford Borough Councillor communications including invite to future meetings

Resident communication regarding request for meeting to be arranged with local authority and

BPHA regarding land locked area – actioned

Copied into communications with Bedford Borough Council Officer regarding seasonal vegetation cuts and map – agenda item

Bedford Borough Council Street Trading Consent Application - All Consent Streets Outside the Town Centre

Resident communication regarding use of the playing field feedback communications – actioned

Bedford Borough Council Officer communications feeding back regarding heavy goods vehicles

Bedford Borough Council Officer communications regarding heavy goods vehicles in Colmworth and

Lorry Watch – agenda item

Trees for Streets promotional information

Hedge contractor communication regarding quotation – agenda item

Police priority setting meeting 26th July information – circulated

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet project updates

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Defibrillator case communications ahead of new cabinet being installed
Village Hall communication regarding a seat in the car park – circulated
Borough Councillor Sira BBC Temporary Road Closure notice Colmworth Road, Little Satughton
Blocked byway/bridleway communications with Bedford Borough Council Rights of Way Officer
copied into
Copied into communications with CPM Playgrounds Ltd regarding play area maintenance – agenda
item
Community Volunteering in Bedford Borough information
Broken bridge by Country park – reported and mended by Bedford Borough Council
BBC Special Area Expenses information – circulated, agenda item
Borough Cllr Sira report – circulated, shared with Chronicle editor
Communication seeking use of the playing field – followed up, circulated, responded
Borough Councillor Sira Mayor's Climate Change Fund and Home upgrade information
BATPC Chairmanship training course
Ionos invoice for emails July – agenda item
Ionos invoice for emails August – agenda item
Former employee communication regarding NEST pension details – responded to, followed up
BATPC invoice for membership – agenda item
Information on heavy goods movements on 11th June received – followed up
BBC UK Shared Prosperity Fund ad Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant information
BBC Officer Rural Transport timetables from 1st August – shared for Chronicle
Office of the Traffic Commissioner Operating Licensing Team communications
Bedfordshire PCC information on NFU Rural Crime event 6th November at Scald End Farm-
forwarded
Gardening Club donation of bench for country park communications
Councillor communications regarding cost of replacement platform board for play equipment
BBC Social Enterprise Support UKSPF project information – shared with Chronicle
BATPC programme of communications and data compliance training
BBC Planning training for Parish Councillors 12th September – circulated
BBC Planning appeal consultation letter – circulated, agenda item
Parish Council meeting dates circulated to Councillors and Borough Cllr Sira
PCC Events – PCC column for local publications – shared with Chronicle
BBC draft Statement of Community Involvement
CPM Playgrounds Ltd invoice communications – agenda item
BBC notification of Green Hill Solar Farm application response – circulated by GP
Wilden Road VAS data communications between Councillors – shared with local police, agenda
item
BBC new rules for bird keepers – shared with Chronicle
BBC Officer request for average speed camera data
Grass cutting contractor invoices for payment – agenda item
Liberal Democrat Group PTCN September 2024
Zurich insurance clarity for defibrillator policy communication – agenda item

Meeting closed at 8.35pm