

CCL2011.12.06

At the Council Meeting of **COLEHILL PARISH COUNCIL** held at COLEHILL MEMORIAL HALL on **6 DECEMBER 2011**.

PRESENT

Cllr Dave Mitchell, Chairman
Cllr Susan Davies, Vice-Chairman
Cllrs Susan Cowsill, Janet Dover, Pat Francis, Sue Gretton, Tony Holloway, KD Johnson, David Packer, Graeme Smith and John Warren.

APOLOGIES

Cllrs Gary Adams, David Barnes, Maggie Lawson and Don Wallace.

IN ATTENDANCE

PC Brett attended to advise Members on parking matters at the Co-op and Middlehill Road.

Messrs John Gooch, Derek Henderson, David Ward and Peter Wright attended to listen to the debate on the community run library. Mr Gooch thanked the Council and, in particular, Cllr Davies for the effort put into producing the Clarion.

312.11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dover asked Council to consider whether she had a personal interest in the community run library item. Members agreed that Cllr Dover did not have a personal interest. There were, therefore, no declarations of interest.

313.11 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Cllr Mitchell advised that he had attended Verwood's Civic Reception. He and Cllr Warren had also attended different presentations regarding gypsy and traveller sites.

314.11 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 November were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and signed.

315.11 MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES

272.11 Cllr Dover advised that the waste and recycling service had been agreed.

275.11(b) Cllr Dover advised that DCC would be writing to the householder to request that the trees blocking the street light at Ashmeads Close footpath be cut back.

275.11(c) Public Health had contacted Flight Refuelling regarding the noise from the skips. Flight Refuelling had agreed to have the skips emptied after 8.00am.

316.11 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- (a) **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES – 15 November**
The report of the Meeting was submitted.

294.11 Cllr Francis volunteered to inspect the two benches at Leigh Road (Parmiter estate and Bytheway).

296.11(a) Cllrs Holloway and Johnson had attended the funeral of Mr Alan Stokes.

296.11 (c) Cllr Cowsill advised that EDDC's dog warden had agreed to install a dog bin at Mallard Road.

RESOLVED that the report be approved and adopted.

- (b) **HIGHWAYS & PLANS – 22 November**
The report of the Meeting was submitted.

RESOLVED that the report be approved and adopted.

317.11 **COLEHILL LIBRARY ACTION GROUP**

The report of the meeting held on 25 November 2011 was submitted and appears as Appendix 1 to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the report be approved and adopted.

318.11 **COMMUNITY RUN LIBRARY**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Smith and Messrs Gooch and Henderson for the draft business plan and figures.

Cllr Davies reported on the results of the questionnaire. All 3000 households had received the questionnaire and 308 had responded.

Out of the 308 responses, 294 supported a community library, with 14 being against. The number of residents prepared to contribute towards the running of the library was 263, with 43 against. The number of residents prepared to volunteer was 111.

The Chairman advised on the public meeting and expressed his disappointment that the attendance numbers had not been greater.

Cllr Francis said that he did not agree with supporting a community run library in principal, because of the double taxation.

Cllr Packer said that the public had shown a willingness for the library and the Council owed it to the majority to be in favour of supporting a community run library.

Cllr Dover said that she was concerned for the children in Colehill if there was no library. She advised that the democratic process at DCC had now stopped and the Parish Council needed to consider the young and elderly residents in particular. She said that the library was key to the community.

The Chairman advised that in deciding whether to award a grant towards a community run library Members needed to consider the following:

- (a) **Were there adequate volunteers to make up an initial Management Committee.** Cllr Dover proposed, seconded by Cllr Packer, that there were adequate volunteers.

Members agreed that the library must not be a Parish Council run facility and there should be no day to day involvement of the Council.

- (b) **Was there adequate support from volunteers.** Cllr Johnson proposed, seconded by Cllr Dover, that there was adequate support from volunteers.

- (c) **Whether to award a £10,500 grant.** Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Dover, that a £10,500 grant should be awarded. The grant would be issued in stages and the first quarter would be awarded on 17 April 2012.

- (d) **The frequency that the Management Committee should report back to Council.** Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Johnson, that the Council representative on the Management Committee report progress at Council meetings. Other members of the Management Committee could attend when required.

Cllrs Holloway and Packer advised that the Council should have an exit strategy. This would have to be taken into account during the setting up of the Management Committee.

- (e) **The Management Committee's hall hire and expenses**
Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Packer, that hall hire and expenses would be paid by the Council.

With (a) to (e) being satisfactory, Cllr Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Packer, that the Council fund a community run library through an increase in the precept. 7:4. *(Those against explained they were against the double taxation and not against a community run library).*

RESOLVED that the Council fund a community run library through an increase in the precept. The £10,500 grant would be awarded under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and would have to be applied for annually.

319.11

PRECEPT

Finance and General Purposes Committee had recommended a Parish Council Tax Levy of £24.50, with it increasing to £28.00 if Council decided to support a community run library.

Cllr Johnson proposed a Parish Council Tax Levy of £28.00, seconded by Cllr Cowsill. 8-3.

RESOLVED that a precept of £83916.00 be levied on the District Council. This gave an equivalent Parish Council Tax Levy of £28.00, a 19.1% increase on that for 2011/12. The budget for 2012/13 of £287502.14 be APPROVED.

320.11

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Cllr Davies advised that if the Council decided to hold an event to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee then Members would need to take on specific tasks.

Cllr Gretton thought that the Council would be competing with organisations that were much better placed to put on celebrations. She said that given the lack of support from the public at the barbecue it could mean a lot of hard work for hardly any reward.

Cllr Warren agreed with Cllr Gretton and considered that it was clear the public did not want an event.

Cllr Davies asked that the Clerk find out what other parish and town councils were doing to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and report the findings back to the next Council meeting for a final decision.

RESOLVED that the Jubilee plans of other parish and town councils be reported at the next Council meeting.

321.11

**AUDIT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS
HALF-YEAR TO SEPTEMBER 2011**

The report letter from the Internal Auditor, dated 11 November 2011, had been circulated to all Members.

Members thanked the Clerk and the report letter was NOTED.

322.11 CONSULTATIONS

It was noted that a number of consultations were being held including one for gypsy and travellers sites. This particular consultation would be discussed at Highways and Plans Committee.

NOTED.

323.11 REPORTS

DCC

Cllr Dover advised that the budget would be discussed on 7 December.

EDDC

Cllr Packer advised on the refuse and recycling service and superfast broadband.

WIMBORNE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Johnson reported that a new apprentice had been recruited.

THE REEF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

COLEHILL MEMORIAL HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Mitchell advised that the Management Committee had decided to take no further action on the claim case as they could not find an expert witness.

Cllr Gretton advised on the maintenance that had taken place. Thieves had attempted to steal the replacement lead on the roof.

Cllr Warren asked that the charges for 2012 be distributed to Members.

COLEHILL FIRST SCHOOL

Nothing to report.

DAPTC

Cllr Johnson advised on the AGM that he and Cllr Warren had attended.

PACT

Nothing to report.

RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON OFFICER

Cllr Johnson reported on the land dispute at Greenhill. DCC had won their case and the defendant had been instructed to remove the fence. Cllr Johnson also reported that he had informed DCC Rights of Way about the boggy conditions of Footpath 22, between Greenhill Road and Cobbs Road.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Nothing to report.

COLEHILL LIBRARY

Nothing further to report.

ETAG

The Chairman reported on the changes happening in the Community Partnerships.

324.11

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED that the accounts listed as Appendix 2 in the Minute Book be passed for payment and cheques drawn accordingly.

325.11

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- (a) Cll Cowsill had reported to PC Brett that several vans were driving around the area with the drivers acting suspiciously.
- (b) Cllr Warren requested that a future Council meeting discuss changing the start time of all meetings to 7.00pm.
- (c) Cllr Holloway advised that he had cut back brambles from the footpath opposite Fryers Copse.

The Meeting ended at 21.05 hrs.

CHAIRMAN