

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of London Colney
held on Friday 15 May 2015 commencing at 6.30pm
at Morris Playing Field Pavilion, White Horse Lane, London Colney.**

MINUTE NO.	DETAIL	ACTION
	<p>PRESENT Councillors: K Gardner, D Gordon, J Hopkins , M MacMillan (Chair), N Mahony, A Osborne, H Pakenham,</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE Mrs I Casper Parish Clerk</p> <p>6 members of the public</p>	
	<p>The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public and thanked Mr Barry Lang for taking photographs of the Councillors for the London Colney News.</p>	
1/APM15	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor C Flynn (personal).</p>	
2/APM15	<p>MINUTES.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 2 May 2014 were noted having been approved and signed on 6 June 2014</p>	
3/APM15	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>There were no matter arising</p>	
4/APM15	<p>Chairman's report</p> <p>A warm welcome to all, especially members of the public for whom this meeting provides an opportunity to raise issues about the previous council's performance.</p> <p>There is no doubt that during the past year this council has delivered on many fronts with enthusiasm, commitment and good outcomes. This does not mean that everything in the garden was rosy as there were some things that were not achievable or where members of the public may have felt let down by our performance. I am sorry about our short-comings and we will try to do better.</p> <p>However, the brand that is LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL is generally well received and liked by the public</p>	

	<p>for its involvement with, and in, the community.</p> <p><u>Community Activity</u></p> <p>Major events such as Fireworks Night and Larks in the Parks attracted over 4000 villagers and are good examples of the Parish Council spending reasonable resources for maximum community benefit.</p> <p>Lunch sessions at the Callie have gradually increased attendances. Special lunches at Christmas, Burns celebration, St George's Day, and St Patrick's Day were packed out. Our excellent chef Stephan is a great asset to this venture.</p> <p>Whilst great successes can be claimed for the Christmas Buffet and the Burns supper with sell-out attendance we need to review the New Year's Eve event and the costs & quality of the family panto.</p> <p>Some of the most rewarding innovations have been the chiropody sessions and the over 50's exercise group. On behalf of all involved, I give special thanks to Cllr Helen Pakenham for initiating and facilitating these much-appreciated sessions and for her commitment to running the Monday coffee mornings.</p> <p>On the Friday entertainment front; the most recent evening with Co Jones was a packed out and enjoyable evening. Other events have been less well attended but it seems important to continue to provide events that will at the very least break-even.</p> <p>Community Centre: the building acts as community focus with many regular 'activity' bookings and casual 'local' events. It requires on-going investment for repair and maintenance so that the 'Callie' can adhere to health and safety standards, as well as an upgrading programme to retain bookings. The Parish Office being located here is a 'good value' deal, in terms of finance and human resources</p> <p><u>Finances and Budget</u></p> <p>The budget is well controlled and this is evident by the small increase of less than a penny per week rate increase for 90 per cent of village households.</p> <p>A grant from government of around £28,000 was given to offset the loss of business rate calculations; but this is only short term compensation. Wages are by far the biggest expenditure in the Parish Account with new amounts required to fund changes in works pension contributions. Funds from a Napsbury Park fund to assist with maintenance are diminishing and has a small impact on this year's budget (bigger next year).</p> <p>New long term revenue commitments have been few, but once-off capital expenditure means that the Parish can 'cut its cloth' accordingly</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>A new marketing & promotions working party has been formed to generate new income.</p> <p><u>Issues</u></p> <p>There are two key developments at Perham Way leisure centre and the Pastoral Centre that will have an impact on the village. We have started action to reduce impact but these developments are finally in the hands of the county and district councils and our continued representations will be vital.</p> <p>Our Environment strategy has been updated and there are minor actions that can be funded by the PC leading to improvements; a vital job for the new Council. Consider also our updated flood strategy and it is obvious that there was considerable activity at the environment and neighbourhood committee. County council vehicle signage has resulted in HGVs travelling in unauthorised village streets: representation from us has brought promises of remedial action but this will not happen without PC persuasion.</p> <p><u>Personnel</u></p> <p>We are all very sad that community manager Tom Bagge has been in and out of hospital recently but slow improvement is reported. We send him best wishes for continued recovery to better health. We thank the staff, particularly Irene Casper and Leigh Casling for their cover and 'walking 500 miles the 500 miles more' in addition to their own roles as the two senior Parish managers.</p> <p>Irene Casper has been in post for 15 months as Parish Clerk and is highly effective as a Council ambassador and as chief executive; it helps immensely that she is well-liked.</p> <p>I want to pay tribute to her, the hard working staff and the added members of the committees for their support and commitment to our community; additionally to those who support the PC in many different ways.</p> <p>May I also say thanks to Cllrs Jane & Mike Hobday, Maria Aguado and Laurel Blyth who retired from the PC, but especially to Maria for editing the Parish Magazine and to Laurel for numerous things including support for lunch at the Callie and chiropody sessions.</p> <p>It is time for the new council to take forward the community baton with all the challenges that accompanies it. But whatever we do, we will do well..... if it is done with the residents of LC at the centre of our decision making, in a spirit of respect and tolerance.</p>	
--	---	--

5/APM15	Any Other Business by permission of the Chairman There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.37pm	
----------------	---	--