

**2020/04**

**GREAT COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7pm held via Zoom

1. **PRESENT** – Cllrs K Collingwood, S Inglis, A Lavell, K Barnes and S Hamilton, one parishioner, County Cllr A Hardman and District Cllr T Rowley
2. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllr H Peart
3. **MINUTES** - Cllr Lavell raised a point regarding the January minutes and would be amended accordingly: “ **PRIORITIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL** – Cllr Lavelle suggested two specific plans but the council, collectively and individually, decided that they wanted no plans, so Cllr Lavelle’s plans were not discussed”
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Barnes – Rooftop Group
5. **MATTERS ARISING**
  - a) Lengthsman – The clerk advised that limited LM duties could now resume, having previously been stopped because of the Covid-19 situation. The clerk was requested to submit a Risk Assessment for approval by CALC. This has now been done and approval granted for the LM to resume duties.
  - b) Highway Matters:
    - Grass Verges – Communication had been received from WCC advising that cutting of verges has already started. Contractors had been advised to keep cutting to a minimum without any risk to safety.
  - c) Police – The clerk advised there had been no crimes reported, and the general feeling is that the crime rate is down generally
  - d) Footpaths- A request was made parishioners at the beginning of 2020, requesting stiles to be replaced by gates. This has been left with the Footpaths Officer to work with landowners on this. Cllr Hamilton reported that of late, a number of walkers not familiar with the area had been leaving gates open, which is a cause for concern with regard livestock, and not sticking to footpaths / rights of way
  - e) The New Homes Bonus – Cllr Inglis reported that the Chairman of the Village Hall will be reviewing the situation with regard tenders and proposals for the VH, hopefully in time for the next parish council meeting
  - f) Rooftop Housing – Cllr Barnes reported that the new housing officer is working from home, along with other employees. Signage to close the playground has been placed on the gates. There is a problem in Hands Orchard with a barking dog and has been reported to the Dog Warden.
  - g) Tree Warden – Cllr Barnes advised that there was someone in Hands Orchard who may be interested and offered to speak to him in the first instance.
  - h) War Memorial – The clerk had put in a Pre-Grant Application and awaiting feedback from the War Memorials Trust.
  - i) Smartwater – Cllr Lavell reported that the roll-out of SW kits was being carried out with the SW officers although there was an issue with the distribution list (now rectified). There are 6 spare kits with the clerk. With regard signage, lengthy discussion took place regarding the size of the signs which were suitable for Great Comberton. It was considered that A4 size was too small to be notices, with A1 / A2 being too large. It was agreed that A3 size would be more suitable.

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## 6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr Hardman reported:

- Grass Cutting - to be cut 5 times a year within the 30mph zones but suspects that Quay Lane won't be cut and suggests that it would be helpful if residents can keep that cut themselves. (Note, Quay Lane has been cut 1m from the road. Rural cutting will be undertaken twice a year with an aim to aid biodiversity. Concerns were raised by Cllr Hamilton that in some areas, heavy rainfall on long grass often pushes the grass onto the road. Cllr Hardman reported that the weather plays a heavy part on the grass cutting programme and any safety hazards should be reported and a further cut could be carried out if necessary
- Smart Water – following on from the discussion regarding the SW signage, burglary rates are reduced with proper signage and supported our decision for the A3 size
- Adult Social Care – peak of the virus in Worcestershire with only 58 patients in the two acute hospitals with just 6 in intensive care. At the peak out of 179 care homes in the county, 62 had the coronavirus, this has now reduced to 44 with the virus. There have been a lot of fatalities, more in the care homes than in the hospital. There is an adequate supply of PPE which the County has purchased to the cost of £600,000 and approximate 5 weeks stock.
- Highways maintenance programme was scheduled to start on 5<sup>th</sup> April but works have been slow to start because of the social distancing measures and safety guidelines that need to be followed
- Bonfires – a request has been made generally for residents to refrain from having bonfires because of the high risk of getting out of control as the weather has been so dry, as well as problem for those with respiratory problems
- Household waste sites are scheduled to re-open shortly

## 7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT - Cllr T Rowley reported:

- There is no longer a District Cllr for The Combertons but because of the current Covid-19 situation there no byelection for some time. In the meantime, Cllr Rowley will be covering the ward.
- There is a new Chief Executive, taking over from Jack Heggarty when he retires in July
- The majority of staff at WDC are now working from home with senior management rotating working from the Civic Centre
- Council meetings are being carried out virtually
- General waste and recycling collections have been carried out as normal. There was a fear that fly tipping would have been a major issue, but this has not been the problem at first thought
- Most of village have excellent volunteer networks, as do the Town Council. Only issues seem to have arisen with regard delivery of some prescriptions

## 8. PLANNING

- 19/01629 – land south of Greenfield – *Appeal dismissed*
- 19/01841 – Hollyoak Nursery – new agricultural building – *Approved by WDC. Brief introduction by Cllr Rowley with regard background with this application. There is to be a meeting with MD of Hayloft and parish councils to agree routing and signage in and out of the site – delayed because of the Covid-19 situation*
- 19/02674 – Land off Pershore Road, Gt Comberton – *approved by WDC*

- 20/00075/FUL Great Comberton Golf Club – attenuation ponds – concerns were raised after noticing that the plan for foul drainage disposal had changed from being discharged into an on-site treatment plant to being connected to the mains. We felt that this should have been a separate and new application, and more important than the attenuation ponds, to which we had no objection. Cllr Rowley referred to previous communication from Allens to WDC Planners, advising that their intention was to have a sewage treatment plant at the site, but had been told by the Environment Agency that this could only be considered if there was no option of using the Severn Trent mains. The EA had been advised by Severn Trent that there was no problem with connecting to the mains. A further communication from Severn Trent dating back to March 2019 refers to foul water drainage, and the 150-caravan park will generate low seasonal flows and there were no concerns with the mains receiving the additional flow. Also, that the scheme they were considering relates to Health and Safety rather than the capacity. Severn Trent also made the point that they did not have a history of flooding incidents in the area although they do have a number of mitigation measures in place and **that a connection will therefore be acceptable**. Cllr Rowley felt we had been badly let down by both the EA and Severn Trent and that there was a strong enough case to report this to OFWAT. Cllr Hardman was of the opinion that storm water drainage off the hill has not been taken into consideration which will certainly increase the flow into the mains. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Severn Trent and that we ask residents to report any foul water issues to Severn Trent but to be specific and to identify those which are foul water rather than those which relate to surface water. Cllr Collingwood would draft a letter to Liz Garfield at Severn Trent in the first instance with a request going out to parishioners to report foul water drainage issues to Severn Trent and to advise the clerk
- 20/00679 – Garage at Baytree Cottage – it was considered that the proposed design of the roof was not in keeping with the design of the village and that whilst there was no objection to the garage where it is proposed, but that the design of the roof was not in keeping with the architecture of the property or the village and that we would prefer to see a *nor This application has since been withdrawn*

**9. FINANCE**

(i) Payments for approval/made since last meeting:

Clerks Expenses		SO	12.00
Clerks Salary		SO	126.15
Insurance		719	150.52
Subscription costs		720	217.22
Electricity Kiosk		721	40.79
Weedkiller		722	50.00
Lengthsman Services			
Zoom Subsc.		724	19.98
Clerks Expenses		SO	12.00
Clerks Salary		SO	126.15

(ii) Accounts had been circulated to Cllrs

(iii) Current Account Balance (less u/p cheques): £705.56

Deposit Account Balance: £3,858.61

(iv) Year End Accounts 2019/2020 – These had been circulated to parishioners for consideration These were approved by all, proposed Cllr Collingwood, seconded Cllr Lavell – all in favour. The clerk would now arrange for the internal audit to be carried out

**10. SCHEME OF DELEGATION:** A document to enable the clerk in conjunction with the Chair/Vice Chair or two Cllrs to make urgent decisions if necessary, i.e. a financial payment, planning application decision during the current Covid crisis. This had been circulated to Cllrs and all Cllrs were happy with the content

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**11. CORONAVIRUS / COVID 19 UPDATE:** Cllr Collingwood and Cllr Hamilton both reported that there was a strong community network that were working together to help those that are self-isolating / vulnerable. Cllr Hamilton was assisting with some urgent prescription deliveries. It was felt that most people had a good network of assistance from immediate neighbours and that there were a number of local businesses that were offering delivery services of basic provisions, meat, fruit and vegetables as well as take-a-way services etc.

**12. ALLENS CARAVANS COMMUNICATION LINKS** – A suggestion made to build up a communication link with Allens, to be able to follow activity. Cllr Rowley and the clerk referred to a similar 'liaison committee' with local parishes which worked very well. Cllr Hamilton was happy to be involved with Cllr Collingwood also offering support. The clerk would communicate with Allens to open up this line of communication.

**13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS/DISCUSSION :**

- Cllr Collingwood reported that current users of Brailles Orchard are having problems getting hay off the orchard, and if they cannot get sheep in there because of the fencing, the quality of the grass diminishes if you only have horses grazing it. This raises the concern that if we have no livestock grazing the field, we would have to pay for mowing and this would not make Brailles Orchard a viable asset. This would have an impact, particularly on the Flower Show. It was agreed that in the first instance we should speak to the Cooks to establish where the fencing is required. Cllrs Collingwood and Inglis agreed to speak to the Cooks.
- Cllr Lavelle paid thanks to Cllr Hardman for his contribution to the Smart Water fund

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday July 8th at 7pm