

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 Farmhouse, Field Farm Road, Colemore at 6.30 on 27 March 2015.

Present:

David Bridger, Venetia Bridger, John Britton, Elizabeth Britton, Joanna Brown, Mollie Butters, Nick Drew (District Councillor), Tom Gaskin (Dir, Rod Gaskin), Keith Godfrey (Chairman), Vivienne Godfrey, Chris Reeves (Dir, Rod Gaskin), Chris Slater and Julia Slater.

1. APOLOGIES

Carolyn Fair, Nick McMillen, Rem Moser, Caroline Scott and Charles Scott.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2014 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman, as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Sign - Hermitage Farm

The Chairman reported that the stolen sign will be replaced by Hampshire County Council (HCC) Highways Dept within the next few weeks. The Chairman will enquire whether it would be possible to have added to the new sign that drivers should ignore directions given by their sat navs.

Mr Reeves (Director, Rod Gaskins) reported that following a recent incident where a European HGV delivery driver had become stuck on the bend outside Field Farm Cottage his Company had placed two signs on the empty posts just inside Field Farm Lane indicating that there was no access to Windmill Farm. This was an unfortunate incident as Rod Gaskins were in the habit of sending very specific directions to their suppliers as well as requesting that delivery drivers telephone from the A32 for verbal directions to Windmill Farm. On this occasion the driver had not been given that specific instruction. Mr Reeves will also investigate the possibility of an ignore your sat nav sign.

(b) Broadband

HCC will issue more details of broadband connections within the next 6 months. Phase 1 was almost complete, Phase 2 should be completed by 2019, the Parish of Colemore & Priors Dean is included in Phase 2. The Fast Rule Broadband programme is being subsidised by HCC and East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) in conjunction with British Telecom (BT). On HCC's website - enter your post code to access details of Superfast broadband availability in your area.

Chris Slater said that in view of broadband speed and accessibility in other countries there was a total lack of urgency and commitment from the current Government. The Chairman will write to the Prime Minister to express the Parishes discontent at this lack of urgency.

Froxfield Parish Council are putting together a team to investigate the provision of broadband in the area. Nick Drew will give the Chairman contact details for the team as it might be worth joining them in their endeavours to lobby for faster broadband.

(c) Power Cuts

Scottish & Southern Energy (SSE) provide information on their website.

(d) Button Lane

The lane (BOAT) remained closed, though talks were still underway to determine future developments.

(e) Telephone Box, Priors Dean

The telephone box has been painted. Ideas as to how to utilise it as an information point could be obtained from South Downs National Park if any Parishioners living near to the telephone box were interested.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported he had been informed that this Ward of EHDC had had a significant amount of money spent on road and pot hole repairs. The pot hole helpline, for reporting pot holes, seemed to be efficient. He was advised that the road to Priors Dean was to be repaired at the beginning of April 2015.

The Chairman would be submitting an objection to the proposed airspace changes involving air traffic using Farnborough Airport.

There was currently nothing further to report on Warren Barn, Church Lane, Priors Dean. There were no outstanding planning applications, EHDC were continuing to monitor the site to ensure compliance with existing planning approval.

Planning permission has been granted for gates at Becksteddle House.

South Downs National Park Authority had asked that local residents be vigilant with regard to groups of caravans parked in the Parish.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (VAUGHAN CLARKE)

Due to illness Mr Clarke was unable to attend the meeting but he had kindly provided a written report which was read by the Chairman.

There would be no increase in HCC's share of the Council tax this year, for the sixth consecutive year, despite the Government grant reduction. This has resulted in further job cuts, albeit at a lower level than in the past.

Following serious damage last winter to the County's roads an extra £30m was spent on major road repairs and filling in some 50,000 potholes.

New street lights were installed in East Hampshire, these direct light downwards significantly reducing light pollution as evidenced by recent satellite photos.

The Boundary Commission will be redrawing the boundaries between divisions, this division of Petersfield Hangers is likely to increase in size by about 1,200 voters for the election in 2017.

Superfast broadband continued to be a concern, especially for rural areas. 90% of Hampshire's residents should be connected by the end of 2015. HCC has invested a further £9.2m to bring the level to 95% by 2016/17. Investigations are continuing to tackle the problem of escalating costs associated with reaching more rural areas.

It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Mr Clarke to wish him a speedy recovery.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (NICK DREW)

Mr Drew reported that EHDC community grants would be increasing from £3,000 this year financial year to £4,500 in the next financial year.

Due to dwindling Government grants, EHDC were investigating ways to deliver services without increasing costs to residents. One idea was to use reserves to purchase property, both commercial and rental, to make enough money to effect the loss of grants.

Mr Daniel Greenlee was the EHDC official in charge of Rural Leader grants. A 50/50 match for grants was available to help rural businesses become more productive or more economical.

EHDC had objected to the proposed air space changes at Farnborough Airport.

Network Rail were considering either closing Sheet railway crossing or putting in a safer barrier. Parishioners could also object.

Mr Drew emphasised that EHDC were trying to be more pro active in planning compliance management. He asked Parishioners to report directly to him anything that did not appear to comply with planning approval, dealing with facts rather than feelings.

Mention was made of the amount of litter seen around the area. The District Council had a zero tolerance with respect to litter and could impose a £75 on the spot fine. This also applied to dog fouling.

7. PARISH PRECEPT

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

8. DOWNLANDS FARM

South Downs National Park Authority has supported an application for the caravan on the Farm to become a holiday let. One objection had been received. A landscape plan for the area was a condition of the planning approval.

9. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

As no other nominations were received it was proposed by Mr John Britton, seconded by Ms Mollie Butters, that Mr Keith Godfrey would continue as Chairman.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next annual Parish meeting be held on Friday 18 March 2016, venue to be agreed.