

**2020/08**

**GREAT COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7pm **held via Zoom**

1. **PRESENT** – Cllrs K Collingwood, S Inglis, A Lavell, K Barnes, S Hamilton and H Peart, one parishioner, County Cllr A Hardman and District Cllr T Rowley

2. **APOLOGIES** – None Received

**CO-OPTION** - Formal approval to co-opt Mr Geoff Hodgson as Cllr, proposed Cllr Inglis, seconded Cllr Lavell, all in favour. Mr Hodgson took his place as co-opted Cllr

3. **MINUTES** from the previous meeting were approved, proposed Cllr Peart, seconded Cllr Hamilton, all in favour

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Barnes – Rooftop Group

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a) Lengthsman – The lengthsman is now back to working full duties. He had been in contact with the clerk to report overhanging branches opposite Kents Farm. The whereabouts of the landowner is now known but enquiries would be made to contact him. As a safety aspect, the lengthsman would be asked to cut back in this instance.
- b) Highway Matters:
  - Pot-Holes – a number of potholes had been identified in Quay Lane. It was agreed that they should be reported by the Cllr who was aware of the exact location. Cllr Hamilton referred to an area of the great Comberton Road, just before Allens Caravans that was starting to ‘dip’. She would report this.
- c) Police – Nothing to report
- d) Footpaths- Cllr Hodgson referred to stiles on some of the footpaths, being difficult to manage for some walkers. The clerk advised that these had been reported to WCC, who was to work with the landowner. The clerk would chase this up but due to the current situation many services are limited. A point was raised that the stile opposite Bank Cottage has been chewed by horses and does not fill the gap in the fence.
- e) Rooftop Housing – The clerk had arranged for signage to be placed at the playground advising that it was closed due to the Covid pandemic. Since then, Cllr Barnes has tried to get in touch with Rooftops Housing Office for Great Comberton, so (a) seek their plans on re-opening the playground (for which they are responsible for), and (b) to ensure that they are having regular safety checks on the equipment with an annual full safety report. It was agreed that we should not be taking responsibility for the play area. *Since the meeting the clerk has had a conversation with Alex Powel (Rooftops) and was told that our enquiry would be passed to the department responsible for playgrounds.* One resident from Hands Orchard has been ill in hospital and now returned home. The Volunteer Centre has been working with Cllr Hamilton with regard dog walking and gardening. There has been support from a neighbour looking after the dog, but there have been complaints of the dog barking when left alone.
- f) Tree Warden – The clerk would send contact details of the Tree Officer at WCC to the resident who was interested in the voluntary position
- g) War Memorial – Nothing to report
- h) Smartwater – The clerk was asked to chase the SW team for the signage

**2020/09**

- i) Severn Trent – we are still awaiting feedback from Severn Trent regarding capacity of the foul sewage system. The clerk to chase Severn Trent
- j) Allens Caravans – as agreed at the last meeting, the clerk had emailed Allens Caravans to see if they would be interested in opening up the lines of communication and to have regular meetings with management and Cllrs. No reply has been received. The clerk would write a letter in case the email address had changed.

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

- Covid cases continue to decline although there has been some increase on the borders of the County
- A plea has been put out to encourage use of the Hopper bus as he is worried about the viability of the service
- It was suggested that his full report should be circulated to residents as it contained a lot of useful information

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

- He shared concerns that guidance re the opening of playgrounds, salons, halls etc, and that some of it was excessive with the amount of paperwork and updates. With playgrounds the difficulty would be on the policing, but suspected that the guidance from the Government should be considered as just guidance and not mandatory. He agreed with the parish council that we should not be forced to take responsibility for the paly area at Hands Orchard
- WDC are not fully back to normal and still holding virtual meetings and will be for some time yet
- There are no forthcoming planning applications for Great Comberton

**8. PLANNING**

- 20/00075 – Great Comberton Golf Club – attenuation ponds *awaiting decision by WDC*

**9. FINANCE**

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

Clerks PAYE		727	94.40
Clerks Salary		SO	126.15
Clerks Expenses		SO	12.00

- (ii) Accounts had been circulated to Cllrs
- (iii) AGAR Part 2 – Internal Audit – this had been carried out with no issues raised
- (iv) AGAR Part 2 – Exemption Statement – this was presented to Cllrs for approval – proposed Cllr Hamilton, seconded Cllr Lavell - all in favour.
- (v) AGAR Part 2 – Section 1 Annual Governance Statement – this had been shared with Cllrs for consideration. No issues raised – proposed Cllr Inglis, seconded Cllr Collingwood – all in favour
- (vi) AGAR Part 2 – Section 2 Accounting Statements – these had been presented to Cllrs. No issues, proposed acceptance Cllr Hodgson, seconded Cllr Inglis – all in favour

## 2020/10

Cllr Hodgson asked the question with regard the electricity costs for the kiosk / book exchange (the light is on permanently). This had been overlooked in the past. The clerk would arrange for the supply to be disconnected

- (vii) Current Account Balance (less u/p cheques): £6,256.51  
Deposit Account Balance: £3,859.66
- (viii) Clerks Overtime – a request was made by the clerk for an addition 5 hours pay to cover additional hours since the start of the Covid Pandemic back in March. This was approved, proposed Cllr Collingwood, seconded Cllr Hamilton – all in favour

The clerk advised the parish council that we would need to review our financial position and maybe re-allocate some of our reserves. This would be considered at the meeting in September

10. **CORONAVIRUS / COVID 19 UPDATE:** Cllr Hamilton reported that there was a large support network within the village for anyone that needed help and she felt comfortable that 'Track and Trace' is working.
11. **NEW HOMES BONUS** - further to previous consultation with parishioners with improvements to the village hall being the most popular suggestion. Initially a large project was considered to include moving of the overhead cable, improvements to the car park and refurbishment of the outside toilets. However, this has now been re-scaled and would only include the work on the toilets, at a cost of £11,000 using the NHB monies available of £4702 and the difference being met by the Village Hall Committee. This was considered by Cllrs to be a good use of funds and was supported by Cllr Rowley. Proposed Cllr Inglis, seconded Cllr Collingwood with thanks paid to Colin Cummings for his hard work on obtaining tenders. The clerk would write to him
12. **BRILLES ORCHARD** - Discussion had taken place over the past few weeks with regard the grazing of Brilles Orchard and the problems with fencing. In order for the Orchard to be grazed the fencing needs to be improved. Cllr Collingwood had organised a quote but the clerk did remind the council that we should really be looking for more than one quote. A suggestion was made that we should approach the agents for the Church (whom we rent from) as to whether they would consider selling the orchard. We could apply for funds from the Community Legacy Grant Fund as a possibility of allotments, community orchards etc. The clerk would contact the agents
13. **DEFIBRILLATOR** - communication had been received by Cllr Collingwood as to whether there was any need for a second defibrillator. It was agreed that there was no need for another one.
14. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS/DISCUSSION :**
  - Budget / Reserves – to be an agenda item in September
15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm