

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COLD ASH PARISH**  
**HELD ON Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Present:**

25 Members of the Public

For the Parish Council: Cllrs, G Hall, M Jaques, B Clark, P Adams & D Le-Cornu  
District Councillors Garth Simpson (Cold Ash), District Cllr Beck (Clay Hill) Cllr  
Cole (West Berkshire Council)

Mr G Pitts (Tennis Club)

Linda Randall, Parish Council Clerk

**1. Apologies**

**Cllr Verner & Cllr Marsh**

**2. Minutes and Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**3. Parish Council Introduction and update by Chairman of Council**

**Cllr Clark** carried out the introduction due to the absence of **Cllr Verner**. He advised that over the last year the Parish Council had installed new benches and new gates to the Recreation Ground playground. The Recreation Ground had received various treatments due to the very hot summer of 2018. 60 planning applications for the Parish had been considered over the last year. Most of the time and energy had gone into setting up a steering group to put together a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Cllr Hall had decided not to stand for the coming year. **Cllr Clark** then thanked **Cllr Hall** for her hard work and commitment over the last 42 years as a Parish Councillor.

**Cllr Clark** then read apologies from **Cllr Verner**, which included details of her absence and her intention to return once she had fully recovered. She also asked for local parishioners to support the Post Office.

**Cllr Clark** finally thanked **Cllr Le-Cornu** for her work as she had also decided not to stand for health reasons. He also expressed the Parish Councils hopes that **Cllr Le-Cornu** would return when she was fully recovered.

**4. Presentation by Mr G Fox for The Tennis Club, including “New Pavilion”**

**Mr Fox** (standing in for Club Chairman Mr Pitts) **presented** a summary on Cold Ash Tennis Club. He also advised about the club activities. There is free membership for juniors; the tennis club is the cheapest such club in West Berkshire. At the moment there are about 250 members. Mr Fox also mentioned the proposed pavilion that is due to be built during the summer, behind the tennis courts on the Recreation Ground. He advised that there would be conveniences in the pavilion.

**Questions/Comments:-**

- **Cllr Hall** asked if 3 courts were required to take part in the various club tennis leagues? Mr Fox replied that only two courts are required as a minimum.
- **Cllr Clark** advised that the main reason for not proceeding with a third court was due to the proximity of the large and beautiful oak tree at the rear of the courts.

**5. Presentation by The Parish Council**  
**“Neighbourhood Development Plan Update”**

**Cllr Adams**, as Chair of the NDP Steering Group, gave a presentation on what the NDP is, current progress and future schedule for developing the NDP and submitting it for a local referendum later in 2020. If over 50% of parishioners entitled to vote approve the NDP then it will become incorporated into formal West Berkshire District Council planning policy. He also informed the audience on the membership of the Steering Group. He advised that the essence of an NDP is that it allows a Parish to have greater input and influence regarding new housing development over a period of years – in our case the period of West Berkshire Council’s Local Plan. He stressed it would not give the Parish control over how much new housing the Parish is allocated by West Berkshire District Council, but an opportunity to influence where such housing would go and local factors that developers should take account of when submitting their proposals. Such influence can include making provision for certain sizes or styles of housing; for example housing more suited to elderly people who wish to downsize and still reside within the Parish.

**Cllr Adams** provided a summary of the NDP vision for Cold Ash Parish as a beautiful, desirable place to live that takes advantage of modern infrastructure, and maintains its nature as a distinct, predominantly rural parish. The mission of the NDP is to “protect and enhance our beautiful Parish”.

He explained that currently the Steering Group is gathering data on a number of issues in order to produce a draft Plan and has sought volunteers to help with this, in a number of working groups, each of which is led by a Steering Group member. The groups are:

**Traffic, Transport & Travel – District Councillor Simpson**

**Environment & landscape – Cllr Clark**

**Recreation, Social & Schools – Pete Ebdon**

**Housing density & design – Cllr Adams**

**Communications and website management – Pete Ebdon**

**Local commerce - Cllr Marsh**

He again asked for more volunteers to join these areas for help with data gathering. Copies of his presentation will be posted on the NDP website. Various maps of the Parish were also available for attendees to look at.

**District Cllr Simpson** spoke about traffic issues. As well as being an important concern for parishioners, this is one of the more technical and labour-intensive elements in the NDP. Work includes assessment of on- and off-street parking and assessing current and projected traffic congestion, including “hot-spots” concerning school set-down and pick-up times, and through traffic coming to and from Newbury, Thatcham and the M4. He asked for volunteers to help carry out traffic assessments during the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> June.

**Cllr Cole** (WBC), from the floor, advised that once the NDP is adopted by West Berkshire Council it is then recognised as formal planning policy. Cold Ash Parish Council would also be entitled to more CIL allowance once adopted.

#### **Questions/Comments:-**

- **Cllr Beck** advised that the development on Coley Farm was due to start in July 2020.
- **Mrs Neville** asked if avoiding light pollution would be part of the NDP. **Cllr Adams** replied that this would be included.
- **A Resident** asked how the NDP would balance the three different characteristics of Manor Park, Ashmore Green and Cold Ash. **Cllr Adams** replied that the NDP will aim to recognise the differing nature of different parts of the Parish as well as providing a coherent approach across the Parish.
- **Cllr Adams** also advised that a questionnaire would be issued fairly soon to help engage parishioners in the NDP and enable them to comment on key issues. He also advised that he hoped the final NDP would be ready around August/September 2020.
- **Mr Marshall** asked if developments would be “green”, as in environmentally friendly. **Cllr Adams** responded that the agenda for Sustainable Development is a key element of national planning policy and will also be reflected in the West Berkshire Local Plan and also in our local NDP.

#### **6. Open Forum for the Public**

- Cold Ash Brass gave an update on the club giving information on the league.
- Mrs Codling gave details of guiding and asked for any volunteers to contact her.

**Chairman** thanked everyone for attending.

*The Meeting closed at 8.55 Date of next Meeting –April 2020*

Signed..... Date.....  
Chairman