COLNE ENGAINE PARISH COUNCIL

www.colne-engaine.org.uk

CLERKS REPORT 14TH DECEMBER 2017

This report is based on matters arising from the last meeting as well as matters and correspondence that have arisen since that and did not need or could not be added to this month's agenda. It has been circulated prior to the meeting for all Councillors to read.

PLANNING

Application for approval of details reserved by condition nos. 2,4 and 5 of approved application 16/01806/FUL – Goldingtons Cottage. The Historic Buildings Consultant has responded saying that conditions 3 and 4 required submission of samples of external materials and materials for the proposed wall. As he had not seen those he could not recommend that either of those conditions be discharged. Condition 5 required the submission of detailed drawings showing windows and doors. Those have been submitted and he had no objection to that condition being discharged.

Data protection Register

Our registration is now complete under Registration reference ZA288058 with me named as the data controller.

External Auditor appointment for 2017/18 financial year.

Under powers set out in Regulation 3 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) was appointed by the Secretary of State for local Government to appoint local auditors. I received a 7 page letter detailing how this will work and the effect from our point of view is that nothing changes with PKF Littlejohn LLP remaining as our external auditor on the same fee as last year.

Open Spaces Action Plan

I completed and forwarded our annual update of the plan as resolved at last months meeting. BDC have advised me that there is £15,919.17 S106 funding available to spend on improving public open space in our Parish and asking for suggestions as to how the money might best be spent. The deadline for utilising these funds is February 2014. Serious thought needs to be given to this and once a few ideas have been formulated I will add it to the agenda for discussion.

HIGHWAYS

Pathway between Brook Street and Rainbow Way.

I received a complaint that the surface was badly broken and the complainant had fallen over as a result. My report to Highways included information that someone had been injured and a suggestion that it could be a danger to the blind and partially sighted. I was amazed that the repair was carried out within a week. The complainant came back to me criticising the apparent temporary nature of the repair and saying that they could have repaired a pot hole further down the path of which I was not aware at the same time. I replied saying that I took her point regarding the temporary looking nature of the repair, adding that with available budgets my own feeling was that it is better than doing nothing. I confessed to being guilty of not walking down the path and added that the workmen would only do what their worksheet instructed them to do.

Pond opposite Worlds End Farm Pebmarsh Road

I received a complaint that someone had dumped a washing machine in the pond. I went along and took some pictures and reported it to BDC. I went along to check just 5 days later and it had gone. I must say I am impressed as the machine was in the middle of the pond (Not sure how the dumper managed that) and it must have been difficult to remove.

Damage to Village Green

I have obtained two quotes for replacing the posts and reinstating the grass and have forwarded a claim to Bolt Building Supplies insurers. I have it in diary to chase.

Flower Barrels on Village Green

Email received from Miriam and Martin Cowan in response to my letter thanking Martin for refreshing the barrels with seasonal colour. He said that they were very pleased to contribute to the village as they felt privileged to have moved into such a welcoming community.

Grant application for cost of Footpath Maps

The Community Grant of £355 was received into the bank account and covers the full cost of production of the maps.

Footpath Map

I received an email from a resident commenting that the new footpath map was helpful but pointing to a mistake which she considered needed to be rectified. She included a notice from the Secretary of State for the Environment dated 6 March 2002 confirming that footpath number 40 which shows on our new map was deleted for its entire length. We clearly cannot get the map reprinted and redistributed and I would suggest that notes on the website, Facebook and in the Parish Magazine would be adequate to alert residents of the change. It could be that a loose leaf insert into the Parish Magazine would ensure maximum coverage but I personally feel that isn't necessary. I would welcome any comments before I actually proceed.

War Memorial

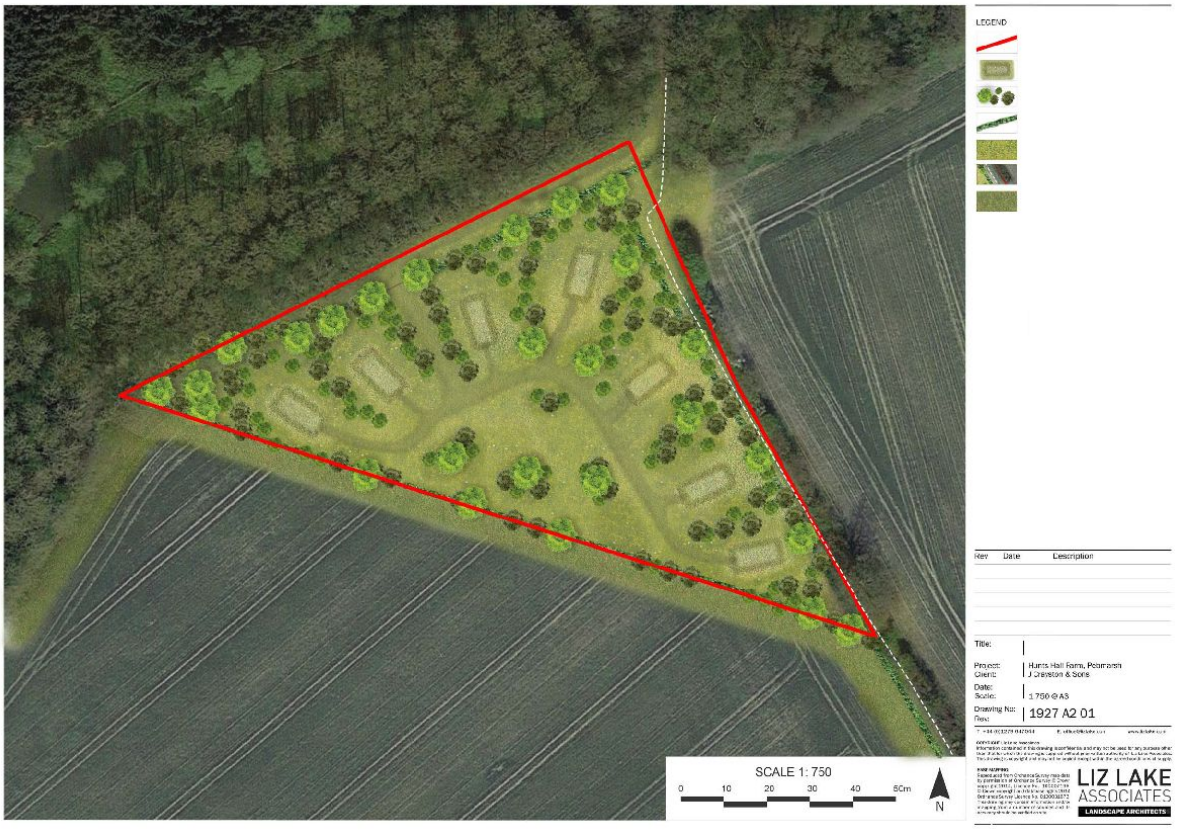
The deed has been completed and I now have it on file. The surplus funds of £1,985.77 have been received and put into a reserve to cover any future expenditure. The War Memorial is now formally the property of the Parish Council.

Street Lighting

A & J Lighting have completed the annual maintenance visit which involves cleaning all of the lamps and replacing any faulty equipment. Five lamps needed to be replaced along with 4 cells. The cost of the repairs and replacements was £334.50. Labour costs are covered by their monthly direct debit.

Planning application for a glamping site on Pebmarsh Road, Pebmarsh

Following the contentious application for the yurts in Brickhouse Road back in 2014 which was refused on appeal an application for 7 yurts at Hunts Hall Farm has been lodged. I have had a look at this and in my opinion it is unlikely to be as contentious as the one at Nightingales Farm in that there do not appear to be any homes nearby and it doesn't include a utility building which was objected to. We are not a consultee on this application but if you wish to view it the reference is 17/02073/FUL.



This report was prepared by Terry Rootsey, Clerk to Colne Engaine Parish Council, 3 Box Mill Cottages, Box Mill Lane, Halstead CO9 2DR email clerk@colne-engaine.org.uk.