

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Colemore and Priors Dean Parish held at Field Farmhouse, Colemore at 6 p.m. on Friday 30th March 2012

Present:

Elizabeth Britton
Chris Brown
Councillor Nick Drew
Carolyn Fair
Robert Fair
Viv Godfrey
Keith Godfrey
Carolyn North
Rosemary Keyser
Richard Keyser
Rem Moser
Rachel Nicholson

Matt Quinnell
Sandra Reed
Caroline Scott
Charles Scott
Julia Slater
Chris Slater (Chairman)
Susan Trenchard
Simon de Zoete

1. Apologies

John Britton; Mollie Butters; Nick McMillan; Councillor Vaughan Clark; Liz Floyd; Angus Whitehead; Noni de Zoete.

1. Minutes of previous annual meeting of 25 March 2011 agreed and signed.

1. Matters arising

- (a) Neighbourhood Watch. After consultation, the Chairman had not displayed the posters as rather too “1984ish”, but they were available for anyone to take who wished.
- (b) Planning. Mr. Beach of Warren Lane had submitted a new and improved application, but the Parish had pointed out it did not meet the problem of the fundamental unsuitability of the site. At present it was still ‘awaiting decision’.
- Alexander Lane, Privett. The application for a site for caravan use has been allowed on appeal ‘on balance’ but only for three years and for the keeper of dogs and horses.
- Priors Dean grain store. This application was approved. The Parish had stressed the importance of it fitting the environment. The store is now built.

- (a) Airstrip.
- The Chairman reported that EHDC had refused to serve an enforcement notice and neighbours were still logging aircraft movements. A newsletter from the Flying Club in September said that pilots were required to operate “in a manner which minimises impact on our neighbours”. .
- Answering questions on behalf of the Club, the Chairman, Sandra Reed, said that they had 70/80 Members but no plans for expansion. They could not expand the runway, and weather and storage also set limits on expansion. They expected a “stable level of use”. They only use small aircraft. These do not tend to stay overnight as it is not good for them.
- Three parishioners present, who live near the airstrip, said the noise was very distressing for them. As well as the general movements of the aircraft, some of them fly round and round in the same area. Apparently this is for training purposes. There is also a helicopter – Mrs Reed

-2-

confirmed this, adding that it is a small one. She also said that at present the noise cannot be made any less. The Chairman asked if individual parishioners who are the most affected can be helped, and was told the Club would be glad to meet with them. All parishioners are welcome to attend an Open Day on the 25th May.

- (a) Parish noticeboards. The Chairman reported that these were now up and in use. The minutes of

the parish meeting were published also at www.easthampshire.org/2010/townvillage/Colemore-and-Priors-Dean

- (a) Roads. The potholes reported have been filled. It was expected that the worst road in the parish – the one descending from Colemore into Priors Dean and continuing towards Hawkley – would be resurfaced during the year. The salt bin by the Church in Colemore and been moved to a more suitable place by the hill nearby.
- (a) Broadband. The County Council had recently made a successful bid for funds to improve connections in the county with work due to start early in 2013. Part of the parish is already registered as a “Not Spot”. Councillor Nick Drew stressed the importance of the parish also registering an interest at a website provided. The Chairman said he would do this.

4. New Planning Applications

- (a) Penny Hill. Work on this ambitious new modern building with courtyard and residential annexe had already started. The Parish had expressed concern at the rather fortress-like ‘gabbion’ walls for the courtyard and asked that the exhibition space for artworks be only for non-commercial use. In response, the owner had presented a revised landscape plan with a new belt of protective trees, and the planning consent had included the restriction the Parish requested, as well as restrictions on the use of the annexe and further requirements on tree planting. In discussion, concern was expressed about the excessively bright night lighting being used for security. The Chairman was asked to contact the company, asking that it be reduced to a more appropriate level.
- (b) Kemps Cottage. A two-storey extension had been agreed.
- (c) Cattle barn at Downlands Farm. A large building (35x25 metres and 2 meters high) has been agreed for 120 cattle through the winter months. The Parish had queried the size and whether it was needed, as well as its position, and had asked for an independent agricultural report. A report was commissioned by the Council, and noted that a big expansion of cattle was planned so the building was “reasonably necessary”. The conditions required a landscaping and planting scheme along the boundary. The Chairman reported a new application to move the barn, a puzzle since it was already constructed! He would investigate.

5. £500 grant from the County Council.

Two ideas from parishioners had been put forward to spend this money: (i) a donation to HomeStart Butser, a local charity which helps families in the parish; (ii) improvements to the two churches in the parish. The Chairman had consulted those present at the last parish meeting, and a majority had favoured (ii). So Priors Dean PCC had decided to buy a long-desired bench for the churchyard. In the case of St. Peter’s Church, Colemore, the plastering was in bad condition at the west end. It would cost £500 and payment would be shared with the Churches Conservation Trust.

Mr. Godfrey strongly deplored the priorities revealed in the votes cast.

6. County Councillor’s Report.

-3-

In his absence, Councillor Vaughan Clarke submitted a written report which the Chairman read out. It stressed: no increase in Council Tax from the County; a reduction in the labour force; highways expenditure maintained; consolidation of office property to save money; selling services to other agencies; salt provision increased for icy roads; construction contracts for the Olympics; unemployment far below the national average.

7. District Councillor’s Report

Councillor Nick Drew, who lives in Froxfield, represents us on the EHDC. He is a member of the planning committee and invited parishioners to call him when they had concerns.

On security, he keeps in touch with the relevant police bodies.

As for the new arrangements for rubbish collection, they appear, after initial difficulties, to be working well. Mr. Godfrey commented that it would be less wasteful in terms of transport if people waited until their bins were full before putting them out.

Mrs. Fair mentioned that there had been a huge amount of fly tipping in her drive; when she contacted the Council it was collected the very next day. Councillor Drew commented that the response to fly tipping has improved, for instance there is now a disguised camera in position on the Stoner Hill lay-by.

He pointed out that parishes can get grants for particular projects from the Community Forum. On the subject of litter, where there are special problems it is possible to contact a Council employee, Jo Edwards, and she will arrange to have it picked up. If one were to contact her regularly about the same area, it is possible there might be regular collections. There was then a discussion of the perennial problem of litter; some parishioners collect it frequently on a regular basis.

Councillor Drew said that EHDC Council Tax is to increase by two and a half percent. Present revenue from incorrect parking is very low, but this will change when new parking officers take up their posts shortly.

There is a project fund for agricultural marking – for the tracking of vehicles.

8. Countryside Coordinator's Report

Rachel Nicholson's report was then presented. Colemore and Priors Dean in the last year had 6 thefts and 2 burglaries – of non dwellings. So it is a low crime area, though not for the people who have suffered repeat offences.

Froxfield and Privett have larger populations but we still do well by comparison. Froxfield has had three inside burglaries in the last year, whereas we and Privett have had none.

County Watch was newly set up last year, but has changed so that it now applies only to farmers, landowners and rural businesses.

In the last year only two of our parishioners have reported suspicious vehicles; there should be more reporting – it is very important because people do go around in vehicles looking for opportunities for theft. When challenged, the claim that they are looking for their dog is very common. Some claim to be selling something unlikely, like mattresses. The number to call is 101. P.C. Baker is our local officer – he covers the area between here and East Meon. For outside theft, shed alarms can be useful.

Mrs. Moser thanked Rachel for all the e-mails she sends, keeping her and others in touch. The chairman said if there were other people who wanted to be contacted, they should speak to Rachel after the meeting.

9. Precept.

-4-

The meeting agreed that as normal there would be no precept.

10. Election of Chairman

Mr. Scott proposed and Mr Godfrey seconded that the Chairman be asked to serve for another year. In the absence of any other proposals, the Chairman was elected, but stressed that this would be his last year, it being customary not to serve for more than three successive years.

11. Any other business.

Mrs. Moser said that Mr. Carter had asked her to pass on that he would very much like a grit bin at the bottom of Penny Hill, which is a very vulnerable spot. The Chairman said that he would request this.

12. Date of next meeting: 29th March 2013