

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday, 26th. July, 2007 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT

Cllr. Applegate in the Chair, Cllrs. Draper, Harris, Howe and Kibble.
The Clerk was in attendance.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs. Lees and Williamson.
Apologies for absence for the August and September Meetings were also received and accepted from Cllr. Williamson.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting held on 28th. June, 2007.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH. JUNE, 2007

ACDPC (MA p.31)

CBC will be arranging a joint notice in a local newspaper. Clerk has asked for EHPC to be included.

Public Transport Liaison (MA p.31)

The electronic bus notice in Chelmsford does not list the 35. Cllr. Howe to make enquiries.

Clerk is to ask for the timetable for new Regal evening service.

Public Rights of Way (MA p.31)

Cllrs. Lees and Draper had inspected the path beside Paprills. There is no fingerpost where it joins the road and it is blocked by a fence and a reservoir. Clerk is to inform ECC and to ask them to contact Cllr. Draper if they need a site meeting.

Highway Safety Matters (MA p.31)

The Groundsman is off sick and his condition will be reviewed in September. Clerk has asked Payback (new name for Probation Service work in the community) to fit in as much as they can and they have made a start, but are heavily booked painting village halls over the summer break so it might not all get done before September. Community Speed Watch would be active again shortly and would be covering Old Church Road.

The Clerk is to provide Cllr. Harris with the list of highways problems that had been discussed during the site meeting with Robin Murray. It is to be circulated to councillors in case there are any new problems.

Sports Coaching (Cc p.32)

There was a good turn out at the first session on Tuesday, 24th. July. They concentrated their activities on the sports wall.

Overhanging Vegetation – Tye Path (Cf p.32)

Clerk has written to occupiers of The Martins to ask for the bushes to be cut back so that the fence can be repaired. D. Wybrow has been asked for an estimate for repairs.

RCCE AGM 11th. July (Ch p.32)

Chairman, Cllr. Kibble and Clerk attended. It was noted that a new Green Village of the Year Competition had been announced. Papers from the event have been put into Circulation.

Independent Internal Audit (Fb p.33)

The electronic inventory is underway and includes photographs to identify locations.

Signatories (Fc p.33)

The mandate form has arrived from the bank and is in the process of being completed.

Free Music Night (p.35)

The band was not available for the evening of the Fete, so will try to make next year. Cllr. Draper undertook to look for another band and to speak to the Windmill about providing a bar asking for a contribution towards the band. This is to be an Agenda item for the August Meeting.

Bicknacre Road (MfRe p.36)

The hedge had been cut. Cllr. Harris reported that there had been a delay in organising the tenancy.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) CBC Review of Polling Districts & Places

The review was noted. It was agreed that PC is happy with the current arrangements in the Parish.

FINANCE

a) Review of Standing Orders and Risk Assessment

Cllr. Harris advised that he had reviewed the Financial Standing Orders and found them sound. It was therefore agreed that no amendment was required.

It was agreed to include the following additions in the Risk Assessment in order to record what was already happening.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES			
ACTIVITY	RISK	PROBABILITY	RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURE
Site meetings	Traffic	Low	Cllrs. & Clerk to wear high visibility jackets.

COUNCIL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (where not covered by Financial Regulations)			
ACTIVITY	RISK	PROBABILITY	RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURE
Monitoring Balances	Required by Insurance	N/A	a) Member Internal Auditor to receive and sign copies of reconciled bank statements. b) Quarterly account balances to be reported to Council.

b) Quarterly Balances

The balances as at 30th. June, 2007 were noted as follows:

National Savings Account	Deposit Account	Current Account
£8,594.57	£6,458.66	£19,102.79

c) Play Area Fencing

Comparative quotes had been obtained for fencing in wood and galvanised metal. These had been considered by a working party consisting of representatives from PC, HFC, Hanna's Tots and Preschool. The working party had chosen the bow top galvanised and painted metal fencing. It was thought that the bow top would prevent climbing, walking and sitting on the fencing, and the paint would be an added protection against rust and would be more attractive.

They had chosen the quotation by GPM, which amounted to £6,920 & VAT, as an example had been examined at Ramsden Bellhouse and found satisfactory. It was also the lowest quote.

PC had £5219 of S106 money plus £405 in tax refund, making a total of £5,624 available. It was agreed that PC should pay the remaining £1,296 from the budget allocated to Village Hall projects. It was therefore agreed to place the order.

d) Photocopier

It was agreed that should the present copier fail the Clerk be delegated to purchase a replacement at a cost of up to £150.

e) Payments

The following cheques were signed;

To	Cheque	NET £	VAT £	TOTAL £	Explanation	Power
Hanna's Field Charity (21)	101605	9.38 203.70		213.08	Rent June Meeting, Preschool Jun/July x 2/3	LGA 1972 S111, LG(MP)A 1976 S19
Canon UK Ltd (22)	101606	52.15	9.13	61.28	Final service charge payment	LGA 1972 S111
MD Landscapes	101607	92.40 132.60	58.81	394.81	Mow Tye x 3, Mow H Field x 3,	LG(MP)A 1976 S19,

(23)		60.00 51.00			Strim Tye x 2, Mow churchyard x 3	OSA 1906 S9(b)
K. Plumridge (P11)	101608			791.73	July salary, Office allowance, B/band to 12/7/07, Reimbursements	LGA 1972 S150 (2), S112

The following receipts were noted;

From	To Account	Amount £	Explanation
Barclays	Deposit	39.91	Quarterly interest to 1/6/07

PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

07/01387/FUL Chestnut House, Old Church Road, CM3 8BG (Regularisation of ridge height and window positions amendment to 06/01010/FUL).

The ridge has been built .5m higher and the windows in the roof are lower than shown on the planning application. PC objects to the application. The Parish Council objects to the proposed regularisation of the ridge height and window positions. The steeper roof angle and lower windows has resulted in an unacceptable loss of privacy for the neighbouring property. The raised roof height has increased the bulk and impact of an already large building.

07/01440/FUL Little Maples, The Common, CM3 8AQ (Rear conservatory)

There was no objection to the proposed conservatory.

b) CBC Submissions Core Strategy and Development Control Polices PDP – Alternative Development Sites and Boundary Changes

PC objects to Proposal ALT25, which relates to Glebe land between Abbeyfields and Hanna's Field.

The applicant claims that East Hanningfield is suitable for development because of its proximity to facilities at Danbury and South Woodham Ferrers, but neither of these places is accessible from East Hanningfield via public transport. The applicant also refers to East Hanningfield's public transport links, but this bus service has recently been severely reduced and its future is uncertain. Similarly, the employment opportunities cited at Maldon and Wickford are not accessible by public transport. The site is proposed, presumably, for open market housing, yet the need for such housing in East Hanningfield is in doubt, because house sales in the village are taking up to 18 months and sometimes longer. There is a need in the parish for affordable housing as demonstrated by the high demand, which was not satisfied, for the recent Colne Housing development at Geoffrey Close. This kind of housing is built on exception sites and therefore does not need a site within the defined settlement boundary.

The applicant has not justified contravention of the Borough policies to confine development to South Woodham Ferrers and north of Chelmsford, nor the policy which states that the countryside should be protected for its own sake.

c) East of England Regional Assembly consultation on the Review of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

It was agreed that the composite answers prepared by the Clerk was to be submitted as PC's response.

HFC/PC LIAISON

a) Sports Courts

The following report from M. Plumridge was noted:

The courts were resurfaced 9 years ago and the tarmac life is approximately 10 years. HFC has received quotes for resurfacing and lining. Resurfacing & acrylic paint surface coat (keeps surface in better condition preventing sunlight drying out the tar), lines, new posts & nets would cost up to £18K. Resurfacing & synthetic grass surface suitable for 5-a-side and tennis (including tarmac) would cost in the region of £30K. HFC has decided this year to just clean up the courts (weed kill and sweep) to reline, and to get two working sets of posts and nets. Jim Howe has patched posts and nets and Doe have been booked to do 5-a-side and tennis lines in August at a cost of £494 inc VAT. In the longer term we need to look for grant aid.

b) Liaison Meeting

Arrangements were in hand to organise a meeting before the next PC Meeting.

MATTERS FOR REPORT

a) Traffic Census

The Clerk was asked to find the census figures for before and after the traffic calming was installed.

b) Highwater Farm

Information from CBC was that the officer had met with the owners of the site the previous week and advises that a planning application is due to be in this week for the retention of the large barn. She understands that all the mobile caravans have now gone from the site, but that there are still three mobile homes on site. She discussed this matter with the owners and they are going to submit details of their intentions regarding these next week. CBC is therefore awaiting the planning application and details regarding their intentions in relation to the mobile homes and once they have this information will be in a better position to advise of the best way forward with this one. The 'wild west town' is now subject to an appeal, so until this planning appeal is determined CBC will not be seeking to issue an enforcement notice.

c) Community Speed Watch

The volunteers would be monitoring speed the following week.

d) Pyracantha

The Chairman reported that a resident had asked him to look at the pyracantha and had also complained about a small area of Tye not being mown, so she was doing it. The Clerk reported that she had instructed the groundsman to cut back the pyracantha but he was now off sick so she had asked the Community Payback team to do it, but they already had a full list of work so would take some time to get round to it. She had already contacted the mowing contractor about the small triangle of grass.

For the early part of the season he had been unable to get his tractor to it because the footway had been obstructed by contractors parking on it. When he finally got to it he found that it was being cut so he left it. He has now agreed to cut it whether he finds it cut or not.

e) Vandalism

It was noted that on a Saturday afternoon the bench outside the Village Hall front door had been lifted out of the ground and turned round. At the same time the padlock had been smashed off the rail fence. It was thought that an attempt was being made to steal the bench, but that the lumps of concrete attached to its legs had made it impractical.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 10.58.