

2020/16

LITTLE COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from a meeting of the Parish Council, held via Zoom on Tuesday July 21st 2020 at 7pm

OPEN FORUM – Nothing to report

PRESENT – Chairman C Rabbette, Vice Chairman L Haycock, Cllrs S Britten, N Jamieson, A Dermont and P Morris, District Cllr T Rowley

1. APOLOGIES – were received from Cllr M Kibble and County Cllr A Hardman
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None declared
3. MINUTES from the previous meetings were approved
4. PROGRESS REPORTS
 - a) Highway Matters
 - Pool Close – Following the result of the camera survey and the gas pipe which had been laid through the surface water discharge pipe in two places, this has now been rectified. It could be concluded that over a number of years this has been one of the main problems with flooding in Pool Close. The parish council now needs to put pressure on Worcs. County Council to carry out the re-surfacing of Pool Close as soon as possible.
 - VAS Sign – Maintenance Contract – now that we have had the VAS sign working properly, we need to establish an ongoing service maintenance contract. Two options have been put forward and after discussion it has been agreed that we accept the silver level of cover at a cost of £123 plus VAT per annum. Cllr Dermont reminded the council that batteries were not included.
 - Lay-by Pershore Road – Following the email that was sent round to residents, to remind them that the lay-by in Pershore Road was privately owned, the situation had improved slightly but some residents had continued to park there. Whilst the ‘owners of the lay-by would be more than reasonable with anyone wishing to use the lay-by, they did consider it would be courteous if permission could be requested, especially as there is a need for ‘disabled access’ to one of the adjacent bungalows. Advice was sought from the parish council with regard wording for a permanent sign but it was felt that the parish council would support any signage that the ‘lay-by’ owners considered appropriate
 - Road Surface Elmley Road – Following the accident by a cyclist on the Elmley Road, the road surface has now been made good
 - b) Footpaths/Rights of Way – Nothing to report.
 - c) Lengthsman – Cllr Jamieson reported that he had met with the LM about a month ago. A request was made to clear overgrowth around the VAS sign
 - d) Planning -
 - Fence at Orchard View, Manor Lane – Cllr Rowley reported that he had sent an email asking if the Notice had been served
 - Appeal The Old Rectory has not yet been determined
 - 20/01209 – Well Furlong – change of use for 2 combined Shepherd huts – lengthy discussion took place. Concerns were raised that whilst classed as ‘mobile’ the units were connected to mains services. The application form was incorrectly filled out, classing the units as residential. The clerk had raised this with the planning officer but was advised that this nothing to be concerned about as

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the application detailed temporary, holiday lets. It was agreed that the parish council would comment and ask for a condition to be imposed, stipulating that this was limited to holiday lets only and would be a temporary structure.

- SWDP – Nothing further to report but Cllr Rowley advised that work is still progressing although delays in finalising some of the reports may well affect the projected timetable
- e) BHCG – Cllr Britten reported that:
- Affordable housing application in Gt Comberton had been refused
 - Allens Caravans is well under way
 - Gypsy site on Eckington / Bredon Road had been approved but would be well screened
- f) Ditches/ Water Courses:
- Drainage Junction Orchard Drive / Pershore Road – the clerk would chase WCC with regard the collapsed drain issue in September
- g) Trees / Tree Warden:
- Tree Warden – the clerk had advised WCC of the new Tree Wardens details
 - Tree, Elmley Road – this tree has now been removed
- h) Minerals Extraction, Charlton - Cllr Rowley report that a steering group (from Charlton, Fladbury, Crophorne and Wick Parish Councils – RAGE ‘Residents Against Gravel Extraction’) had met with Tarmac. Charlton seems to be a favoured site with a planning application expected in 2021 with access to be taken from the A44. There are concerns that if Charlton is approved, this will give Tarmac a foothold in the Avon Valley, which could have an impact on neighbouring villages in respect of traffic, noise, dust and pollution.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Rowley reported that:

- Packing Plant at Mathon has been at the centre of a Covid outbreak and WCC / WDC have been working alongside owners. Guidance is being shared throughout the county
- Virtual Meetings are still being held at WDC
- WDC controlled car parks remain free until 3rd August
- Devolution is now a main topic of discussion and debate with the District and County Councils currently working at 2-tier and to decide if to move to 1-tier

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – County Cllr Hardman had sent a report in his absence – copy attached

7. FINANCE – Payments for approval / made since last meeting:

Grass Cutting (1/2 Yr)	724	125.00
Church Grass Cutting	725	125.00
Lengthsman May	726	156.00
Internal Audit	727	120.00
Underpayment Salary 2019/20	728	143.14
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Clerks Salary	SO	326.56
Lengthsman June	729	144.00
Tree Removal	730	50.00

- a) Village Hall Insurance – a recent valuation has been circulated with the beneficiary being the VHMT. Cllr Morris still had concerns over complete and/or shared ownership between the VHMT and parish council. It was agreed that the clerk and Cllr Morris should arrange a meeting with the solicitors who drew up the original lease for clarity. Cllr Morris reminded the council that there was no parish council

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representative on the Village Hall committee

c) **AGAR Part 2 Annual Audit**

- (i) Certificate of Exemption - proposed agreement Cllr Rabbette, seconded Cllr Haycock
- (ii) Internal Auditors Report – this had been circulated to all Cllrs. No issues were raised
- (iii) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statements - Discussed and approved by Cllrs, proposed Cllr Britten, seconded Cllr Jamieson - all in favour
- (iv) Section 2 – Accounting Statements - Approved by Cllrs, proposed Cllr Morris, seconded Cllr Rabbette – all in favour

8. **HEALTH & SAFETY** – Cllr Morris reported that it is hoped the village hall will re-open on 1st October for the Art Group on a very restricted basis. The Village Pantry want to continue into the Autumn but some adjustments will have to be made with regard storage
9. **COVID-19 UPDATE** – The Village Pantry is still offering a well-attended, popular, and highly valued service to the community, offering a range of fruit, vegetable, cakes etc and face masks.
10. **CRIME:**
- Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing further to report
11. **MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS / DISCUSSION:**
- **Grass Verge Cutting** – following a recent incident where a resident collapsed and suffered injury whilst cutting the grass verge outside their property, a request was made for future grass cutting to be carried out by the parish council. This would need to be looked into fully before any decision is made and options are being researched.
12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 1st September

Little Comberton Parish Council,

July Meeting report,

County Councillor Adrian Hardman.

- The decline in the number of cases continues. Four new cases have been confirmed in the last 7 day period. Five patients with confirmed COVID-19 are currently in Worcestershire acute hospitals.
- Reassurance messages to people living and visiting the Malvern area have been issued following the outbreak on a farm in Herefordshire.
- More non-essential shops and hospitality venues continue to open. District Councils (working in partnership with the County Council) have measures in place to enable safe shopping accepting that people need to be responsible for their own actions
- The Worcestershire COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan has been published: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus_covid-19
- The Test and Trace service is live. A team of Environmental Health Officers and Public Health Practitioners will provide this locally in Worcestershire.
- The Worcestershire COVID-19 Local Engagement in Outbreaks (LEO) Board, which I am a member of, has met for the first time.
- The level of infections in Care Homes in Worcestershire remains stable. We now only have ongoing outbreaks in 3 of the county's care homes.
- As the school year comes to a close more than 9 out of 10 schools in Worcestershire have consistently been open. The numbers of pupils returning to school, in the selected year groups, has been close to or above the national average throughout the return to school period.
- Planning is underway for the wider reopening of schools in the Autumn, which is very tricky around the hill. .
- Social distancing continues to be a challenge in the 11 household recycling centres which are currently open. Traffic management measures are being reviewed to ease congestion around these centres at peak times.
- A new business support programme, Here2Help Business has been launched this week http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help_business
- More than 1 million items of PPE have now been distributed by the Council since the beginning of the lockdown.

Key Service Areas

Adult Services

- COVID-19 restrictions have enabled a review to commence on how service provision could be delivered differently in future, building on learning from customers during the crisis, for example some people with autism like the interactions with their worker using video links.
- The market is changing and there may be less care home provision in the future and more care at home
- As with school capacity issues, adherence to social distancing guidance will impact on Day Care capacity provision and we are currently engaging with customers about how we can meet their needs in the future

Children's Services

- Positive feedback received from parents, teachers and pupils regarding the experience within schools since the re-opening.
- Worcestershire is the leading authority in the West Midlands for contact with children in Social Care.

Community Services

- Planning for phase two of the reopening of libraries is underway. Six libraries are currently open to the public, with restrictions. Additional libraries are expected to open early next month.
- Registration Services continue to deliver birth registrations and registrars are officiating at weddings.
- The Here2Help Contact Centre has scaled its opening times to reflect the reduction in calls for assistance. Options around extending the service on a more permanent basis, are in development working as a multi-agency partnership with all partners and enabling the community and voluntary sector to enhance their support to people
- Working together across District and County councils we continue to make contact with shielded individuals whilst the cohort is being advised about changes to advice and guidance. It is wise to keep this in place for future spikes in infection rates

Economy & Infrastructure

- Traffic volumes have plateaued at around 80% of pre-lockdown levels, which is about where we would expect them to be with the schools out.

Workforce and Training

- Staff continue to work from home, if they can work from home. Access to offices is for essential business need only.
- County Hall has now been certified as COVID Secure and site-specific protocols have been agreed, which includes that access by anyone to the building must be authorised in advance.

Finance

- An additional £3.5 million of funding has been announced this week by Government for Worcestershire County Council.

Local Issues

- Please use the bus if you can.
- I am sorry but the surface dressing four Wick Rd was delayed I think for the second time and we now have a new start date all the 27th of July.
- I would suggest that the parish gives some thought to the question of grass cutting within the speed limits since otherwise it would appear that we would only cut it twice which I don't think is correct but that's what Barry says.
- I'm sorry not to be with you tonight but I do hope you'll understand since as I said at the last meeting the 21st of July is tricky since it is my wife's birthday.

COVID-19 STATISTICS

Official statistics and information are available on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

The methodology for reporting positive cases changed on 2 July 2020 to remove duplicates within and across pillars 1 and 2, to ensure that a person who tests positive is only counted once. Numbers of lab-confirmed positive cases throughout this website now include those identified by testing in all settings (pillars 1 and 2).

Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 are different kinds of data taken from coronavirus testing. Swab tests for Covid-19 are carried out in hospitals and surgeries as well as in the community all the time. Each pillar comes with specific coverage goals and a set purpose from one or several organisations:

- Pillar 1 data comes solely from the tests carried out in Public Health England (PHE) lab and NHS hospital settings.
- Pillar 2 tests come from out in the community, such as care homes.

The publication of pillar two data will show a marked increase in the number of our confirmed cases in Worcestershire. This data has been available to Public Health and the Director of Public Health for some time and has been closely monitored throughout. In Worcestershire, our figures remain stable and comparatively low for the Midlands. “

Some key statistics being:

Number Testing Positive in Worcestershire	2,371
Number Testing Positive in UK	292,552

UK	16/7
Number of Tests carried out on the day	202912
Daily Increase in Cases	642
Cumulative Deaths	45119

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?

Reminder that the Here2Help website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help is the first point of contact if people want to offer assistance or gain support. The other option is the telephone contact number which is staffed 8am-6pm 6 days a week – 01905 768053.

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on www.carersworcs.org.uk or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports#history>