

MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING of the PARISH of COLEMORE AND PRIORS DEAN at FIELD FARMHOUSE, COLEMORE at 6 pm, 22nd March 2013

PRESENT

Carolyn Fair
James Fair
Martin Evans
Carolyn North
Justin Gaunt
Rod Gaskin
Richard Keyser
Rosemary Keyser
Sandra Reid (Flying Club)
Vaughan Clarke (County Councillor)

Elizabeth Britton
John Britton
Vivienne Godfrey
Keith Godfrey
Simon de Zoete
Andrew White
Rem Moser
Angus Whitehead
Nick Drew (District Councillor
Peter Page and Juliet Smith
(Liss Archaeological Group

1. APOLOGIES

Rachel Nicholson
Matt Quinnell
Noni de Zoete
Nick McMillen

Joanna and Chris Brown
Sue Trenchard
Mollie Butters
Caroline and Charles Scott

2. MINUTES of the meeting of 30th March 2012 agreed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Planning

- (i) Mr Beech of Warren Lane had been given permission for three years with a number of conditions which were being monitored by the Planning Department.
- (ii) Penny Hill. Concern was expressed about the size of the complex. The chairman reported that planning rules set no limit on the size of a replacement building if the original was over 400 square metres. There was also criticism of the design. In its submission the parish had described the effect as 'brutal'; the planning officer's report had described it as 'good design'. The plans included substantial tree planting. The parish had asked for more, which had been agreed – some 180 are planned. It was agreed to write to the planning department to ask that this be closely supervised with trees as mature as possible.
- (iii) Downlands Farm. An application for a two-bedroom bungalow by the barn had been turned down as not justified; a large mobile home has recently been put on this site – the planning department is investigating. A retrospective application for a single-storey extension on the side of the barn for medicine, milk powder etc. had been approved.

(b) Roads

- (i) Resurfacing of the road down into Priors Dean from Colemore had been postponed until this year. In view of the appalling condition the chairman had asked that it be given priority. He had done the same for potholes in the parish, which had become particularly bad. They can also be reported on the website: road@hants.gov.uk
- (ii) Huge lorries with satnavs presented an increasing problem, coming down unsuitable narrow lanes. A new sign re-directing traffic for Hermitage Farm from Field Farm Lane had been agreed by the Highways Department, but was delayed because the first attempt was incorrect and is being re-made. It was felt by the meeting that this was insufficient and a 'No through road' sign should be requested – if necessary through a site meeting with the highways officer.

(c) Broadband

A 'provider' (BT) had finally been appointed to improve broadband connections and speeds in Hampshire over the next two years. The Not Spot in the parish had been registered.

(d) £500 grant from the County Council for 2011/12.

The bench was now in position in Priors Dean churchyard. The plastering in St. Peter's Church, Colemore, had been done but was not yet limewashed.

(e) Grit bin

As requested a grit bin had been provided in Slade Farm Lane.

(f) Date of meeting.

The date of the parish meeting had been moved back a week because it had inadvertently been agreed for Good Friday.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mr. Clarke said there will be no increase in the County Council's share of the council tax this year. The government cuts of some 34% is a heavy blow but the Council decided to deal with the cuts over 2 years instead of 4, allowing for a more strategic approach leading to improved ways of working. There has been a reduction of 1800 staff over the last 2 years but from now on there should be no change; in fact there will be an increase in Highways, Childrens and Adult Services next year. The roads are always a concern, especially in rural areas, where their low usage tends to push them down the list for repair and renewal. This winter has not been helped by high groundwater followed by frosts, neither by heavy vehicles breaking down the edges of the highway. Extra money has been set aside for more highway teams to work on potholes this spring so the situation should improve. Priors Dean Road and Manor Farm Lane are to be totally resurfaced this year. Hampshire remains a good place to live with a life expectancy of 80.1 years for males and 82.9 for females. According to the census results for 2011, when compared with 2001 there are now 21%

more Hampshire residents over 65, and this age group now stands at 18% of the population. More than 34,000 of Hampshire's residents are now over 85, a 35% increase since 2001. Unemployment is low, with this Division of the County Council recording a figure of between 0.5% and 2.5%, very much below the average for the U.K.

The County Council has now signed a contract with BT to roll out Broadband over 90% of the county.

5. LISS ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Peter Page and Juliet Smith gave a very interesting talk on the work of their 200 strong group, focussing on the Colemore dig, in a field off Field Farm Lane.

Mrs. Moser had discovered Roman remains in her field in the 90's, and in 2007/8 the Liss group did a geophysical survey and then embarked on digging over a period of three years, concentrating mainly on a ditch 2 metres deep and 3 metres across. There seems to have been a settlement, an enclosure. Some 6000 pieces of Roman pottery have been found. Also some evidence of Iron Age artefacts.

The group will be back again in four weeks time, extending the area of investigation. They want to find out more about the building. They will be there from Sat. 27th April onwards and are open every day to the public. People who are interested can become temporary members to find out what the digging entails. All members are volunteers.

Mrs. Moser will be bringing parties of schoolchildren round.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The chairman reported on a number of meetings he had attended recently on behalf of the parish, in particular one on 27 November organised by South Downs National Park about the Colemore airstrip with representatives of the flying club and the four parishes (Colemore and Priors Dean, Froxfield, East and West Tisted) together with one of the authors of the Froxfield Landscape Character Assessment. The idea was to explore the tension between the desire for tranquillity and for recreation – a general problem within the park. Each of the participating bodies was invited to state their position, followed by more general discussion. The Chairman, Andrew Lee, then suggested, on behalf of the SDNP – and it was agreed – that a further meeting, perhaps in Spring 2013, should be held to focus on practicalities e.g. flightpaths, 'no fly zones', training and open days, use by other aircraft, the possibility of an annual meeting between the flying club and the parishes etc. So far SDNP had not followed this up.

In discussion Sandra Reid reiterated that the club had no expansion plans, but when challenged was unwilling to specify criteria such as number of flights or flying days.

The chairman also reported that, following a telephone vote of those at last year's parish meeting, the £400 grant from the County Council (via Vaughan Clarke) had been given to the local charity Home Start Butser for their work with families in need.

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (NICK DREW)

Mr. Drew said he had been on EHDC for two years, and is now on several committees, including the Planning Committee. Every parish has the similar problems. Because the council does not have enough officials to keep an eye on developments, it is important that parishioners do this and report potential problems to him or Mr. Clarke. Local plans are important, whether parish plans, landscape

plans, neighbourhood plans, in order to have an impact on the future and slow down development. Because this parish is so small, we might like to join in with Froxfield or Steep plans. Ninety-nine percent of questions he gets are about planning. As for the Penny Hill, like any other building it is a question of whether it fits in to local and national policy; whether it is in keeping with the district.

8. COUNTRYSIDE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Rachel Nicholson's report (read out in her absence) included

- (i) Only one recorded crime in the parish last year – in connection with a domestic dispute – in contrast to nine the previous year, which were all acquisitive (burglary, theft, etc.)
- (ii) An upward surge in reported suspicious vehicles – mostly 'spot on' and very useful. Ringing 101 is the best way to report.
- (iii) The retirement of P.C. Baker; his replacement not yet appointed.
- (iv) Her email for further information is rachel99971@yahoo.co.uk

9. PARISH PLAN

Mr Keyser said he wondered whether, since the parish was so small, it might be feasible to join forces with a neighbouring parish such as Froxfield to produce a plan. Some discussion followed. The chairman said such plans tended to be quite substantial documents (one could see examples on the internet) looking at how the parish wishes to develop over the next ten years and how to achieve this. With no consensus emerging, it was agreed to leave the matter for the next chairman to explore further.

10. PRECEPT

It was agreed that, as usual, there should be no precept.

11. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr de Zoete proposed Keith Godfrey. This was seconded by Mr. Britton. No further nominations so Mr. Godfrey duly elected.

Vote of thanks to Mr. Slater proposed by Mr. Britton and endorsed by the meeting.

12. A.O.B.

None

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

March 28th 2014