

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF COLEMORE AND PRIORS DEAN

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish of Colemore and Priors Dean held at Field Farm Barn, Field Farm Road, Colemore at 6pm on 28 March 2014.

Present:

David Bridger, Venetia Bridger, John Britton, Mollie Butters, Carolyn Fair, Justin Gaunt, Keith Godfrey (Chairman), Vivienne Godfrey, James Keyser, Richard Keyser, Rosemary Keyser, Carolyn North, Sandra Reid (Flying Club), Angus Whitehead and Jane Wyman.

1. APOLOGIES

Elizabeth Britton, Chris Brown, Joanna Brown, Liz Floyd, Noni De Zoete, Simon De Zoete, Rem Moser, Chris Slater, Julia Slater, Caroline Scott and Charles Scott.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2013 were agreed, and signed, by the Chairman, as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Sign - Hermitage Farm

The sign placed by Hampshire County Council (HCC) Highways Dept on the verge of Petersfield Road directing traffic towards Hermitage Farm was stolen soon after it was erected. Mr Gaunt reported that he had been advised by HCC that the sign would be replaced. It was agreed that although the sign had stopped heavy traffic turning into Field Farm Lane, it might be preferable to erect a "No HGV" sign on the two existing posts just inside Field Farm Lane.

The Chairman will contact HCC to arrange a site visit in order to show where the signs could be positioned. Mr Gaunt will forward email to Chairman.

(b) Broadband

The Chairman had nothing further to report on broadband.

It was reported that there may have been a fibre optic cable laid between Hedge End Corner and Hermitage Farm. The Chairman will contact BT to enquire whether this was the case, and whether it would be possible to tap into this using existing lines.

(c) Planning

Warrenside Farm - Chairman to contact HCC to enquire as to the conditions of the three year licence granted to Mr Beech, and the frequency of the monitoring of those conditions.

4. POWER CUTS

There had been five power cuts in the Parish since Christmas 2013. Compensation was available, but several Parishioners had not received any from their electricity supplier.

The Chairman agreed to contact SSE to obtain an emergency contact that people could report damaged overhead lines to.

5. DOWNLANDS FARM

Mrs Bridger of Downlands Farm reported that the application for three holiday properties, within an existing building, had been approved. There were conditions attached to the approval and it was unlikely that building would start before September 2014.

Following a question Mrs Bridger confirmed that the three properties would be let throughout the year and the site would be landscaped. The application had the support of the South Downs National Park.

6. COLEMORE COMMON MICROLIGHT CLUB

Sandra Reid from the Colemore Common Microlight Club reported that due to poor weather flying during the past year had reduced. There were no changes to the Club's licence. The airstrip was used intermittently by both club members and visitors. Currently there were no plans to develop the airstrip further.

Mr Gaunt complained that there seemed to be an active airstrip directly over his house. Ms Reid said that there was some agreement that the club would not become a nuisance to local residents, and that club try to keep circuits within the area if the airstrip.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing significant to report. He would enquire of HCC Highways Dept which road repairs within the Parish were completed and which road repairs were outstanding,

8. BUTTONS LANE BOAT (BYWAY OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC)

Mr Clarke, County Councillor for this area, met with the Rights of Way Team to discuss Buttons Lane. The Rights of Way Team would form a group to include the South Downs National Park and Police to decide the way forward. In the meantime the present temporary closure of Buttons Lane would be extended and there would be strengthening at the top and bottom of the BOAT to prevent usage by motorbikes.

Mrs Fair said it would be a public nuisance if Buttons Lane BOAT could not be used as a public right of way. It was a fact that most of the damage was caused initially by off road motorbikes and then by heavy rainfall. It would be unlikely that Buttons Lane BOAT would be closed permanently as it was part of the national footpaths network. It was felt that when it re-opened it would be preferable to redesignate it as a footpath or bridleway, but that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) needed to be in place before any change of use.

9. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (NICK DREW)

Mr Drew has been our representative on EHDC for three years, he attends all Parish meetings within the area he represents. Other Parishes meet more frequently than Colemore and Priors Dean to discuss issues which may affect them, and suggested that consideration been given to our Parish meeting more than once a year or to join with Froxfield or Privett. The general feeling was that at the moment there would be no advantage to increasing the frequency of our Parish meetings.

EHDC has been told by the Government to increase the number of new homes in the area by a further 1,000. EHDC has a plan in place and a number of houses are expected to be built over the next 17-18 years. No large developments were planned for green field sites. EHDC were planning to send Council Officers to survey all residents in the District.

10. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (VAUGHAN CLARKE)

Mr Clarke said that there would be no increase in the County Council's share of the Council Tax this year. The Government grant to HCC continued to be reduced, resulting in more job cuts.

Hampshire had recorded the 2nd highest rainfall of any county in the UK, and 75,000 sandbags had been issued. The subsequent damage to roads has been enormous, and a figure of £34m has been quoted to repair winter damage. Extra money had been set aside for more highway teams to work on potholes this spring, work starts in April.

Superfast broadband continues to be a concern especially in rural areas. 90% of Hampshire's residents should be connected by the end of 2015, with a further investment of £9.2m to bring that level to 95% by the end of 2016.

Mr Clarke will enquire about government subsidy for satellite broadband.

11. TELEPHONE BOX, PRIORS DEAN

BT has agreed to sell the telephone box opposite Priors Dean Church to a charity for £1.00, providing Hawkley and Priors Dean Church Council are in agreement. The Church Insurers have included the telephone box on the insurance for the Church. It was expected that the telephone box would be used as an information point for local people and visitors to the area.

The Chairman agreed to formally apply to Nick Drew for a small grant to repaint the telephone box.

12. LOW FLYING CHINOOK HELICOPTERS

Mr Simon De Zoete had written to the Commanding Officer of RAF Odiham to complain about low flying Chinook helicopters in the area. In respect of this the Chairman spoke to the appropriate Officer at RAF Odiham who assured him that exercises did not take place over or near residential property. In addition, regarding damage to foundations, the Chairman was assured that civil engineering experts engaged by the RAF were familiar with damage that might be caused to property and that damage to buildings was very unlikely.

13. PARISH PRECEPT

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

14. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

As no other nominations were received it was agreed that Mr Keith Godfrey would continue as Chairman for another year.

15. A.O.B.

(a) Field Farm Project

Mollie Butters spoke of the various activities that took place at this rural studies centre for both adults and children, which included bushcraft and survival skills as well as field study days for local schools.

(b). Alton Lane

The road at the bottom of Alton Lane has washed away and is dangerous. Mr Clarke indicated that roads damaged by floods would be considered a priority as would any roads considered dangerous as a result of the heavy rain experienced this winter.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next annual Parish meeting be held on Friday 27 March at the later time of 6.30 pm.

