

## LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE 2019 CALEDON COMMUNITY CENTRE, CALEDON ROAD, LONDON COLNEY, 7.00PM

**PRESENT:** Councillors K Gardner (Chair), H Pakenham (Vice Chair), D Gordon, T Lillico, N Mahony, M Mortuza (arrived 1910), H Pakenham, S Pearl

**IN ATTENDANCE:** E Payne, Clerk  
PCSO Debbie Daniels  
2 Members of Public

#### **20/19. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Winstone (family).

#### **21/19. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations had been received that had not already been declared.

#### **22/19. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 15 May 2019 were received and approved as a true record of the meeting.

#### **23/19. MATTERS ARISING NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

##### **23/19.1 Watford FC Training Ground Planning Application**

Members were advised that Hertsmere BC had refused the planning application. Watford FC may appeal and the Clerk will advise the Council if she is made aware of any developments.

#### **24/19 CHAIR'S REPORT AND URGENT ITEMS**

24/19.1 The Chair reminded Members about Larks in the Parks on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June and looked forward to seeing everyone there.

#### **25/19. COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT**

PCSO Daniels reported to the meeting on local developments in relation to crime in the village including two theft of vehicles using a keyless method of entry. Residents should be vigilant if they have a keyless system and not store their keys near the vehicle where devices can be used to bounce the key signal to open the car. There had been 1 burglary, which is currently under investigation.

Members raised drug dealing in car parks around the village and PCSO Daniels reported that there are additional patrols in the area. The vehicle that was reported at the time of the incident has not been seen in the village since. She went on to report that there are no specific hot spots areas of concern. The police act on any suspicious activity.

Members reported that there is low level anti-social behaviour at the Caledon Community Centre and this is a known hot spot. Patrols are made on a regular basis and the centre has CCTV.

Members raised concerns following the murder in Walsingham Way that there may be an issue with crack cocaine and other Class A drugs. PCSO Daniels reported that Police are not aware of any dealing in Class A drugs.

The Police continue to hold community safety events in the area with one being held at the Baptist Church on 13 June. There will be more planned during the evenings and weekends now that PCSO Jackson has been appointed.

## **1910 – CLLR MOHAMMED MORTUZA ARRIVED**

### **26/19. QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions raised.

### **27/19. MINUTES**

#### **27/19.1 Events & Community Committee – 21 May 2019**

Members received the minutes of this committee and there were no recommendations to Council. It was **RESOLVED** to:

***Adopt the minutes of the Events & Community Committee held on 21 May 2019 as a true record of the meeting.***

#### **27/19.2 Finance & General Purposes Committee – 23 May 2019**

Members received the minutes of this committee and there were no recommendations to Council. It was **RESOLVED** to:

***Adopt the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 23 May 2019 as a true record of the meeting.***

#### **27/19.3 Environment & Neighbourhood Committee – 4 June 2019**

Members received the minutes of this committee and there were no recommendations to Council. It was **RESOLVED** to:

***Adopt the minutes of the Environment & Neighbourhood Committee held on 4 June 2019 as a true record of the meeting.***

#### **27/19.4 Human Resources Committee – 6 June 2019**

Members received the minutes of this committee. Members were asked to receive the recommendation in item 7.3 under confidential items. It was **RESOLVED** to:

***Adopt the minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 6 June 2019 as a true record of the meeting.***

### **28/19 FINANCE**

#### **28/19.1 Annual Governance Statement 2018/19**

Members received the annual governance statement for 2018/19 and it was **RESOLVED** to:

***Approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19.***

## **28/19.2 Accounting Statements for 2018/19**

Members received the accounting statement for 2018/19 and it was **RESOLVED** to:

***Approve the Accounting statements for 2018/19***

## **28/19.3 Internal Auditor's Report 2018/19**

Members received the Internal Auditor's report for 2018/19. The recommendations in the report were received. Members queried if the land assets were included as an item on the asset register. It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Review and adopt Standing Orders and Financial Regulations on a bi-annual basis***
- b) Update the Council's Asset Register over a three-year period, commencing 2019 and ensure that all land assets are included in the register.***

## **28/19. OFFICER'S REPORTS**

### **28/19.1 Grounds Maintenance Manager's Report**

Members received a report from the Grounds Maintenance manager and noted its contents. Members queried when the wildflower meadow would be sown. The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that there are two sites identified: the bund at Napsbury and a site adjacent to Lowbell Lane Lake. The wildflower seed needs to be sown in September and there is some preparation to be undertaken of the site.

Members commented on the poor condition of some of the swims at Lowbell Lane Lake and erosion around the lake. The Grounds Maintenance Manager responded that the lake is checked on a regular basis and that the swims are being repaired/replaced when necessary with 'plastic' wood for durability. The foliage around the swims had been trimmed back to coincide with the start of the fishing season.

Members were concerned that quotations had not been received for repairs to the footbridge at the village green. The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that a contractor had been on site to look at the repairs. It is a bigger job than just repairing the surface as kerbing needs to be installed to prevent future erosion of the surface. The railings of the bridge will be painted by Community Payback. Members queried the railings opposite The Bull Public House at the entrance to the Industrial Estate and the Clerk will report this to Highways.

There were no comments arising from the report regarding protection of recreational facilities from Gypsies & Travellers.

### **28/19.2 Community & Events Officer's Report**

Members received a report from the Community & Events Officer on future events. Members sought clarification of whether charities were charged for stalls at events and the Clerk reported that they were not charged. Larks in the Parks is fully booked but there is space available at Picnic in the Park.

Members asked about the ticket sales for Picnic in the Park. These are available from the parish council offices and online. There are no figures for ticket sales to date.

### **28/19.3 Cricket at Napsbury**

Members received a report on the costs vs income for cricket at Napsbury. Members noted its content and further costings on grass seed and fertiliser would be sought. This would be considered at a future Finance Committee meeting

### **29/19. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **29/19.1 Carter Jonas: London Colney Library – Permission to Underlet**

Cllr Dreda Gordon declared a non prejudicial interest as a Member of Hertfordshire Council.

Members received correspondence relating to a request from Carter Jonas, the property consultants for HCC, requesting permission, in principle to underlet their occupation of the library to a proposed operator for the library service, once they have been appointed. It was **RESOLVED** that:

***London Colney Parish Council give permission, in principle to underlet the library to an appointed operator for the library service.***

Cllr Gordon asked for a recorded vote:

In favour of the proposal: Cllrs Gardner, Pakenham, MacMillan, Mahony, Mortuza, Lilloco, Pearl

Abstention: Cllr Gordon

### **30/19. CHAIRMAN'S CHARITIES**

The Chairman, Cllr Katherine Gardner announced that her charities for 2019/20 would be Citizens Advice St Albans District and The Swan Sanctuary, with a third charity to be decided. These charities would be the recipients of any fundraising undertaken at parish council events.

### **31/19. MEMBER'S POINTS OF INTEREST RECEIVED IN ADVANCE**

Dementia Friendly Garden (Cllr MacMillan). A dementia friendly group had met previous at Morris Way Recreation Ground Pavilion. Cllr MacMillan asked if a dementia friendly garden could be developed at the pavilion. This would be referred to the Finance Committee for a budget and to the Environment & Neighbourhood Committee for inclusion in the strategic plan. It was suggested that the garden could be a sensory garden suitable for a variety of disabilities.

### **32/19. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON OTHER AUTHORITIES**

Cllr Gardner reported that she sat on Planning Referrals Committee which had recently considered the development on the field at Beaumont School. Concerns had been raised about the amount of social housing provided at the site which tended to be smaller properties, not suitable for families.

Cllr Pakenham reported that she is sitting on the Scrutiny Committee which hasn't met yet. There is a new contractor for the repairs to social housing and they are undertaking a survey of all council property which will mean more proactive repairs. The Clerk reported that the contractor also has a corporate responsibility programme she has been approached about running digital inclusion sessions in London Colney.

Cllr Gordon reported that Cllr Janet Smith has been appointed at the Mayor of St Albans District Council. A consultation is being by HCC's appointed contractor, Vincent and Gorbings, to develop 40 homes on the former leisure facility site in Perham Way. The Parish Council was not consulted and not all the village has received a leaflet.

Members asked that the Clerk formulate a response to the consultation and circulate it by email, with the final response put on the parish council's website.

Cllr Pearl reported that residents of Perham Way are concerned about the proposals and were seeking reassurances from the parish council that they would be objecting to the proposals. He declared a personal, prejudicial interest as a resident Perham Way.

**33/19. REPORTS OF EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED**

There were no external meetings attended.

**34/19. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

To resolve to exclude the Press and the public from the following items in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

