

GREAT COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday September 9th 2020 at 7pm held via Zoom

1. **PRESENT** – Cllrs K Collingwood, S Inglis, A Lavell, K Barnes, S Hamilton and G Hodgson, County Cllr A Hardman and District Cllr T Rowley
2. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr Peart did attempt to join the meeting via phone but there were connection issues
3. **MINUTES** from the previous meeting were approved, all in favour
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Barnes – Rooftop Group
5. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) Lengthsman – The lengthsman is continuing to check the village and no issues have been raised
 - b) Highway Matters:
 - Ditch Issue on main road – this has previously been dug out but the size of the pipe limits the flow of surface water. County Cllr confirmed there was just a 6” pipe across the residents driveway, and due to climate change heavy rainfall is always going to cause a problem. He further reported that as there is no flooding to properties, this will not be a priority action for WCC
 - c) Police – Nothing to report
 - d) Footpaths- Nothing further to report
 - e) Rooftop Housing – Cllr Barnes reported that the temporary ‘closed’ signs at the playground had been torn down. It was further reported that there were problems with parking. Cllr Barnes said that there was garage parking facilities but these were not used. This would be taken up with Rooftop and the clerk will chase them regarding inspection / signage at the playground
 - f) Tree Warden – The clerk had sent email to the resident interested in the volunteer position of Tree Warden and awaiting a response,
 - g) War Memorial – we are waiting to hear back from War Memorials Trust regarding grant funding. It was agreed that the LM would be asked to trim the area around the memorial and Cllr Collingwood will sow some seeds to see if they can get established
 - h) Severn Trent Foul Water - Sewerage Issues – Severn Trent had been contact with regard the problems experienced by a number of residents and a response is awaited. The clerk will chase them
 - i) Allens Caravans – the clerk had made contact with Allens Caravans and they were happy for informal meetings to take place, as a means to open up communication between them and the parish council. They will be in touch
 - j) New Homes Bonus – Village Hall Toilets – the application for NHB funds to be spent on improvements to the outside toilet facilities was approved by WDC
 - k) Brailles Orchard -:
 - Asset of Community Value – it was agreed that the parish council apply to register the orchard as an Asset of Community Value. The clerk reported that there may be some restrictions on this being approved as it is ‘church land’ but the parish council were in agreement we proceed with the application. Proposed Cllr Hamilton, seconded Cllr Barnes
 - Fencing – lengthy discussion took place regarding the costs involved in providing stock proof fencing at Brailles Orchard. The parish council does not have surplus funds to finance the fencing with a previous suggestion being made that there may be some funds available from

other village organisations to help with the cost. One Cllr questioned whether there was any advantage in the parish council continuing to rent the orchard, with arguments made against this stressing that it was a great asset to the village. The clerk raised the point that, should other organisations ‘donate’, they would need to check their own constitutions to see if this was permitted first. The clerk had also made contact with CALC regarding this issue as there are certain restrictions on spending money on church buildings / land. They are seeking legal confirmation on this and will report back. Taking on board the heated debate that took place, the clerk advised that this discussion should be halted until we are in receipt of the full facts and re-visit this at a later date.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr Hardman reported:

- Covid cases are starting to increase, as previously predicted
- It was encouraging to see schools re-opening and school transport is working well
- He acknowledged there was a lot more work to be done in respect of flooding
- Footways – he is pressing for funds to be made available for improvements to the footway in the village

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT - Cllr T Rowley reported:

- Planning reforms – two new pieces of legislation “ Planning for the Future” and “Changes to the planning System”. The latter is being considered and will be dealt with by WDC, but the “Planning for the Future” is an opportunity to consult and respond – a deadline of 30th October. A ‘briefing’ is scheduled for 7th October (via Zoom) and parish councils are encouraged to ensure at least one Cllr attends. Cllrs Collingwood and Hamilton said they would represent Great Comberton

8. PLANNING

- 20/00075 – Great Comberton Golf Club – attenuation ponds *approved by WDC*
- 20/02115/STRETR – Street Trader Licence Application – the parish council were in agreement they had no comments to make

9. FINANCE

(i) Payments for approval/made since last meeting – proposed approval Cllr Collingwood, seconded Cllr Barnes – all in favour

(ii)

Clerks Salary	SO	126.15
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Additional hours	729	57.70
Lengthsman June	730	156.00
Clerks Salary	SO	126.15
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Lengthsman July	731	90.00
Brailles Orchard	732	112.50
Clerks PAYE	733	94.60
Clerks Salary	SO	126.15
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
ICO	734	40.00

- (iii) The clerk stressed the importance of having a 3-year budget forecast which should be considered ready for the next meeting in order for the budget to be put together for approval January. This should include a future maintenance reserve.
- (v) Clerks Salary – in line with NALC recommendations, increase had been made to clerks salary Scales. This would mean a backdated payment to the clerk was due of £23.49

10. CORONAVIRUS / COVID 19 UPDATE: Cllr Hamilton reported that everything had gone quiet but we would have to see how this changes with the predicted second wave. She commented on the excellent support from local villages, Pershore and surrounding areas

11. VILLAGE CONSULTATION – A number of responses had been received back to the parish council which included traffic calming. Eight residents from Great Comberton and two from outside the village had responded. The clerk has already contact the Community Speed Watch team to see if GC would be suitable to be considered for the scheme

12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS/DISCUSSION - nothing further to add

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 7pm via Zoom