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Little Comberton Parish Council

2023/11

Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Monday 3rd April 2023, 7.00pm Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: L Haycock, C Rabbette, N Smithson

Clerk/RFO: Nicola Harding

In attendance: One parishioner

1. Apologies

Received from Cllrs Dermont & Jamieson, who were on holiday.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

3. Parishioner's Comments

One comment had been received, as reported under item 7.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 7th March 2023

Proposed Cllr Rabbette, seconded Cllr Haycock, all in favour to approve the minutes as a true record.

5. Progress reports from Parish Activities - brief updates:

- a. Lengthsman: Cllrs have approved the appointment of a new Parish lengthsman for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024, following a positive site meeting with Cllr Jamieson. On receipt and completion of 2023/24 contract paperwork from WCC, the new appointment will commence work in the Parish. *Action: Clerk.*
- b. Highways: No updates had been received from the senior drainage engineer at WDC regarding new surveys of the drainage system at the Pershore Road end of Orchard Drive, however Cllrs noted that some investigation works appear to have been recently undertaken. A site visit had been carried out by WCC on Elmley Road outside Nash's Farm, where cobbles had become loose on the kerb edge, however upon further inspection, some of the cobbles were missing. Tarmac has temporarily been used to fill the gaps and WCC agreed to check their stock for potential, suitable replacements, so that they may be reset and secured in place. It was also noted that the purchase of cobbles from a reclamation yard may be an alternative option if suitable replacements cannot be sourced by Highways. *Action: Clerk to liaise further with BB at WCC Highways.*
- c. Queen's Memorial planters: It was agreed to provide further updates at the next meeting when leads will have been pursued further.
- d. Airband poles: It was reported that wires had now been connected to the newly erected telegraph poles along Wick Road, despite assurances received that the poles may be removed. Given that the Parish Council had also been in communication with Airband's CEO raising concerns regarding the visual impact of the poles, it was agreed that a formal request be submitted from the Parish Council requesting clarity as to why this action has been undertaken. *Action: Clerk.*
- e. King's Coronation: £200 funding had been received by the Parish Council from Wychavon District Council, which had been forwarded to the Sports & Social Committee to fund a street party/picnic event on Sunday 7th May in Orchard Drive. A road closure request has been submitted on 15th March to Wychavon for a planned closure between 1-5pm.

6. District and County Councillor's reports: There were no reports to share at present.

7. Local bus service

A concern had been received from a parishioner regarding the deterioration of the local bus service from Little Comberton to Evesham & Pershore. The daily service has seen significant changes in recent times in the frequency and length of journey times, which has become increasingly difficult for those parishioners who are reliant on this service and do not have access to cars. Cllrs agreed that the current level of service is not sustainable or meeting the needs of those who most need it, and there are concerns therefore that this is resulting in isolation in terms of access to essential services in neighbouring towns. It was agreed therefore to seek advice from County Cllr Hardman for further discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to summarise concerns and request any guidance from Cllr Hardman.

8. Planning

W/22/01053: The Manor House: Conversion of existing barns to single residential dwelling – a decision remains pending.

W/23/00375/00376/LB: The Old Thatch – Rebuild and extend kitchen, add new obscured glass window to upstairs bathroom, rebuild and extend garage/workshop, replace existing windows. Comments were submitted for consideration on 12th March and there are no further updates at present.

W/23/00358/HP: Ringsmere Orchard – Ground floor extension to existing house for dining, gym, utility and car park: plans had been circulated on 24th March and a discussion ensued. It was agreed that there are no objections to the application in principal,

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however, on balance, it was agreed to raise some comments in terms of suggested improvements to the local habitat and overall footprint of the proposed car parking area.

Action: Clerk to summarise the discussion and forward to Cllrs, ahead of formal submission to WDC by 14th April.

Cotswold National Landscape Board: The Board's officers have produced a draft revised Neighbourhood Planning position statement and requested feedback, if any, by 13th April. Cllr Rabbette provided a summary of the context, guidance and recommendations received and it was agreed that these statements provided a common sense approach and therefore no submissions were necessary on behalf of the Parish Council.

9. Finance

a) Current Balances at 28th March 2023

Current Account:	£6,491.88
Deposit Account:	£4,941.88
TOTAL	£11,433.76

b) Payments to report:

LCSSC: Coronation funding (WDC)	£200.00
Salary: March 23	£362.70
Clerk's expenses: March 23	£12.00
VHT: March hall hire	£13.00
TOTAL	£587.70

*Income to report:

20/3/23 Wychavon DC: Coronation funding	£200.00
17/3/23 Wores CC: Lengthsman invoice January 2023	£156.00
23/3/23 Wores CC: Lengthsman invoice February 2023	£156.00
TOTAL	£512.00

10. Correspondence

- WDC A reminder from the Elections Team had been received, regarding the close of nominations for Parish elections at the very latest, on Tuesday 4th April by 4pm. *Action: Clerk to forward updates from WDC expected on 5th April, for publication by Cllrs on the parish noticeboards.*
- WCC Notification had been received of instances of unauthorised and illegal works on the Worcestershire Highway. These works were to install vehicular dropped kerbs on the public footway outside of private properties. If it is observed, suspected or there are notifications of works being undertaken on the Worcs Highway that are not approved by Worcestershire County Council, it is requested that a report be submitted via their website ([Tell us about a road, highway or travel route issue | Worcestershire County Council](#)), emailing at customerandcommunity@worcestershire.gov.uk or by calling the Highways and Transport Control Centre on **01905 845 676**. Parishes are reminded that Ringway Infrastructure Services (RIS) are the only contractors currently authorised by WCC to complete this type of work.

11. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda:

It was reported that there had been a water leak in Wick Road on the morning of 3rd April. Severn Trent had attended and operated a road closure, circulating a message to local residents informing of a loss of water pressure and further updates to follow upon completion of investigative works. As not all Cllrs had received this message, it was agreed to circulate an update via the village Gmail account in order to update parishioners.

- 12. Date of Next Meeting:** Annual Parish Meeting - Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.00 pm, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. *Cllrs agreed to meet at 6.45pm to sign new Cllr declarations ahead of the public meeting, following the election period on 5th May.*

Signed

Date.....

Chairman