

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT CALEDON COMMUNITY CENTRE, CALEDON ROAD, LONDON COLNEY,
WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2019 AT 7.00PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: E Payne, Clerk
PCSO Debbie Daniels
2 Members of the public

1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 9 MAY 2018

The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I believe that the parish council is considered to be a decent group of hard-working people, who are progressive, and have the community interest at its heart.

The volume of work has increased immensely during the past 12 months, with the Council responding to major issues such as the sale of Broad Colney Lakes, the Hertsmere Garden Village, an environment strategy for the village and neighbourhood planning, consultation on the A414 corridor, registering vulnerable pieces of land as community assets, as well as organising a number of successful events.

Taking the lead on the Hertsmere Garden Village, the Parish Council organised three public meetings with excellent attendances. This, I believe, helped to deliver the largest number of objections to the HGV proposal, then any other site in the recently published response from Hertsmere Council.

Whilst the community of London Colney has responded positively to the Council's efforts to protect the village, there have been literally one or two unappreciative voices about strategy rather substance.

Collaboration with Colney Heath Parish Council will continue as we gather more information to oppose the HGV proposal when it is officially published in the autumn, in addition to joint legal representation

The Council works hard at communicating its policies, responses and decisions. This is done through its website and the highly popular parish magazine, with most printing costs funded from advertising.

Events like Picnic in the Park, the November fireworks display, and the Christmas lights switch on were attended by over 8,000 people. Larks in the Park attracted 1,500 people, with record attendances at children's Halloween and Christmas events. One new and highly successful initiative this year was the community awards to celebrate the volunteering, unsung heroes of the village

With a committed and loyal staff team who regularly go the extra mile, the policies and activities of the Council were capable of being delivered. Under the good guidance and strong leadership of parish clerk, Emma Payne, (who was officially appointed in June 2018) the Council is providing an exceptional service in many areas of its work. I recognise and acknowledge the hard work of staff in caretaking, cleaning, kitchen, office and grounds maintenance.

Not only is this an end of year report but also signals the ends of the four-year term of an industrious Council, and it seems inevitable that ill health may become a factor over such a period. We were delighted that Cllrs. Pakenham and Gordon have survived breast cancer surgery and have returned to the Council with amazing energy to continue representing the people of the village. Because of a heart problem and complications, Jim Hopkins was unable to carry on with the final year of his term of office. We wish him well.

In finishing my report, I sign off with three major successes:

- Firstly, the seated exercise group which began with 30 people has now reached a regular attendance of over 60 people with a second-class taking place on Thursday as well as Monday.
- Secondly; record numbers of diners are attending the lunch club on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- And lastly, we have managed to keep the budget increase to around 3 pence per week by raising over £100,000 per year through Parish Council endeavours and activities

It is a remarkable achievement; it is a remarkable story of elected representatives working for the community in the community; it is a remarkable Parish Council

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Gardner thanked Cllr MacMillan for his address. She said she spoke for all Councillors and wanted to thank him for his leadership of the Council over the past four years. His energy and efforts were appreciated from the Councillors and it was hoped that the village also shared their gratitude.

5. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Signed:

Date: