

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Colemore and Priors Dean

At Field Farmhouse, Colemore, on 25th March 2011 at 6.00p.m.

Present :

Rem Moser	P.C. Toogood and P.C. Humphrey
Keith Godfrey	Jennifer Gray (district councillor)
Nick Macmillan	Vaughan Clarke (county councillor)
Caroline Scott	Christopher Napier (C.P.R.E.)
Charles Scott	
John Britton	
Angus Whitehead	
Carolyn North	
Rachel Nicholson	
Matt Quinnell	
Simon de Zoete	
Chris Slater (chairman)	
Julia Slater	

1. Apologies for absence: Camilla Swiderska; Carolyn Fair; Vivienne Godfrey; Noni de Zoete.
2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2010 were read and agreed, except for the 321 day limit, which should have read 32 days (the flying club).
3. Matters arising:
 - (i) Neighbourhood Watch. The Chairman had spoken to Graeme Cottons, coordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Froxfield, who felt it was not suitable for rural areas. Farmwatch was more suitable, but this was being superseded by Countrywatch. He had invited P.C. Toogood to speak on the subject.
P.C. Toogood (accompanied by P.C. Humphreys) said the countryside has changed significantly – farms have diversified and in many instances have become businesses. So there is more theft. Countryside people as a result have become more vigilant; farmers give the police a lot of information and it is held in a central pool. P.C. Toogood visits as many places as possible; the police try to identify

“dodgy groups” who are a threat to the rural areas. P.C. Toogood asked if there was one person in our area who could be the Countrywatch coordinator, be the recipient of all the police information, and pass it on. Ms Nicholson generously offered to be that person. The Chairman, in his newsletter, would invite interested people to give her their email addresses. The police left Countrywatch posters – Rod Gaskins has one and they suggested one be put up at the other end of the village.

- (ii) Planning applications. Mr. Beach in Warren Lane put in a new application in September but this was also refused. The Kennels application at Alexander Lane was also turned down and is being appealed.
- (iii) Colemore Common airstrip.
The Chairman had had a meeting with Lesley Wells, the responsible planning officer; he had met a group of residents who had been monitoring the use of the airstrip, who had recorded some 108 days used during the year and nearly 800 movements; and he had written to Lesley Wells in August arguing that this constituted a “material change of use”. Disappointingly in September Lesley Wells wrote that, while the Flying Club did not dispute the figures, it was her judgement that “more of the same” did not constitute a “material change of use”. However, a recent appeal judgement on a similar case suggested this might be open to challenge and this was being pursued.
- (iv) Fly tipping. There are 7 people in our parish who report instances of tipping as part of a CPRE project; the Chairman is their coordinator. There have been relatively few instances over the last year. But there was one particularly large dumping of builder’s rubbish in Becksteddle Lane. At about the same time Angus Whitehead noticed a builder’s lorry from Southampton behaving suspiciously in the area, twice. He took the number and the Chairman reported it to Becky French, the project officer. No response, but Vaughan Clarke said the County Council was keen to pursue matters of this kind, and would pass the name of the relevant officer to the Chairman.
- (v) County Council grant of £600 to the parish via Councillor Clarke. The Chairman had consulted members of the parish by letter. Two parishioners had suggested a website. However a parish website already exists at www.easthampshire.org/2010/townvillage/colemore-and-priors-dean, set up and maintained by the District Council. Members of the parish can submit items and it was agreed that this was a suitable site for the parish meeting etc. There was support for the proposal for two parish noticeboards and two excellent boards had been constructed by Jason Wedley based at Plain Farm Workshops.

4. Planning Applications. Despite an objection from the parish, a considerable expansion of the Copse poultry farm has been agreed. Councillor Gray commented the Council has to support rural businesses. At Priors Dean permission is being sought to replace the grain

store, now dilapidated. It towers over the church, so the replacement must be considered very carefully. Mrs Moser commented that landscaping would be very important.

5. South Downs National Park. Christopher Napier, Chair of Hants. C.P.R.E., gave a brief talk on the history and present structure of the South Downs National Park. There is a Board of 27 members, representing all the different parts of the area. There is to be an official launch on 1st April. 95% of future planning decisions will be decided by local authorities, on behalf of the National Park. The N.P. can “call in” decisions which are very controversial. The Park employs rangers, who are there to support farmers, and parishes. Mr. Napier was thanked for addressing the meeting.
6. County Councillor’s Report. Councillor Clarke focussed on the 13.3% cut in the County’s budget. Major savings had been made by reducing management posts. However the roads budget had been protected and new mechanisms introduced for identifying roads for resurfacing. 18000 tons of salt were available for future icy conditions.
In discussion that followed, the Chairman reported that he had asked for two bins for the parish. Mr de Zoete said he had asked that the one near the church be moved to Shell Lane, a more suitable location. The Chairman also reported that he had made a survey of potholes in the parish and passed it to the Council for action. Mr. Whitehead expressed concern at large lorries causing damage mistakenly coming down Field Farm Lane to Heritage Farm and Rod Gaskins’. He suggested a width restriction notice at the entrance to the lane. Ms Nicholson offered to improve the existing signs concerning Heritage Farm.
7. District Councillor’s Report. Councillor Gray reported on the EHDC, who have balanced their books pretty well, by measures such as having a joint chief executive with Havant, and a joint waste management scheme with Winchester. Parking restrictions in Petersfield are shortly to be enforced.
8. Broadband. The Chairman reported that some 20% of the parish is in a “Not Spot”, unable to receive broadband. BT said this might be solved by their “cabinet in the community” scheme, extended from Alton, but so far this had not materialised. The County Council was currently bidding for money from central government to try to improve speeds throughout the county.
9. Precept. It was agreed that, as usual, there should be no precept. Councillor Clarke said that he has a further £500 to dispense from the County Council for a suitable parish project. Mrs. Moser questioned the appropriateness of this in a time of economic difficulty. Councillor Clarke pointed out that it was an exceptionally economical way of spending public money involving minimal bureaucracy; if it were not spent by the parish it would be returned to the County Council.
10. Election of Chairman. Mr de Zoete proposed Mr Slater. This was seconded by Mr. Scott. With no other nominations, Mr. Slater was elected.

11. A.O.B. Mr. Macmillan, who has just moved to Colemore, explained the business being set up by himself and his partner Ms Butters at Field Farm Barn. They will be offering rural studies courses for schoolchildren and others. They plan to create a therapeutic garden, and possibly a small forest garden.
12. Date of next meeting. 30th March 2012 was agreed, 6 p.m. at Field Farmhouse.
13. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman proposed by Mrs. Moser.