

LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2018
CALEDON COMMUNITY CENTRE, CALEDON ROAD, LONDON COLNEY, 7PM

PRESENT: Councillors M MacMillan, K Gardner, D Gordon, T Lillico, N Mahony, M Mortuza, H Pakenham and A Osborne

IN ATTENDANCE: E Payne, Interim Clerk
Members of the public

188/18. APOLOGIES

Cllr J Quagliozi was absent.

189/18. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No other declarations were received that had not already been notified.

190/18. CHAIR'S REPORT AND URGENT ITEMS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

There was no Chairman's report or urgent items to report.

191/18. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 7 November 2018 were received and approved as a true record of the meeting.

192/18. MATTERS ARISING NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising that did not appear on the agenda.

193/18. COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

193/18.1 PCSO Daniels had offered her apologies. Members reported that it was nice to see PCSO Daniels at the Lights Up Event and being very proactive when dealing with a peddler who was selling goods that were possibly unsafe.

193/18.2 Members expressed repeated concerns about speeding on the Barnet Road. Cllr Gordon reported that in her capacity as County Councillor, she had organised speed monitoring on this road and the data had been inconclusive. Cllr Gordon was asked if this information is publicly available and she will report to a future meeting.

193/18.3 There is a priority setting forum meeting scheduled for Thursday 13 December and this will be raised at the meeting.

194/18. CORRESPONDENCE

194/18.1 HCC Public Engagement on the 2018/19 – 2021/22 Integrated Plan

194/18.1.1 Members received this consultation and could not agree with any reduction in services or budget but were aware of the Council's statutory responsibilities. There were no further comments.

194/18.2 HCC Schools Admissions Consultation 2020/21

Members received this consultation and it was noted but there were no comments.

194/18.3 HCC A414 Corridor Strategy Consultation

Members received this consultation and agreed that this should be considered at the Environment & Neighbourhood committee meeting scheduled for 22 January 2018.

Members raised concerns that there was no engagement with the County Councillors who had wards that included the A414. Cllr Gordon reported that all the engagement had been undertaken with the relevant district councils and their respective portfolio holders. There had been no feedback from the District Council portfolio holder to her.

Member requested that the Clerk inquire if a County Council officer involved in the project was able to attend the Environment & Neighbourhood Committee meeting which could be accommodated during the day to facilitate their attendance. Cllr Gordon drew Members attention to the comment in the document which referred incorrectly to (lack of) congestion at A414/London Colney roundabout.

195/18. QUESTION TIME

195/18.1 A member of the public reported that a fence post in Walgrave Avenue had been reversed into and was broken. This would be reported to SADC Housing Department for action.

195/18. MINUTES

195/18.1 Planning Committee – 7 November 2018

Members received the minutes of this meeting and there were no recommendations. Cllr Gardner reported that the planning application for The Golden Lion had been called in if minded to grant/refuse. As this is considered a major development, it is more likely to be considered at Planning Referrals and she is willing to represent the parish council. Cllrs MacMillan and Gordon will represent the Parish Council and Cllr Gardner can act in her capacity as a District Council ward councillor.

195/18.2 Finance Committee – 18 November 2018

Members received the minutes of this meeting and there was a slight amendment which will be considered at the next Finance Committee.

195/18.3 Environment & Neighbourhood Committee – 27 November 2018

Members received the minutes of this meeting. Cllr Osborne reported on the proposed changes to the allotment tenancy agreement. He also reported on the development of the Cooper's Wood information board and Members were pleased to hear that this project is almost completed.

196/18. FINANCE

196/18.1 Expenditure Year to Date

Members received a report on the Council's expenditure for the year to date.

- a) Members noted that Income code 1300 – Event Income Concessions was over budget by 66.2%. This is income generated from pitch fees at events, funfairs etc.
- b) Members noted that Expenditure code 4015 – Casual Staff was over budget by a small amount of £187 and were advised that this related to the ad hoc engagement of the kitchen porter. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the report

196/18.2 Monthly Expenditure for the Period Ending 30 November 2018

Members received a report on the Council's expenditure for the period ending 30 November 2018 and its contents was noted. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the report and approve the payments for the period ending 30 November 2018

196/18.3 Monthly Receipts for the Period Ending 30 November 2018

Members received the Receipts report for the period ending 30 November 2018. It was **RESOLVED** to:

Note the report.

196/18.4 Parish Council Budget 2019/20

Members received the proposed budget for 2019/20. Members considered the proposed increase of 2.8% and noted the increase in the council tax base by 26 properties to 3,434: this will reduce the average amount to local tax payers; Members agreed that the Chairman's proposal for a Reserves Policy of £85,000 for fixed reserves; plus a ring-fenced reserves of £12,000; plus carried over balances of £12,000 (forecasted) be considered by the Finance Committee on 7 February 2019 and if necessary by the January Council meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that:

A further version of the budget will be presented to the Council on 9 January 2019.

196/18.5 Fidelity Insurance Cover

Members received a report on the Council's fidelity insurance cover which had been arisen from a recommendation from the Internal Auditor's report. Members were that if they chose to increase the insurance cover to recommended levels, there would be an increase in the insurance premium and it was **RESOLVED** to:

Increase the Parish Council's Fidelity Insurance in line with the recommended levels.

197/18. HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

- 197/18.1 Members were pleased with the attendance of the public meeting held on 21 November 2018. Cllr Gordon reported that she is working with the Council's planning consultation on a response to the Hertsmere BC engagement. Any response would be circulated to Members for their approval prior to its submission.
- 197/18.2 Cllr Gordon reported that she had tabled a question at a meeting at SADC Full Council about the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities with a further question being asked by Cllr M Pakenham at the SADC Planning Policy Committee meeting being held on 12 December 2018 seeking minutes or notes of these meetings.
- 197/18.3 The Chairman would encourage all residents to respond to the engagement process. Members noted that it appears that further statutory consultation/engagement is scheduled for Autumn 2019 and Cllr Gordon is seeking clarification about the correct date which will not be before the May elections.
- 197/18.4 Members enquired whether it was worth putting a question to Hertsmere BC's portfolio holder, Cllr Cohen to seek reassurance that London Colney would be included in future consultations. This will be raised at the next meeting of Stand Up for the Colneys.

198/18. OFFICER'S REPORTS

198/18.1 Grounds Maintenance Manager's Report

Members received a report from the Grounds Maintenance Manager and they complimented the Grounds staff on their hard work at the Christmas lights switch on event. Comments were raised about the efficiency of the Council staff to empty bins in relation to the District Council's contractor whose representative is currently on holiday and there is no one covering the role.

198/18.2 Events Officer's Report

Members received a report from the Events Officer on events that had occurred and those in the future. Members commented that the children's Christmas party had appeared to be quiet despite all the tickets being sold in advance and a few sold on the day. Members were encouraged to attend the carol singing being held at Sainsburys. All singers welcome! Members thanked the Events Officer for her hard work to make the Council's events a success. Members requested a breakdown in the Christmas lights switch on costs which will be circulated separately.

198/18.3 Meeting Schedule 2019/20

Members received a report with proposed Council and committee meetings for 2019/20. Two schedules had been provided for Monday and Wednesday meetings which had been devised with consideration to SADC meetings for those Members who also sat on the District Council. Members considered that it would be prudent to include additional HR committee meetings and it was **RESOLVED** that:

The Parish Council's meeting schedule for 2019/20 is adopted.

198/18.4 Asset of Community Value – Land Adjacent to Morris Recreation Ground

Members received a report outlining the process to register an Asset of Community Value in relation to the land adjacent to Morris Recreation Ground which is one of the council's aims and objectives. Cllr Gardner reported that she had spoken with the land agent who is managing the site. The self-set trees have been removed to allow for sheep grazing. Members discussed the history of the site which included an undertaking from the district council to have the site transferred to the parish council for recreational facilities when the distribution centre was developed. The classification of the land was uncertain whether it was designated for agricultural or leisure use and professional advice may need to be sought to clarify its classification. The Chairman will assist the Clerk in making the application considering the history of the site. It was **RESOLVED** that:

An application will be made to register the land adjacent to Morris Recreation Ground as an Asset of Community Value.

198/18.5 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members received a report regarding applying for funding for developing a neighbourhood plan. The report outlined the types of grants available, what the grant would cover, how it could be spent and how to make an application.

Members expressed concerns about the cost of undertaking a neighbourhood plan at an earlier stage conjunction with the emerging SADC Local Plan and whether it gave the wrong impression to residents about its ability to control development within the village. A neighbourhood plan cannot overturn automatically a district local plan.

Members noted that there were several parishes in the District who had undertaken a neighbourhood plan including Colney Heath, Redbourn, Sandridge, St Stephens and Harpenden. It was considered a worthwhile exercise to talk to other parishes to

ascertain what they had learnt during the process of drawing up a neighbourhood plan. It was **RESOLVED** to:

The Environment & Neighbourhood Committee should undertake a feasibility study on the pros and cons of a neighbourhood plan for London Colney;

199/18. MEMBER'S POINTS OF INTEREST RECEIVED IN ADVANCE

199/18.1 Street Lighting

Cllr Gordon reported on concerns she had received from residents about the current practice of turning off street lights (with exceptions) at midnight, especially considering the tragic incident in Walsingham Way. Turning off street lights deterred people from walking at night with alleyways being particularly a target for anti-social behaviour. Cllr Gordon reported that there is a proposed change in the street light regime where between the hours of 1am-5am, street lights that have been converted to LED lights will be dimmed during these hours instead of being turned off.

199/18.2 Dog Fouling

Cllr Gordon reported that she had been approached by the Napsbury Park Residents Association to have a joint meeting between the two organisations to discuss anti-social behaviour of dog owners. The Clerk will arrange a meeting which will be attended by the Chairman and Members would be advised of any decisions.

200/18. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON OTHER AUTHORITIES

200/18.1 Cllr Gordon reported that SADC would be increasing their proportion of the Council tax by 2.39%. HCC have yet to agree their budget. She reported that there are concerns about the retention and recruitment of care staff which has led to HCC to start their own care company, Herts at Home. It is a not for profit organisation with a three-year programme to deliver care to the elderly and vulnerable in the county.

200/18.2 Cllr Gordon was asked if there are any projects that have been identified by SADC which would impact on London Colney, considering the developments of leisure facilities in Harpenden. Members expressed concern that residents in London Colney who had membership of the 1Life gym in London Colney couldn't easily access the swimming pool at St Albans which is run by a separate organisation. If 1Life members wanted to access discounted swimming facilities, they had to go to Harpenden. Members asked the Clerk to write to the Portfolio Holder expressing their concerns.

201/18. REPORTS OF EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

There was nothing to report.

202/18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9 January 2019

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed

Date