

LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE SPORTS PAVILION,
MORRIS PLAYING FIELD, ON FRIDAY 5 MAY 2017, COMMENCING AT 6.45 pm

MINUTE NO.	DETAIL	ACTION
	<p>PRESENT Councillors: M MacMillan (in the Chair), K Gardner, D Gordon, H Pakenham & N Mahoney;</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE Lionel Thatcher, Locum Parish Clerk; Leigh Casling, Grounds Manager & PCSO Debbie</p> <p>and</p> <p>3 members of the public</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
86/17	<p>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Nominations were invited and Councillor Gardener proposed Councillor MacMillan, this being seconded by Councillor Mahoney. There were no other nominations and Councillor MacMillan was duly elected.</p> <p>Councillor MacMillan signed the declaration of acceptance of office.</p>	
87/17	<p>ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Councillor Gardener was proposed by Councillor Pakenham, seconded by Councillor Gordon and duly elected.</p>	
88/17	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillors Quagliozi, Flynn and Hopkins.</p>	
89/17	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</p> <p>Councillor Gordon declared association with an allotment tenancy.</p>	

<p>90/17</p>	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 May 2016 were read, approved and signed as a true record of that meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the Council meeting of 7 April 2017 were read, approved and signed as a true record of that meeting.</p>	
<p>91/17</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the minutes of 6 May 2016.</p> <p>The following items from the minutes of 7 April 2017 were considered</p> <p>54/17 Caledon Centre heating & Napsbury CCTV. The Clerk reported that work to install Napsbury streetlight and the CCTV was to commence on 12 May. It was agreed that the quote in the sum of £2800 for replacing the Napsbury Pavilion boiler be accepted and that the quote of £1400 from the same contractor for installing radiators at the Caledon Centre be accepted.</p> <p>58/17 First Aid Course. This will take place on 10 May. Attempts had been made to interest staff of neighbouring councils but there had been no takers. There were consequently several places available should members of the Council wish to attend.</p> <p>71/17 Anti Social Behaviour. The PCSO present explained that her colleague had been very upset at the feedback from the Council because she had worked very hard to resolve the problems. The Chairman said that her work was appreciated and no criticisms were made of her. The letter to her superiors was to attempt to persuade them to provide attendance by regular officers who have the power of arrest and certainly did not decry the work of the PCSOs.</p> <p>Councillor Gordon added that she had seen PCSO Debbie trying to calm the situation without any support. Debbie said that the ringleaders had been identified and some came from St Albans. They have found which schools they attend and 6 of them were required to attend the police station where they were given ASB contracts, which prohibit them from entering shops and garages and any damage caused by them will be treated as criminal damage.</p> <p>At the moment, the situation is calm.</p>	

	<p>The Grounds Manager reported trouble today where youths had been cycling in the newly painted swimming pool and he said that he had removed graffiti from the rear of the clock.</p> <p>Another local incident was where all 4 tyres were removed from a BMW in Napsbury.</p> <p>Councillor Gardener referred to the adverse Press comment and suggested a Press release to tell people we are getting on top of the problem.</p> <p>Councillor Gordon said she had set up a meeting with Robert Brown, of Youth Connections.</p> <p>It was mentioned that the barrier at Alexander Rd had gone. PCSO Debbie will investigate.</p> <p><i>The PCSO left the meeting.</i></p> <p>74/17 Walsingham Way. The Grounds Manager said that he had been monitoring this situation. The house is nowhere near complete and the fence consequently has not been moved. He has sent a letter to the owner.</p> <p>76/17 Planning. The Clerk said that following the last Council meeting he had operated the procedure suggested, in that each week planning applications received were sent to members of the Planning Committee, inviting their comments. To date, only one reply has been received, hence the list of applications being presented to this meeting, some of which have passed the date by which a response was required.</p>	
<p>92/17</p>	<p>GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE</p> <p>The Clerk advised that it is a legal requirement to each year affirm that the requirements for using the Power have been met and that it is intended to continue using the General Power of Competence.</p> <p>It is therefore confirmed that the requirements in terms of members seeking election and the Clerk's qualifications have been met and this Council will continue to operate the General Power of Competence.</p>	

<p>93/17</p>	<p>COMMITTEES V WORKING PARTIES</p> <p>The Clerk referred to his circular explaining the pros and cons of each system and it was proposed by the Chairman and unanimously agreed to convert all committees except Finance to Working Parties and to review the situation in October 2017.</p>	
<p>94/17</p>	<p>APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES</p> <p>The Chairman proposed that the composition of the Finance Committee should be Councillor Gordon, plus the Chairman of Council and the Chairmen of the Working Parties. This was agreed.</p> <p>He also proposed that the composition of Working Parties remain as per last year's Committees, i.e.</p> <p>Planning. Councillors Mahoney; Hopkins and Pakenham Environment & Neighbourhood: Councillors Osborne; Quagliozi; Gordon & Mahoney. Events & Community: Councillors Pakenham, Gardener & Hopkins. H R: Councillors Gardener; Quagliozi, Pakenham & Osborne</p> <p>The Chairman of Council is an ex-officio member of all committees and working parties. London Colney News: 4 members Marketing & Promotions 4 members</p> <p>Councillor Gardener reminded members she was unable to attend meetings during the day due to work commitments.</p> <p>:</p>	

<p>95/17</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES.</p> <p>The Chairman proposed that Chairmen of committees and working parties be appointed from the members of those meetings at their first meeting.</p>	
<p>96/17</p>	<p>TO AGREE DAY OF WEEK FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS</p> <p>Members agreed that the present arrangement was satisfactory and it was confirmed that the meeting day would remain as a Friday.</p>	
<p>97/17</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES</p> <p>It was agreed that the representatives for 2017-2018 would be – London Colney Youth Project – Councillor Quagliozi</p>	

	<p>St Albans District Association of Parish Councils – Councillor Pakenham LaFarge/Colney Liaison Group – Councillors MacMillan and Osborne Agrivert Liaison Group – Councillors Osborne & Mahoney.</p>	
98/17	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>a) The Clerk reported receipt of a request from a resident to plant a tree in memory of her mother, who had recently died.</p> <p>She has chosen a site she likes on the riverside near the Green Dragon and on a bank.</p> <p>The tree is an ornamental apple which does not grow very big.</p> <p>The Grounds Manager said that the bank suggested is comprised of silt and the tree would not thrive there.</p> <p>Members considered the request and some were concerned at the ongoing cost of maintenance, with Councillor Mahoney suggesting that a ‘dowry’ be required to cover future costs. This was not proceeded with and it was agreed that the tree may be planted, subject to the family speaking with the Grounds Manager and planting it in a position agreed with him.</p> <p>b) A letter received from St Albans DC planning dept regarding landscaping for the new railfreight depot. This letter has been widely circulated outside the Council and the contents noted.</p>	
99/17	<p>COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT</p> <p>This had been dealt with earlier under minute 91/17 and no further matters were discussed.</p>	
100/17	<p>QUESTION TIME</p> <p>The Chairman suspended Standing Orders and allowed members of the public present to ask questions.</p>	

	<p>The first question related to the impending closure of the Co-operative store for refurbishment. It seems it – and the Post Office within - will be closed for 3 weeks and there is concern that people in distress will not be able to draw money or pensions from the Post Office. Members were not aware of any alternative arrangements having been made.</p> <p>The second questioner asked whether members had any knowledge of who had purchased the piece of land adjacent to Lowbell Lane. No information has been received.</p> <p>Councillor Gardener referred to the Civil Enforcement Officers now patrolling London Colney and having seen one 'sauntering' along Alexander Rd and seemingly ignoring parked vehicles. She wondered how effective the CEOs were proving to be.</p> <p>The Chairman reinstated Standing Orders.</p>	
101/17	<p>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT</p> <p>The report is attached to the agenda and Councillor Pakenham spoke to this, saying that not too much is happening this month and that they are 'working up' to Larks in the Park. The Easter events had been successful.</p>	
102/17	<p>GROUNDS MANAGER'S REPORT</p> <p>The Grounds Manager presented his report. He said his staff are very busy, with cricket having started and they are refurbishing the paddling pool.</p> <p>Councillor Gardener said that she was disappointed to hear about the damage to the pool and wondered whether the signage was adequate. Perhaps something to remind people that there was CCTV coverage might help to deter them from causing damage?</p> <p>The Grounds Manager was asked about the low level of river water and whether staff have inspected the area to see if any work is needed. He said that there has been some work needed on the 'swims' but generally it is in a reasonable condition.</p> <p>Councillor Gordon asked about the use of barbeques. The Grounds Manager agreed they can cause problems but we already have a rule about them.</p>	
103/17	<p>GRANTS</p> <p>The Clerk reported that no applications had been received.</p>	

<p>104/17</p>	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) The expenditure since the last Council meeting was noted and approved.</p> <p>b) Year to date income and expenditure against budget was noted and approved.</p> <p>The Chairman said that he would like to see details of the balances brought forward from 2016/2017 at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that the reason last year's figures had not yet been brought to Council is that the Internal Auditor is very late in being able to inspect the accounts and, as a result, we have had to apply for an extension in time to submit them to the External Auditor. However, figures detailing the brought forward balances will be available to the next meeting.</p>	<p>JA</p>
<p>105/17</p>	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>The following applications were considered –</p> <p>5/2017/0864 & 5/2017/0865 Proposed rail freight public open space & Community Forest sites North orbital Rd St Albans – approval of reserved matters. No comment</p> <p>5/2017/0788 Former Napsbury Church , Goldring Way, London Colney – change of use from D1 (non residential) to C3 dwelling houses). Recommend refusal being loss of community facilities.</p> <p>5/2017/1084 5 Beningfield Drive – partial garage conversion & alterations to openings. No comment</p> <p>5/2017/1082 5 Beningfield Drive – loft conversion with front & rear windows No comment</p> <p>5/2017/1083 5 Beningfield Drive – loft conversion with front & rear windows and side rooflights. No comment</p> <p>5/2017/1050 The Willows, land at junction of Lowbell Lane with Barnet Rd – variation of condition 24 of 5/2013/2724. No comment.</p>	
<p>106/17</p>	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the Events Working Party of 11 April 2017 were agreed and Item 6 relating to Larks in the Park was approved.</p>	

107/17	<p>MEMBERS' POINTS OF INFORMATION</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed having contacted the Environment Agency regarding the river – or lack of it – but no reply has yet been received.</p> <p>Councillor Gardener said that she would like the matter of overnight parking on Council property placed on the agenda.</p>	
108/17	<p>REPORTS OF COUNCILLORS ON OTHER AUTHORITIES</p> <p>No reports were received.</p> <p>.</p>	
109/17	<p>REPORTS OF EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED</p> <p>Councillor Pakenham said that she had attended a meeting of Cotlandswick Residents' Association and noted that one person was very concerned about the noise from footballs. They are investigating fencing to try to block the sound.</p>	
110/17	<p>IT WAS RESOLVED to exclude the Press and public in accordance with the Public Bodies(Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in respect of the following:</p> <p>a) S106 monies. The Clerk reported receipt of an e mail from St Albans District Council requesting that the s106 money which they hold for us, be allocated soon.</p> <p>It was agreed to form a Working Party consisting of the Chairman plus Councillors Gordon, Gardener, Pakenham and Mahoney plus the Grounds Manager to put together a plan and that the Working Party will meet within two weeks.</p> <p>b) Bequest. The Clerk said that a parishioner had left a substantial sum of money in her Will to a number of charities and also to the Caledon Community Centre. The solicitors dealing wished for confirmation from all beneficiaries that they are willing to accept the best offer received on the property and to permit Kidney</p>	

	<p>Research (the major beneficiary) to act on behalf of all. It was agreed to accept both.</p> <p>c) VAT. The Clerk confirmed that VAT should be charged on ticket sales for all events, including lunches and dinners.</p> <p>d) A request from Mind in Mid Herts was received asking to hire a venue at a discounted rate for their one-to-one support groups and to use the tea and coffee making facilities free of charge.</p> <p>There was some discussion about whether to offer discounted rates or give a grant and Councillor Gardener suggested that Council should agree a lower hire rate for charities, rather than give a grant. This was accepted and the suggestion will be presented to Council. The request for a discount by Mind in Mid Herts was approved and they are permitted to use the facilities for tea and coffee making free of charge.</p>	
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<p>111/17</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting of Council be held on Friday 2 June 2017, commencing at 7pm in the Pavilion, Morris Way, London Colney.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2030 hours.</p>
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