**COLN ST DENNIS PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL OPEN MEETING 2013**

**Held at Coln Valley Village Hall May 28th 2013**

**Meeting N0 207**

Present: As at AGM

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Minutes of the last annual open meeting were read and agreed.

Minutes of the previous open meeting held in Feb 2013 to discuss the Village Hall were also read and agreed.

**2. Matters Arising**

NTR had spoken to Highways concerning the water flooding down the hill at Coln Rogers and along the lane to the church, but this is still a problem as the culverts are no longer effective. NTR to approach again.

GKM suggested that the PC should monitor the stream by the church in CStD – it should be checked at the end of summer and cleared out if necessary, but if the work proved too difficult, the matter should be raised with Highways and the Environment Agency.

The issue of gritting was discussed. It is unlikely that CDC will run gritters along valley, as the road at Fossebridge is usually blocked by cars as is Calcot hill.

DP asked if the PC would purchase a hand gritter. NTR said that we might express interest in a 50% funding scheme through CDC **as long as a resident volunteered to store and operate it.**

The noticeboard at Fossebridge is badly in need of repair – VD has carried out interim repair, but felt that further work or replacement would be needed.

**3. Insurance**

NTR reported the new premium for this financial year which was only an increase of . It was agreed that the PC would renew the insurance in accordance with the quote received.

**4.Village Hall Update**

NTD outlined progress on rebuilding the village hall. The project was going well with planning permission in place, building regulations permissions well advanced and the project fully costed. By using volunteers to do the non-specialist work it was expected that the cost could be kept to well below the estimate of £150,000 using only contractors to do the work. On fundraising, the target of £70,000 from private donations looked achievable though there was still some way to go; he thanked all those who had contributed and encouraged those who were still thinking about it to do so.

Applications had been made to public funding bodies principally the Cotswold Conservation board, CDC, GCC and the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust; it would not be until end August that GET let the project know how much they would grant. In the meantime preparatory work was being done in selecting contractors and organising the work so that work could start immediately the project heard from the public funder; the target was to get the shell of the building up in late autumn. It was however now clear that the amount of money available from public funders would be less than needed to complete the building. A source of funding would be for the Parish Council to raise a public works loan of £25,000 to be repaid over 25 years out of an increase in the parish precept. If this were done then the parish precept would increase by circa £1500 p.a. or £12 per band D dwelling. The parish council had discussed this possibility and believed it was affordable and of low risk. However now it was clear that this funding source would be needed to finance the rebuilding project the Parish council should consult with the parishoners to sound out whether they supported or not this proposal. The papers giving details of the proposal were available at the meeting for those present to read.

There were no objections from the parishoners present and the Parish Council asked ND to prepare and circulate to all households a letters outlining the proposal and seeking comment.

The new web address is – info@coln-valley-village-hall.com. ND thanked Simon Oakley for setting this up.

The PC will be able to use the website to post minutes of meetings. It was agreed that a **draft** of the minutes would be agreed by the PC and then posted up to one month after the date of the meeting. This was seen as the best course of action as minutes are not usually approved and signed off until the next meeting which may be as much 3 months later. The PC was also anxious to collect e-mail addresses so that it could communicate directly and efficiently with parishioners. Those present provided their e-mail addresses under the understanding that they were only to be used for parish or village hall communications.

**5. Planning Applications**

16 Calcot – Revisions

Christine Mitchell explained that the height of the new building had been reduced by 600mm and the frontage reduced by 500mm. The front has also been simplified. The trees to the front will also be retained.

NTR read the minutes from the previous open meeting which had discussed the original planning application.

MC felt that the new plans had less impact on the street and that the extension was now slightly less close to the neighbouring house above.

GKM agreed that the changes proposed were an improvement on the earlier plans as a gap had now been created between the houses.

ND expressed concern that the tall glass extension would be out of place and would be visible from the footpath across the fields.

Generally residents felt that the revisions were an improvement and so NTR summarized that the PC was now inclined to support the revised plans, but still had some concerns about the impact of the glass connection which ND felt would be visible from the footpath.

**6. Residents’ Questions**

6.1 - Doug Petersen raised the issue of maintenance of the bus shelter and whether it was listed as a stop on the bus route. VD to contact bus company to see if it could be added as a stop. Andy Gregory volunteered to undertake removal of the ivy and other growth. NTR expressed thanks on behalf of the PC and agreed to contact Mr Davis to arrange access for the work to be carried out.

6.2 - DP raised the issue of the phone boxes. He queried the need to spend £400 on repainting and said he would be willing to undertake the work for £200 including materials. He also asked if the boxes were to have a use for the community such as defibrillator. NTR responded that the question of use had been raised at several PC meetings, but no suggestions had ever been received from residents. DP suggested they be used as an information point for walkers/visitors to the valley and NTR asked if he would volunteer to look into this. DP to action. CM to email historical photos to Simon Oakley for website/PO box use.

With regard to the defibrillator, it was felt that it would be too expensive, but Simon Oakley volunteered to liaise with Chedworth about costs.

6.3 - Gritting etc

The PC will return the form for winter provision to CDC. Mike Hassman will continue to operate the snow plough. NTR said that bagged salt which was dropped last year became unuseable as it became rock solid, so felt this was not an option for this year. It was agreed that the PC would express interest taking up the CDC’s offer of 50% cost of a hand spreader. NTR said that it was really up to the community to help itself as far as possible as support from CDC was limited – gritters are unlikely to come along the valley because of steep gradients and poor access due to parked cars (in Calcot and at Fossebridge).

6.4 Calcot Parking Area

NTR stepped down from the Chair for this discussion which was then chaired by GKM.

GKM summarized the issue stating that there had long been a problem with parking at the bottom of Calcot and on many occasions vehicles such as the dust cart had difficulty turning around. NTR had therefore flattened that area to help alleviate this problem. NTR reported that he had talked to several residents from the bottom of the hill before carrying out the work and they were all in agreement that something should be done.

However some residents felt that there should have been a formal consultation before any work had been carried out.

CM remarked that cars were always parked all over the grass, so what was the difference?

DP and CS questioned the current ownership of the land and stated that they had found documents through an internet search which showed that the land at the bottom of the village and the triangle at the top had been registered as a Village Green (refs VG 21 and 22) with the Registration Authority.

DP asked what was the situation regarding maintenance of this car parking area and GKM said that the PC would have to consider what to do and then consult the residents..

MC queried what the additional liabilities were for the PC of having car parking on the land. He also drew attention to the CDC advice that as the land was under PC control no planning permission was required to carry out necessary work.

ND said that it was important that the PC should make sure they understood the full implications and extent of these Village Green areas. He volunteered to investigate further.

GKM summarized the debate, saying that there was a general feeling that it was useful to have a flat parking area (as opposed to cars having to be parked on the steep and sometimes muddy bank). There had been some failure in communication and any work on the village greens would be fully discussed by the PC and then with the residents before being carried out. The PC will now give further thought to the issues of risk, maintenance and legal responsibilities which pertain to this Village Green land and investigate the practical implications. GKM to report back to PC.

NTR thanked GKM for chairing the discussion and resumed the Chair.

**7. AOB**

VD reported that notification had been received that works were to be carried out on repairing the A429 bridge at Fossebridge in July. Traffic signals will be in operation.

ND reported that the issue of the diversion of the footpath from Pindrup had now been resolved – Mr Griffiths had set forward a new proposal which was presented to the meeting. It was a variant on the currently used route. The proposal was supported and ND was asked to contact the PROW team to support the new diversion.

VD asked if the PC could clarify the situation regarding the usage of fields at Far peak as a caravan site – it seems as if the land is being used more frequently and by much greater numbers of campers. ND to investigate the regulations to see if planning permission is needed.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.