



COLDHARBOUR PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at 8pm
on Thursday 3rd October 2019 at the Fairford Leys Centre, Fairford Leys**

Present: Cllrs Poland (Chairman), Cole, Pattinson, Bradford, Jarvis, Wadlow and James K Gray (Clerk to the Council), S Webb (Grounds Maintenance Manager)

7 Residents C Lambert (Bucks Herald)

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and accept apologies for absence notified to the Chairman or Clerk.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies from Cllr Lambert (prior commitment) and Cllr Baughan (work commitment).

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest

To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

- Cllrs Jarvis, Wadlow and Poland declared an interest in agenda item 12 and therefore would not take part in the discussion on the co-opted vacancy.

3. Minutes of the Previous Full Council Meeting 5/9/19

RESOLVED: To accept and sign the minutes of 5/9/19 as a true record.

4. Clerk's Report

To receive a report from the Clerk on matters dealt with and taking forward.

The clerk reported that Cllr M David had resigned with immediate effect and therefore a further Casual Vacancy has arisen which, should there be no request for an election, could be filled by co-option in November at the earliest.

The clerk reported that S Webb would be representing him at a meeting, next week, with TW and AVDC reps in further discussion on what works need completing before further land transfers take place.

RESOLVED: Chairman to suspend Standing Orders to allow questions from the public and any reports from councillors

5. Questions from the Public & Reports

- R Harper (Neighbourhood Watch Scheme) mentioned the “Cold Callers” scheme and said signage was available if needed. She felt that this was not a problem in this community. She also reported on her attendance at the Patient Action Group meeting in respect of the local Whitehill and Fairford Leys Doctors’ Surgery.
- Resident asked for clarification on who was responsible for weed clearance in Mews areas – specifically Henton Mews. The area is looking unkempt and there are also weeds growing from the sides of properties. The Clerk reported that some Mews areas were private and the responsibility of the collective residents who live in

properties surrounding the Mews. Others were classed as highway and therefore possible BCC or the parish council. However, it is expected that residents weed spray areas outside their own properties to help keep the areas tidy and free from weeds. The Clerk asked Mr Webb to visit the area and report back to the Clerk what, if anything, the parish council should do to assist.

Resident also asked about tree works in her area and the Clerk explained the procedures currently taking place with further works to manage the trees. Some trees will be taken out and some areas will be “thinned” to allow further light into properties affected by overgrown trees and hedging. At the moment not all the land areas have been transferred to the parish council.

- Resident asked for information on tree works along Cooks Road/Eyre Close. The Clerk gave advice on the landowner responsible for these areas.
- Cllr James asked for an article to be submitted in the next Coldharbour News magazine encouraging residents to assist in weed spraying in front of their properties and on the pavement to help keep the parish tidy and free from weeds.
- Resident reported that a member of the Women’s Institute had returned to her vehicle in the main car park, to find that her catalytic converter had been stolen from underneath her vehicle. This was reported to the police and local residents had witnessed the theft taking place and filmed it. Cllr Bradford will report this to the local police liaison team. The resident also reported that the main car park was often full of cars and she suspected that it is mainly used by commuters going to the train station by bus from Fairford Leys. The Clerk responded that this has always been the case and, unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to stop this.
- Cllr Bradford reported that he will be meeting with the local police team, as the parish council’s representative, next week.
- Cllr Wadlow asked the Clerk to thank the maintenance team for the good works they carry out across the parish.
- Cllr Cole (AVDC) reported that AVDC had made a Climate Statement at their last meeting and he hopes that the new Unitary Council will continue to progress the proposed works regarding the statement.
- Cllr James reported that Music in the Square had raised a profit of £1,273 and this money will be earmarked for next year’s event to assist in the rising costs associated with the event. She thanked all those involved in making the event successful for the community to enjoy.
- Cllr Pattinson reported that Coldharbour News would be ready for delivery by councillors, early next week. She also needed another two people to take delivery rounds of the magazine.
- Cllr Poland reminded everyone that the November meeting of the parish council had been moved to Friday 8th November at 8pm.
He expressed, with full support from the parish councillors, the commitment of ex-cllrs Mark David and Ross Searle to the parish council whilst they were Members. He thanked them for the work they have done for the community and wished them both well for the future. He also thanked all those (Cllrs, staff and volunteers) for the work in making Music in the Square a successful community event.

RESOLVED: Chairman to reconvene meeting under Standing Orders.

6. Decisions by the Resources & Personnel Committee and Leisure Committee Meetings

Council is asked to receive and approve the minutes & decisions of the above Standing Committees. Minutes of the committees have been copied to all councillors.

- No further meetings have taken place, but the Clerk requested that the council convey a Resources and Personnel Committee meeting to begin discussing on the

2020 precept and budget. Cllr Poland would issue some dates for a proposed meeting.

7. Hs2 – Impact on Fairford Leys

Council to consider the impact on Fairford Leys of the proposed works for Hs2. To address any specific matters of concern and decide what course of action to take.

RESOLVED: Councillors noted the following information from a meeting with Hs2 Representatives and discussed the concerns raised by Cllrs Poland and Cole, who had attended the meeting.

Oxford Road between Coldharbour Roundabout and Bugle Horn

To enable access to their worksite, they are going to build a signalised junction to allow traffic to turn into the sight and exit the sight (this will be by the boarded up wooden house on the left as you are driving up, called Glebe house apparently). There will be high vehicle movements into and out of the sight (including 200 white collar workers). We are concerned at the possible impact this will have on the areas around the Oxford road. Traffic could end up backing into town and backing out through stone. Fairford Leys will be highly affected by the impact of excess traffic and will cause problems to enter and exit. It appears the new Oxford Road plans do not account for this work further up the road. Oxford Road will be shut for at least 1 weekend during the construction period of the new road layout.

Andrews Way:

Exploratory and prep work on the golf course will soon be carried out by Hs2. This in itself is not a surprise, but they are planning to access the site via Andrews Way. This was never discussed or agreed with the parish council and we were assured this would never happen. They insist it will only be 4x4 vehicles, but we fear this will not be the case. We have already agreed, as a council, that we are putting fencing at the ends of the path there to stop people walking out into the road, but we may need to consider the vision splays re safety. There is also the potential impact on the residents of Andrews Way with the increase in traffic.

Height of Train Track:

The track height has been raised to allow gravity assisted water run-off. The height will now be 1.8 mtrs instead of the proposed 1.4 mtrs. The base will also be concrete instead of shingle and concerns have been raised about the possible increase in noise because of the concrete base.

Trains:

There will be two types of train on the line. A specialised HS2 train which has not been procured and built yet. And a train that can run both on HS2 and the West Coast Main Line. There will be a potential for 38 trains per hour.

Noise:

We are struggling to determine how noisy it will be. We are within WHO guidelines but difficult to find out what that is in real terms (a slightly better situation than some 400 homes in Wendover who are above that threshold).

The noise of construction was never mentioned, but, when pushed, they admitted that work starts at 8am to 6pm with 1hr set up either side (so work on site would be between 7-7).

There will be 'exceptional' circumstances when they will have to work later/into the night.

We have queried who/what determines an exceptional circumstance. That is down to Effiage Kier/HS2 to determine.

Landscaping:

We have requested to meet with the team responsible for landscaping for our area. We want them to walk us through (on-site) their plans for the landscaping. They have agreed to do this. Marsh Lane at the back of Stoke Mandeville will be shut for a minimum of 3 years.

This rat run which avoids Stoke Mandeville and Walton Court will be inaccessible and will push all that traffic onto the Aylesbury road system.

Potential Flood Risk:

Our biggest concern is something we have just found out. It links in to the work on the Wendover tunnel and could have serious consequences for us as a parish. The water run-off from the tunnel, Nash lee and everything between Fairford Leys and the Wendover tunnel will run through the stream that enters Fairford Leys by the Willows. This does not include the additional 1,400 houses planned for that site.

Fairford Leys was carefully planned with Flood Management in mind (The flood systems on Fairford Leys works well). However, our flood defences would also need to cater with the extra water run-off placed through this stream until it discharges into the River Thames at the end of Fairford Leys (a significant increase in the volume of water).

This raises concerns. We all recall the flooding the willows experienced a few years back. The River Thames only needs to get blocked slightly, unexpected heavy rainfall or other event could potentially see parts of Fairford Leys flood. We will address these matters and work with Aylesbury Town Council and Bucks County Council to endeavour to address any flooding concerns.

This may cause problems in respect of house insurance for the majority of Fairford Leys residents as the flood risk has inevitably increased. Effiage Kier/HS2 have (just!) received new data from the Environment Agency they are analysing. We have requested that we also have access to the raw data.

Hs2 are planning a further public meeting on their proposals and the parish council would encourage as many residents to attend as possible, especially those who live nearer to the train line and works. Although all residents will be affected due to the work depots and increase in traffic, with delays both in Fairford Leys and across Aylesbury town and leading roads into the town.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Cole and Poland to obtain further information on flood defence and reports from Hs2 and the Environment Agency.

8. Riverine Corridor Transfer Update

To receive an update and make such decisions as necessary.

To receive an update from Cllr Cole on discussions with AVDC officers with regards to the remaining land transfers.

Discussions continue regarding the land adoption by the parish council and some remedial works need to take place before final adoption.

9. Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) Project

To receive an update from Cllr Poland on his attendance at a AGT Community Panel for Community Stewardship and the possible impact on the parish council.

Cllr Poland updated the council on his attendance at the recent Stewardship of Community Assets meeting held by AGT representatives. Concerns are raised on why a possible Community Trust is being proposed as a way forward when parish council's should be asked to manage the community spaces within their own parishes and in line with the Unitary Council's proposals and discussions on working closer with parish councils and discussions on devolved services. The general feeling is that we do not require another tax-funded / or sponsored organisation to take these assets when there are parish councils who are already managing community assets.

10. Finances and Orders for Payment

To agree and authorise the following orders and retrospective orders for payment:

• James Schofield	Music in Square	£200.00	3129
• Moonlite Productions	Music in Square	£360.00	3130
• Kings Farm Shop	Music in Square	£123.95	3131
• Briants of Risborough	Maintenance	£564.04	3132
• Vale Tyre Services	Maintenance	£66.00	3133
• Buildbase	Maintenance	£96.67	3134
• Buildbase	Maintenance	£9.79	3135
• CH Morgan	Maintenance	£8.92	3136
• HMRC	Contributions	£3,110.78	3137
• Cllr A Cole	Allowance	£240.00	3138
• Cllr A Poland	Allowance	£360.00	3139
• Cllr C Baughan	Allowance	£180.00	3140
• Cllr SA Jarvis	Allowance	£240.00	3141
• Cllr S Lambert	Allowance	£240.00	3142
• Cllr S Pattinson	Allowance	£300.00	3143
• CH Morgan	Maintenance	£38.05	3144
• Cllr S James	Reimbursement	£188.05	3145
• PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	£720.00	3146
• M Bass	Music in Square	£400.00	3147
• Nicholsons Nurseries	Trees / Maintenance	£4,808.85	3148

Monthly Financial Report from the RFO/Finance Officer

RESOLVED: To receive, note and agree/accept the Councils Financial statements, income and expenditure report. Emailed to all councillors.

External Audit – AGAR PKF Littlejohn External Audit Report

Councillors were forwarded the AGAR report – External Auditors Report.

RESOLVED: To receive, note and accept the External Auditors Report from PKF Littlejohn.

Fruit Trees – Planting for Community

- Proposal from Cllr Jarvis that the parish council fund and plant 30 trees across the village as part of its grounds maintenance programme in order to provide orchard fruit to the village, foodbanks and to enhance the biodiversity, environment and appearance of the village.
- That these trees are planted in clusters at three sites- Kensington Mews, Monks path and Parmitter Close on grassland that currently has a small number of established trees, in order to capture the whole of the village.
- That the council fund the planting of the trees at a cost of £1837.56 or £2 per tree per year.
- To approach Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) project, and any other relevant organisations, for funding. AGT are interested in funding community projects like this.

Background:

In 2007 orchards were designated as a priority habitat in the ‘UK biodiversity Action Plan’. (Defra.gov.uk)

Community orchards are a growing movement across the UK with places such as Tower Hamlets and Bristol taking up the project. They are seen as an enhancement to local areas. The term 'orchard' is perhaps misleading as they are small clusters of trees rather than large fields full of heavily managed trees. They fit in any green area such as the edges of roadways, parks ect.

Benefits:

Environmental:

- Each tree over its lifetime will soak up 1 ton of carbon.
- Each tree will absorb 10 gallons of water per 1 inch of trunk- flood defence and recovery.
- Supports wildlife- insects, birds, bats, foxes and small mammals. With many species in sharp decline providing diverse habitat is important.
- Sustainable enhancement of the village- more environmentally sound to have perennials than annual planting as well as less labour intensive.

Educational:

- 'Farm to fork'- lots of schools having to educate children on where their food comes from. The project could be used to educate local children from both Bearbrook and St Mary's.
- Healthy food- Home cooking unprocessed food available.
- Can be used by local schools for education in Science, cookery, maths, art.

Social/Wellbeing:

- Food Foundation report- Only 53% of the population have an income that supports the government guidelines on eating well. Families with children and the retired being hardest hit- orchards provide fresh fruit and any residual can be donated to foodbanks who see a sharp decline in donations outside of holiday time (Autumn and Spring).
- Fruit picking community events could be organised in much the same way as the litter picks. This would bring the community together and the fruit could be shared between food banks and those in the village that are unable to pick their own, promoting a feeling of cohesion between young and old and of charitable action.
- There is a proven demand with many residents harvesting blackberry and sloes around the village.

RESOLVED: To agree to the proposal, as detailed above, and for the Clerk to take forward.

Cllrs Poland, Wadlow and Jarvis left the Council Chamber at this point as they declared an interest in the next agenda item.

11. Councillor – Casual Vacancy

Council to consider applications for the vacant seat of Parish Councillor.

Letters of application copied to parish councillors.

- Sarah Collins
- Christopher Page

RESOLVED: Unanimously that Sarah Collins be co-opted as a Parish Councillor and that the Clerk ask Mr Page if he would like to be considered for the vacancy of parish councillor which will be considered at the November meeting of the parish council.

Cllrs Poland, Wadlow and Jarvis returned to the Council Chamber at this point.

12. Planning Applications

To receive, comment and to either object, support or oppose the following planning Applications.

To consider late applications presented by the Clerk.

To consider Ernest Cook Trust Permission on all planning applications

To note and formally agree decision/comments made under delegated authority

- **19/03538/APP** **Hampstead Close, FL**
Retrospective application for part conversion of garage into habitable room, including the insertion of a window to the side of the property.
RESOLVED: No Objections

ERNEST COOK TRUST COVENANTS

Permission is sought from the following residents regarding their properties:

- **19/03538/APP** **Hampstead Close, FL**
Retrospective application for part conversion of garage into habitable room, including the insertion of a window to the side of the property.
RESOLVED: Permission Granted

There being no further business of the Council, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9..06pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____