

COLMWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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The Planning Department
Bedford Borough Council
Borough Hall
Cauldwell Street
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MK42 9AP

28th November 2014

Dear Sirs,

Re: Neighbourhood Planning

The Colmworth Parish Council, at its meeting on 19th November 2014, affirmed its decision to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan (copy of minutes attached).

The Parish Council therefore applies to the Borough to designate Colmworth as a Neighbourhood Area in accordance with regulation 5 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

- (a) The attached map, showing the Colmworth Parish boundary marked with a bold line, identifies the area to which the application relates.
- (b) This area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area because it is a civil parish, within the planning authority area of the Bedford Borough Council that has its own particular needs and priorities.
- (c) The Colmworth Parish Council is a relevant body for the purpose of section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

We look forward, in due course, to receiving your approval of this application and to working with the Bedford Borough Council for the benefit of our community.

Yours faithfully

Diane Robins
Parish Clerk

COLMWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 19th November 2014 at Colmworth Village Hall

Present: Councillor P Ball (Chairman), Councillors A Dewey, T Frew, D
Michell, T Robins, D Smith and Clerk, D Robins

Also Present: 8 members of the public and Borough Councillor T Wootton

Open Session

- Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and passed over meeting to Councillor Smith who chaired the rest of the meeting. Cllr Smith gave introduction about Local Plan 2032 and Cllr Michell presented results and a summary of the recent survey which included residents from Wilden Road and Rootham's Green who had been missed out in error previously. The following comments were made in response to queries from residents:
- Colmworth PC agreed that the spread of houses on Site 81 and 83 seemed unusual with one site far denser than the other however, BBC have denied responsibility for this and it is assumed that the land agents have decided on a number without prior consultation.
- PC confirmed that the updated figures would be forwarded to BBC
- The next step could see the formation of a Neighbourhood Planning Group in order to develop a Neighbourhood Plan which would enable Colmworth to have a greater input into type of development that would be permitted in the village. Colmworth will continue to liaise with BBC and with residents.
- Resident asked about Broadband developments and also pointed out that infrastructure, as it stands, inadequate for further development.

1 **Apologies** – Councillor Ayto

2 **To Approve The Minutes of Last Meeting** – The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st October 2014 were unanimously agreed and signed by the acting Chairman.

3 **Disclosures of Interests** – There were no disclosures of interest.

4 **Planning**

4.1 **New Applications** – 14/01209/MAF Amended plans re: installation of two 250kW wind turbines at College Farm Equestrian Centre, Church Road, Keysoe – *no comments*

4.2 **Applications Considered Since Last Meeting/Correspondence** - None

4.3 **Local Plan 2032/ Neighbourhood Plan**

- 1) Clerk was asked to forward updated results from Local Plan 2032 survey to BBC. Clerk
- 2) Councillor Smith reported on recent meeting with BBC and asked PC to consider whether Colmworth should apply to be designated as a Neighbourhood Planning Area. It was resolved that Colmworth PC would apply and Clerk instructed to inform BBC and arrange another meeting before next PC meeting with Gill Cowie and Martin Tidy. Clerk

5 Finance

5.1 Payments to be Authorised

- 1) A I Topham & Son re: hedge cut - £172.80
- 2) W T Saunders Ground Care re: grass cutting Sept/Oct - £191.88
- 3) St Deny's Church re: donation - £200.00 (see 5.4)
- 4) T Frew re: Country Park and Triangle expenses - £146.85

5.2 Income – No income

5.3 Reconciliation of Accounts Statement

Statement is attached as part of these minutes.

5.4 Donation

Clerk advised that St Deny's Church had written asking for a donation towards grass cutting around the churchyard. It was resolved that the PC would donate £200.00 towards this.

5.5 Clerk's Salary Review

Clerk advised PC that, having reached the maximum scale as per her contract; her salary should be reviewed going forward in line with her other Parish Councils. Clerk left the room so that PC could discuss salary review. Clerk was asked back in and PC had agreed to increase rate to £15.00/hour with effect from 1st April 2015.

5.6 Clerk Champion Meetings

PC agreed that the Clerk could attend Clerk Champion Meetings

5.7 Budget 2015/2016

Clerk presented the draft budget for PC to consider. Budget will need to be finalised at the next meeting so that the precept can be set.

5.8 Amendment to Financial Regulations

Clerk circulated draft amendment which included procedures for electronic payments from the current account to Councillors. Amendments were agreed and Clerk to submit paperwork to Barclays in order to enable this facility.

Clerk

6 Highways

6.1 **Church Lane Update** – Councillor Smith reported on recent meeting with Councillor Michell, Andrew Prigmore (BBC), Churchwarden, Grays (developers) and local residents. The works have been approved and Grays now need to seek the relevant authority from the Highways Agency before works can commence. Although Grays stated that they would like to start before Christmas, Andrew Prigmore is still awaiting some paperwork from them. Highways Agency will be covering all costs and estimate works to take approximately 3 weeks.

6.2 **Village Gates** – Councillor Smith reported that a local resident had kindly offered to donate half the cost of the purchase and installation of village gates. Councillor Smith asked whether PC wanted to go ahead with the proposal. There was a split vote so it was decided not to pursue the proposal. Councillor Smith to update the resident.

DS

6.3 **Triangle: Christmas Lights** – Councillor Smith reported that Grays had agreed that we could connect proposed Christmas lights to one of their electricity supplies from the back of the carport at Manor Barns. They are happy to dig the required trench to bury the wiring but they would need an official agreement drawn up between them and the PC. A draft agreement has already been sent to them for consideration. Quotes for the work required to connect up the electrics to the Triangle were £600 and £275. Councillor Smith proposed that the PC install Christmas lights at the Triangle and a majority voted in favour. It was resolved to accept the quote for £275. Councillor Smith to progress.

DS

- 7 **Footpaths**
- 7.1 **Overgrown footpath at Church Farm** – Councillor Robins reported that the overgrown footpath behind Church Farm was still in need of cutting back so that the cause of flooding in the area can be investigated. Clerk to e-mail Francine Rainbow again and request a site visit when it has been raining. Clerk
- 7.2 **General** – Councillor Frew reported issues with several local footpaths. Clerk to liaise with him to identify which footpaths require investigation. Councillor Michell to forward a footpaths map to Clerk. TF/DM/
Clerk
- 8 **Country Park** – Councillor Frew requested further dog fouling signs. Clerk to contact BBC to order some. Councillor Smith suggested that PC should consider putting in place a 5-10 year plan for the Country Park. It was resolved that an article by Councillors Frew and Michell be placed in The Chronicle asking residents for ideas. Clerk
TF/DM
- 9 **Police**
- 9.1 **Crime Stats** - Clerk informed Council that there was one report of burglary and one of theft at Church Road, and one report of theft at Wilden Road in the month of October.
- 9.2 **Dog Thefts** – Councillor Smith reported that there had been a sharp rise in dog thefts, particularly gun dogs, and that everyone should remain vigilant and report anyone acting in a suspicious manner.
- 10 **Ward Forum Meeting Feedback** – Recent ward forum meeting welcomed, amongst others, Jim Pollard (BBC) who gave an informative talk about affordable housing. There was much discussion regarding speeding and Councillor Michell will be including an article in The Chronicle asking for volunteers to take part in the Speedwatch initiative. Details of the next Ward Forum meeting to be confirmed.
- 11 **Broadband Meeting** – The meeting was held on Friday, 24th October 2014 from 4:30pm in the Village Hall. Paul Vann confirmed that Colmworth should know by early 2015 whether they will be included. Paul Riley from BT Openreach was on hand to answer technical questions. A representative from Redraw also attended and spoke to residents about their alternative solution.
- 12 **Chronicle** – Councillor Michell presented a short report and confirmed that they were now making a small profit due to a cut in printing costs – digital printing has generated a saving of approximately £100/issue.
- 13 **Defibrillator Update** – Clerk had nothing further to report at the meeting however, since the meeting, she was able to confirm that Colmworth had been offered a defibrillator from the Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service as part of their Defibrillator Initiative. Further details to follow.
- 14 **Playground** – Councillor Dewey reported on his recent inspection of the play area and confirmed that matting under the roundabout would need to be replaced. He also advised that more woodchip was required in the multi-play area as concrete foundation was exposed in some areas. It was resolved that the Clerk order 4 mats and get a quote for one bag of woodchip. A working party would be arranged after Christmas to carry out this maintenance work. It was also reported that the litter bin was overflowing and that nappies were still being disposed of here. Clerk to design a laminated note to be placed on bin advising that nappies should not be disposed of here. Clerk

- 15 **Councillor's Information** – Borough Councillor Wootton thanked Colmworth PC for arranging the recent Broadband meeting and reported on several local issues including speeding and proposed works at the bridge in Chawston. Colmworth PC agreed to write a letter to Andrew Prigmore or Alistair Burt, MP asking for works on the bridge to be finished as quickly as possible in order to cause the least amount of disruption. Monthly update to be circulated to Councillors by Clerk. Clerk
- 16 **A.O.B./Correspondence** –
- 1) E-mail from BBC re: G&T Consultation – responses to be submitted by 23rd November 2014. Clerk to respond on behalf of PC Clerk
 - 2) BRCC – 2014 Yearbook received
 - 3) Councillor Training – Councillor Smith reported that there was training available for people interested in becoming a Councillor. It was felt that this was not necessary. No further action required.
 - 4) World War Commemoration Plaque – it was agreed unanimously that the PC should fund a plaque to commemorate the World Wars and consider placing it on a wooden cross at one entrance to the Country Park. Clerk to get quotes for the plaque. Clerk
 - 5) Flytipping reported at the Honeydon Crossroads – Clerk to report to BBC. Clerk
 - 6) Manhole Cover on Little Staughton Road - Clerk to advise Andrew Prigmore. Clerk
 - 7) Colley Close – PC were advised that there was a vacancy coming up at Colley Close.
 - 8) Chair read out a letter of thanks from the Colmworth Bowling Club for the donation.
 - 9) Playing Field purchase – Clerk was asked to investigate how PC could go about purchasing the playing field in order to protect the area in which the playground is located. The play equipment represents a significant investment from the PC and is worth £50K. Borough Councillor Wootton offered to look into the matter also. Clerk/
TW
- 17 **Date of Next Parish Council Meeting**
Wednesday, 21st January 2015 at 7:30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.30 pm

Minutes prepared by Diane Robins, Parish Clerk