



COLD ASH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 13th April 2021

Present:

Cllrs Marsh, Fenner, Verner, McArdle, Hanks, Clark, Adams, Silsby & Jaques
Clerk L Randall

In Attendance:

District Cllr G Simpson & Anupama Shekhar.

Public Participation

Chairman stated that Cold Ash Parish Council was saddened by the passing of HRH Duke of Edinburgh. A minute's silence was held.

Anupama Shekhar introduced herself and advised she was a member of the NDP Steering Group. She was considering becoming a Parish Councillor.

218565 Apologies for Absence
Cllrs Le-Cornu

218566 Declarations of Interest
There were no Declarations of Interest.

218567 Minutes
Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd February 2021 were approved there was a slight change which was actioned. They were duly signed by the **Chairman** outside the meeting.

218568 Matters Arising

- **Clerk** advised that the cricket square had been rolled on 29th March by the current contractors.
- **Clerk** advised that a further email had been received by the resident regarding the pollarding of the twin-trunked oak tree. The Parish Council had made a decision, at the previous meeting, that a sympathetic pollard should take place with further removal in the future. **Clerk** would again respond to resident and pass details to Acland Hall committee as the tree was within the Acland Hall boundary.
- **Cllr Jaques** asked for confirmation regarding the long-term sickness of a Parish Councillor, **Cllr Jaques** was advised that at the moment there was still a vacancy so the absence was noted, but, once the vacancy had been filled, the situation would be re-assessed.

Cllr Adams raised a couple of points of clarification on the minutes regarding the item Planning Matters a) Planning Applications 21/00330/FULMAJ. A discussion followed about how these comments should be dealt with. The **Chairman Cllr Marsh** suggested, and it was agreed, that **Cllr Adams'** comments would be best included under matters arising, rather than changing the minutes themselves. So **Cllr Adams'** comments are included below: **Cllr Adams** pointed out that the 23rd March minutes did not mention the discussion on this item, nor as a result of the discussion, that **Cllr Silsby** had offered to draft the objection wording (and attempt also to reflect **Cllr Adams'** comments during the discussion) and then email these to Cllrs to check they were happy with the wording. Once this was done **Cllr Adams** had pointed out in the ensuing email trail that, whilst he agreed with the decision to object, and thanked **Cllr Silsby** for his inputs to this matter, that he could not support the final paragraph (two paragraphs in **Cllr Silsby's** subsequent suggested wording included in the minutes), because they could compromise the emerging NDP, because any presumption of some development in this area could run counter to emerging NDP policies. **Cllr Adams** had clearly stated in his emails that this was not an attempt to overturn the decision (he agreed with it), nor to have the wording changed, but simply to place on record his views and rationale for not supporting the final paragraph.

218569 Report from District Councillors

The District Councillors' report had been circulated before the meeting. Items covered were Remote Meetings, Covid 19, Local Economy, Education & Environment. **District Councillor Simpson's** report included: WBC Officer changes, Leisure update, Northcroft Centre, Members Bid & Dog Waste. A copy of the report can be obtained from the **Clerk**. **Cllr Silsby** asked why large, unfolded cardboard was not taken with recycling. He also asked for more information regarding Newbury Football Ground.

218570 Clerk's Report

- **Clerk** advised she had received a complaint regarding parking under the basketball hoop in the car park. She had arranged for the sign to be reinstalled, as this had been removed by vandals. She would also investigate costs to have a "Keep Clear" sign, or hatching, painted on the ground immediately below the hoop.
- **Clerk** had received enquiries regarding running keep-fit classes and boot camps on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that, before any decisions could be made, an agenda item would be added to the next meeting on 27th April 2021 for further discussion.
- **Clerk** asked if the goats from grazing field 3 had been removed. She was advised they were still there. Clerk would contact owner to ask about the future plans.
- **Clerk** advised that the drum on the office laser printer was reaching the end of life. It would be cheaper to purchase a new printer, as the cost was £70.00. Councillors agreed to this request.

218571

a) **Planning Applications**

If members of the Public would like to comment on an application, they should check the advice on our website:

<https://coldashpc.org.uk/the-council/planning/>

There were no applications

Planning Matters

- b) **WBC (West Berks Council) Planning Decisions** Members noted following decisions:

21/00182/FUL Clover House Westrop Farm - Change of use from pasture to paddock and construction of three loose boxes and tack room. **APPROVED**
Previous Parish Council Comments - No Objection - Unanimous

In principle, the Parish council does not object to this application. If it is granted we would like the following conditions applied.

- No further change of use to equestrian or garden use. To prevent the over commercialisation of this AONB area.
- Due to land being within the AONB a further stipulation that the built stables/tack room will not be allowed to be converted to use as a residential dwelling at a future point in time.
- Not to be used for commercial use.
- Cold Ash Parish Council's emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan is proposing a dark sky zone in this area and as such we request no floodlights on the outside of any building that is associated with the application. We request a lighting plan is agreed before occupation.

The application stipulates that a soakaway will be utilised for the disposal of liquid and no mention made of the installation of any utilities (power/drainage).

The Parish council has concerns over this on the basis of the amount of waste/ordure that three animals produce and request that more detailed statements/designs are included on the disposal of such, including the use of any vehicular access to facilitate waste disposal and how assurance can be included to ensure that any waste contamination will be dealt with. i.e.

- Are foul drains required rather than soakaways?
- The inclusion of a dedicated waste bay for contaminated bedding/ordure and the means of disposal.
- The installation of utilities (mains water/electricity etc.)

Could this please be investigated?

Finally, Cold Ash Parish Council request a condition limiting the number of animals stabled in/on this facility/land be applied to ensure the number of animals is limited to three. This will ensure that the land and surrounding area are not over-crowded and that the by-products of the animals can be adequately managed.

- c) **Appeals**
There were no appeals.

It was agreed to move item 218575 before finance

218575 Wildlife Allotment Garden

Cllr McArdle advised that the bridge in the Wildlife Allotment Garden needed to be replaced. The original contractor was unable to carry out the work and another contractor has taken the job on. Savings had been made in the Members Bid to cover this. Councillors were happy for this work to be carried out.

218572 Finance

1. **Items for payment.** Members agreed Items for Payment on Sheet No 12/2020/21.
Summary of sheet:

Waste - £60.73
Litter Picker - £65.00
Playground Inspections - £110.40
Electricity Office - £107.67
Supplies for WAG project - £1986.23
Insurance -£1466.44
Training - £80.93
Payroll - £75.12
Traffic Survey - £420.00
Signs for WAG project - £144.35

2. **Bank reconciliation** – Members noted the Bank Reconciliation Statement at 28th February 2021
3. **Payments against Budget** – Members noted the Analysis of Payments Against Budget to March 2021.

218573 Annual Parish Meeting

The agenda for the meeting was confirmed and would be displayed from 14th April 2021. It was agreed to add some questions to topics and a discussion took place regarding using Zoom to do this. **Cllr Marsh** agreed to run the poll.

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.58 pm to allow District Councillor Simpson to ask for more information on questions to be polled.

Standing Orders resumed at 7.59 pm

218574 Review of Risk Assessment

The review of the risk assessment was approved by the Parish Council.

218576 Community Project investments

Standing Orders were suspended at 8.05 pm to allow District Councillor Simpson to discuss Recovery Finance Bid. He advised this didn't need to be Parish Council driven and that other groups could be involved.

Standing Orders resumed at 8.07 pm

Cllr Jaques suggested Little Copse and Southend and **Cllr Silsby** suggested a sculpture trail in the Wildlife Allotment Garden. **Chairman** suggested asking for ideas at the Annual Parish Meeting.

218577 West Berkshire Local Plan Review

The details had been circulated via email. However, due to poor quality of maps an extension for comments may be given. **Cllr Clark** had not seen a draft response. He was advised this had been sent very recently. It was agreed to ask for an extension for Cold Ash Parish council's submission to 28th April 2021, so this could be agreed at the next meeting.

210578 Digital Mapping

Cllr Fenner advised that after attending the training she had taken the offer of a free 30-day trial. The application was supported by BALC. The cost after the free trial was £192.00 plus VAT with BALC discount. The application allowed the Parish to add tree

preservation orders, ancient woodlands, dog bins and boundaries. This would be helpful with the NDP. It was agreed to have a full demonstration at the next meeting before a decision could be made.

218579 Funding for the Remaining Traffic Consultant Work Items

Cllr Silsby advised that the remaining funds were approximately £900.00; there had been a delay in receiving the traffic date. **Cllr Jaques** asked why there had been a delay and was advised this was due to an issue within West Berkshire Council. Councillors were happy to use £1400.00 for remaining works. **Cllr McArdle** asked if another grant could be requested. This would be investigated when applications resumed from Locality. If there was no grant available, the remaining amount would be taken from existing Parish Council budget.

218580 Annual Parish Council Meeting

Chairman advised that the date for the Annual meeting was 5th May 2021. He also advised that he did not wish to stand as Chairman for another term. **Clerk** advised that members could nominate themselves, but would need a seconder before they could be considered. They could also be nominated by another Councillor. **Clerk** would then ask if they wished to stand. A vote would then be taken by a show of hands. If there was a tie the existing Chairman would use his casting vote. The same process would be carried out for the Vice Chairman. Membership to committees and lead topics would also be agreed at the Annual meeting.

281581 Committee Reports

17th March and 31st March - NDP Steering Group – **Cllr Adams** gave his report and welcomed two new members to the steering group. He advised that the Steering Group would take the Parish Councillors through a series of documents at separate meetings. **Cllr Verner** felt this was a good idea. The Steering Group would take stock of what tasks had been carried out to date, this would then be sent to a consultant at a cost of 2K which would be taken from the NDP budget cost centre. Contact had been made to the land owner of site CA10 which was the most sustainable site to Cold Ash Parish and possibly delivering the complete housing allocation. The proposed developer may attend the meeting on 5th May to give a presentation on proposed plans. There was urgent need to get parishioners involved and this would be mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting. Polls would be taken through various media channels and the Parish Councils website to find out what support there was for CA10 site. **Cllr Jaques** asked how many dwellings were being suggested. **Cllr Adams** stated meetings were being taken to discuss this and more information should follow. **Cllr Marsh** stated majority of housing would be in the Cold Ash Parish.

A resolution was passed for the meeting to continue after 9.00pm.

281582 Meetings with other bodies –

11th March District Parish Conference – **Cllr Jaques, McArdle & Silsby**. **Cllr Jaques** gave a brief report on topics covered, which included Costings, The closure of the Walnut Close Care Home and Planning Enforcement. The next conference was scheduled for 19th October 2021. **Cllr McArdle** and **Cllr Silsby** advised that PROWs were also discussed.

30th March – Digital Mapping Course – **Cllr McArdle, Fenner & The Clerk**. This was discussed under item 218578.

218583 Councillors' Questions

- **Cllr Silsby** advised he was attending Planning and Power Seminar.
- **Cllr McArdle** asked about correspondence received regarding rifle use. **Clerk** advised that, although the Parish Council had received a complaint, it was not a Parish Council matter but one for the Police to investigate if necessary.
- **Cllr Fenner** advised there had been a lot of congestion in the Acland Hall car park when football was taking place. **Clerk** would advise the football club manager.

218584 Correspondence

A list of correspondence received and sent since the meeting held on 9th February 2021 had been circulated as Information Sheet no 12/March 2021 and was noted by Members.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.04 pm

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