

# COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

ON TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024 7.30PM

SANDHAM HALL, LONDON ROAD, COLDWALTHAM

Those Present:	Cllr G Nelson	Chairman
	Cllr J Evans	Vice-Chairman
	Cllr A Davies	
	Cllr O Dudman	
	Cllr C Dennis	
	Cllr K Coughtrey	
	Cllr I Dreger	
	Cllr A Lane	
	C Cllr C Kenyon	County Councillor
	Mrs LD Sherlock-Fuidge	Clerk
Parishioner	Mr John Stevens	Mrs Sheila Hewer
	Mr Alan Hewer	

Cllr Nelson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mrs Hewer spoke with council, advising that she had received two quotes for local projects which she was submitting to the Village Help Scheme. She advised that the Village Help Scheme (VHS) will consider putting aside £5K for both these projects.

Cllr Nelson advised that the Parish Council had no control re the VHS but would welcome their support for the re-opening of the Post Office from their remaining funding and welcomes the VHS involvement in the repair and upkeep of the bus shelter and improvements to the storage at the village hall. The clerk requested copies of the quotes mentioned.

Mr and Mrs Hewer left the meeting.

**24 / 10.00**      **TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from D Cllrs Clarke and Ellis Brown.

**24 / 11.00**      **INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE TO FILL THE COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

Cllr Nelson welcomed John Stevens to the meeting and thanked him for expressing an interest in becoming a councillor. He explained the expectations the role involved. Members noted his help in the community, helping with the street party.

**24 / 12.00**      **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS, AND ANY CHANGES SINCE THEIR LAST DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No new declarations were received.

**24 / 13.00**      **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES**

Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 was accepted and signed by the Chairman.

**24 / 14.00**      **FINANCE**

**24 / 14.01** **Account Summary:** The Clerk distributed the accounts for Parish Council and Alban Head Playing Fields Committee to members prior to the meeting. These are attached as Appendix A & B respectively.

**24 / 14.02** **Payments:** payments were authorised for the cheques and signed by signatories for:

Smithe & Co Limited	Audit Fees	£378.00
Travis Perkins	Bolt for Shed	£6.88
HM Customs and Revenue	PAYE April to June	£199.00
George Sport Services Ltd	Spraying the playing fields	£570.00
Sandham Memorial Village Hall	July Meeting	£30.00
Graham Phillips T/A Ice Media	Annual Website Hosting Fee	£120.00
Alban Head Playing Field	Compensation from Southern Water	£500.00
Simon Berry (Vista Print)	Post Office Promotion Printing	£225.75

**24 / 14.03** The Clerk requested that a HM Revenue and Customs Direct Debit form be authorised to pay PAYE tax payments directly when due, this was authorised and signed by signatories after the meeting.

#### **24 / 15.00** POST OFFICE UPDATE

Cllr Nelson updated members regarding the Post Office, noting that although only for two mornings a week 2 days of 3 hours rather than the previous 3 days of 4 hours, so in essence half the number of hours. However, it was noted that this bucks the trend where other villages have lost their PO. If initial numbers are maintained, the outlook seems promising.

Cllr Nelson is keen for the Parish Council to support the PO; this will be mostly financially. We have applied for the trial costs to be funded in the main by the Village Help Scheme. After this, more continued funding will be required. Cllrs Nelson, Coughtrey, Dreger and Evans, will be forming a committee to raise this continued funding, with possibly some from the precept in the future. The committee is keen to contact local businesses for their support.

Cllr Coughtrey asked how the PC will know if the PO will remain after the trial period. Cllr Nelson advised the at the three-month point, a review of the usage numbers would be assessed, to determine how the trail is working. It is very unlikely that the hours will be increased.

The Clerk noted that any decision for the precept would need to be made before January, but not received before April.

The council supported the successful re-opening and the actions of Cllrs Nelson and Evans.

#### **24 / 15.00** PLANNING UPDATES

**24 / 15.00** The Clerk updated Council regarding recent applications decisions:

- SDNP/23/01585/HOUS, The Warren, Brockenhurst Farm, Watersfield, PERMITTED
- SDNP/23/04549/HOUS, Old Priest House London Road Coldwaltham, PERMITTED
- SDNP/23/04671/FUL, Church Farm London Road Hardham, PERMITTED
- SDNP/23/04625/HOUS, Yew Tree House London Road Coldwaltham, PERMITTED
- SDNP/24/00090/HOUS, Mulberry, Brook Lane, Coldwaltham, PERMITTED
- SDNP/24/02006/HOUS, Cheyne Cottage, Coldbrook Lane Watersfield, PERMITTED

**24 / 15.00** Cllr Dennis updated Council regarding recent planning applications and comments.

- SDNP/24/02006/HOUS Cheyne Cottage – SDNP decision already received.
- SDNP/24/02340/HOUS Pest House – noting that it is not going to affect anyone, and a very sympathetic addition.

#### **24 / 16.00** TRANSPORT ISSUES UPDATE

Cllr Dreger is awaiting information from WSCC Highways, which had been promised a post-meeting summary email to help shape our proposals. However, still waiting this information a month later. C Cllr Kenyon would chase too.

Cllr Dreger was impressed with the response from the survey receiving over 100 from residents approximately 25% response of households. Concerns were raised about road safety and noise, caused by traffic speed and the types of vehicles using the road.

The next step is to complete the CHES submission for various changes and improvements, to make the deadline of the end of July.

C Cllr Kenyon noted that regarding the footpath clearance she is still chasing for this job to be completed.

Cllr Evans commented that following the recent resurfacing of the A29 in the village, the same bit of road is due to be dug up for drainage pipes to be installed over five weeks.

**24 / 17.00      ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK**

**24 / 17.01**      Cllr Dennis thanked C Cllr Kenyon for chasing about the footpath from Pulborough to Coldwaltham, but could she also chase regarding the A29 between Coldwaltham and Watersfield, where the PROW are not kept clear, residents are having to use the main road to access Watersfield

**24 / 17.02**      Cllr Dudman highlighted that in Brookland Way a drain cover has recently been replaced however it lifted in the recent rain.

**24 / 17.03**      Cllr Coughtrey noted that the corner of the A29 at Ingrams Farm doesn't drain following heavy rain, which is becoming more often. Cllr Davies advised that the area is often lying water as the fields are flooded too.

**24 / 17.04**      C Cllr Kenyon advised that WSCC had received £1.5 million for roads, which is being used to get on top of the potholes before the winter.

**24 / 17.05**      Cllr Nelson advised that he had received a request from a resident that the PC could pay to replace a two local stiles near the river. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Nelson would respond with a 'no' to this request as it is the landowner's responsibility, not the Parish Council's and we have other funding demands which prevent us taking on any new projects. The Clerk has recently written to SWT regarding other issues on their land.

**24 / 18.00      DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

**Next meeting of Council** is on Tuesday 24th September 2024, at 7.30pm, in the Sandham Hall.

**Meeting closed at 8.30pm.**

**Chairman:**..... **Date:**.....

Distributed to those present and D Cllrs Campbell, Clarke and Ellis Brown.