

2021/01

GREAT COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday January 13th 2021 at 7pm **held via Zoom**

1. **PRESENT** – Cllrs K Collingwood, S Inglis, A Lavell, K Barnes, S Hamilton, H Peart and G Hodgson, County Cllr A Hardman and District Cllr T Rowley
2. **APOLOGIES** – None were received
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Barnes – Rooftop Group. Cllr Hamilton – Flower Show Chairman
4. **MINUTES** from the previous meeting were approved, proposed Cllr Barnes, seconded Cllr Hamilton, all in favour
5. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) Lengthsman – The clerk reported that the LM was now having to revert back to the previous Covid Risk Assessment. Cllr Collingwood reported that the LM had attended to the footway between Quay Lane and the War Memorial. . Cllr Hodgson commented that a lot of residents had not seen the LM. The clerk advised the council that he does prefer to work early mornings, but stressed on Cllrs that if there were any jobs they wanted him to attend do they should let the clerk know. Cllr Lavell suggested we ask the LM to attend our Annual Parish Meeting, to introduce himself to Cllrs – the clerk would arrange this
 - b) Highway Matters –
 - Drainage / Joes Farm – this had now been jetted. Cllr Inglis reported that a near neighbour had been in communication with WCC for the past 12 months regarding this, and it now appears that the drain at the end of Church Lane has now collapsed, probably due to the volume of traffic that has to ‘move over’ at a pinch point in the road. WCC Highways have now got involved and advised the drain will be repaired. Cllr Hardman reported that there was a high number of collapsed drains in the County but that it would be attended to as soon as possible.
 - Footways – Cllr Hodgson referred to stretch of footway between Whiteoaks and Stowe Cottage – surface in poor condition and breaking up – Cllr Hamilton advised that this had been reported in the past, but she would do it again, the clerk would also report it again. Cllr Lavell commented that it was too narrow for a wheelchair. Cllr Hardman advised that this was on the list, but added that WCC would want to ‘re-kerb it and we would lose the grass strip.
 - c) Police – Nothing to report
 - d) Footpaths/PRoW – Nothing to report
 - e) Rooftop Housing – Cllr Barnes reported that:
 - Playground – he had carried out a recent inspection and the notices were now vey faded and open. The clerk asked if playgrounds were now forced to close, to which Cllr Rowley commented that it was at the discretion of who ever owns/manages them, and is of the understanding that if they are Covid secure they can remain open. The clerk said she would ask Rooftop what their current policy is. Cllr Collingwood reminded the council that it is a Rooftop responsibility and that we should be careful not to take on something that they should be doing.
 - Road Closure – He had distributed notices before Xmas advising residents of the forthcoming road closure in Church Street later in the month. He found it a useful opportunity to speak to residents regarding any concerns. He was able to put together a

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- report for Rooftop outlining the many problems the residents of HO have, ranging from dog fouling to parking on the grass. Some of the issues have been responded, and the RT officer had advised that a parking scheme may be possible. A copy of the report would be circulated to Cllrs.
- f) Tree Warden – Nothing to report
- g) War Memorial – The clerk was awaiting to hear back from the stone mason.
- h) Severn Trent Foul Water - Sewerage Issues – Cllr Hardman referred to new legislation which may benefit Great Comberton – details to follow once outcome has been reported. Cllr Collingwood reported that Allens Caravans own contractors had made the connection in the road and it may have been an illegal connection.
- i) Brailles Orchard -:
- Fencing - Cllr Collingwood reported that she had been in communication with the residents who use the Orchard and had been advised they had no intention of using it for stock for the immediate future, so this removes any immediate pressure to get the fencing replaced. Cllr Hodgson was appreciative of their offer to clear some of overgrowth in the one corner. Cllr Peart felt that it would be better to leave it as it is.
 - Contribution from Flower Show – Cllr Lavell had previously suggested that the Flower Show should make a financial contribution for use of the Orchard, which had proved controversial in the past. Cllr Collingwood reported that we had asked the ‘Church’ previously to re-consider the rental increases and had now reached a mutually agreed arrangement with them. Cllr Hamilton also commented that the parish council had been renting the field since 1980 and considered that, as parish councillors, we represent the views of the whole community and should improve facilities and services. Brailles Orchard is the one amenity that we provide for the village and felt that any other user groups should also be asked. First proposal put forward is to ask the Flower Show for a £50 contribution per annum, proposed Cllr Lavell, seconded Cllr Hodgson – 5 Cllrs were against this proposal. The second proposal put forward was whether we ask other users for a voluntary financial contribution, if they so wish. Cllr Peart proposed this, seconded Cllr Inglis – all in favour

6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr Hardman reported:

- Covid cases are increasing significantly with a peak expected with 2-3 weeks in the County
- All non-elective surgery has been cancelled
- Covid data is now being put on the WCC website
- Three Counties ground will be the new site for rolling out the vaccines with the top 4 groups to be covered by mid February
- Subject for approval, a proposal of a 2.5% in crease in council tax will be made, which is in line with the pension increase
- Flooding - The clerk referred to an email she had received from a resident in Russell Street, with video footage of a deluge of water. Cllr Collingwood felt this was down to the excessive rainfall during that period and that the culvert was overflowing due to the sheer volume. It was felt that the culvert is not big enough, but the clerk would go back to the resident and ask for clarification if this was an isolated incident and if he could monitor the situation for us. The clerk would send the video to Cllr Hardman
- Footway – White Oaks / Stowe

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT - Cllr T Rowley reported:

- He attended a planning committee meeting last week and there were no issues affecting Great Comberton

- Business Support – they are awaiting information / guidance from central Government on what support there is for local businesses following the third lockdown
- Parking in Elmley Castle – he referred to the recent parish council meeting in Elmley Castle which reported on the increase in traffic visiting the village and parking in Main Street, seemingly to walk Bredon Hill during the latest lockdown. This is being investigated and the police will be getting much firmer with those ‘breaking the rules’
- SWDP Review – Alternative sites are being looked at, with a consultation to take place on the alternative sites only – expected 1st March.
- Minerals Local Plan – Examination in Public – Cllr Rowley gave evidence at the hearing on behalf of the villages (Fladbury, Crophorne, Charlton and Wick) – Avon Valley. Recommendations on modifications to the plan will be sent to WCC to be included and then re-submitted

8. PLANNING: It was noted that Cllr Hamilton attended a ‘planning briefing / guidance’ session organised by WDC and found it very useful / constructive with regard the sort of comments that should be made when responding to a planning application and encouraged all Cllrs to participate if they get the opportunity.

- 20/02155 – Church House, Church Street – rear single storey and attic wing, widen vehicular access, erect fencing and provide additional parking, relocate garage – *approved by WDC*
- 20/02678 – Mill Croft – demolition of garage and erection of new detached garage and extended drive surface – *awaiting decision by WDC*
- 20/02702 – Mill Croft – proposed change of use of land for the siting of two temporary holiday accommodation units with parking area – *lengthy discussion took place, referring to the fact that WCC Highways had commented on the application, asking for the application to be deferred and speed checks carried out. Cllr Rowley advised that there were policies in favour of tourist facilities. He advised the parish council to stick to the main issues i.e. highways. Concerns raised by the parish council, in the main concentrated on the shared access and visibility onto the road from the access, but in addition the effect this would have on neighbours with regard privacy and the setting of a listed building. A proposal was made to object to the application based on the discussion that took place. Cllr Collingwood would draft a response for circulation to Cllrs before submitting to WDC. Cllr Rowley gave general advice that with any application, it is important to stick to the main points otherwise you run the risk of diluting any comments made. Cllr Inglis proposed an objection to the application, seconded by Cllr Barnes – all in favour of the objection.*

The Clerk reported that she had received notification of planning application 20/02800 after the agenda had been published and was too late to be included. A question was asked as to whether this should be consulted upon via delegated powers or a separate meeting held. Cllr Collingwood felt that it did warrant a separate meeting, which the clerk would organise – 25th January at 6.30pm was agreed.

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9. FINANCE

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

Lengthsman October	740	144.00
BHCG Subs	741	30.00
Clerks PAYE	742	96.80
Clerks Salary	SO	129.26
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Lengthsman November	743	144.00
Lengthsman December	744	144.00
Toilets Refurb (on hold)	745	12540.00
Clerks Salary	SO	129.26
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00

(ii) To consider clerks request for an increase in paid hours from 13.5 to 17.5 per month: Cllr Inglis commented that this should be reviewed again in 2 to 3 years' time. The clerk was happy to keep a record of hours worked for the next few months and the hours would be reviewed after 6 months before the extra hours are applied. It was suggested that small working groups may help with managing work load.

(iii) Budget / Precept – The clerk had drafted a budget for consideration and lengthy discussion took place. There was a realisation that there was a need to increase the precept considerably to enable the parish council to run effectively. Cllr Hamilton had made some slight amendments and also included a 3-year forecast. A proposal was made by Cllr Hamilton to approve the budget, seconded Cllr Inglis – all Cllrs in favour. Cllr Collingwood thanked all those involved with the budget. As a foot note Cllr Hamilton referred to the amount of time taken up with commenting on planning applications, in particular Allens Caravans.

10. CORONAVIRUS / COVID 19 UPDATE: An email had been circulated round the village and there is a lot of village / community support in place for parishioners that need help

11. BROADBAND – Cllr Hamilton reported that she had received a quote from Open Reach. It would appear that The Combertons, Bricklehampton and Elmley Castle are being grouped, with an indication that this may also include Cropthorne (with their link with Bricklehampton) – also including sewerage stations. Villages are all talking together with WCC and Open Reach. It is still looking positive but at the moment we are waiting for Open reach to correct their quotes and listings

12. VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENTS - the clerk had received the invoice for works carried out to the outside toilet block, but a number of issues had been raised by the VH committee and sent to the contractor to action. The payment is on hold until confirmation has been received by the parish council that works have been carried out satisfactorily. The clerk reported that she had received the shortfall from the VH and she had transferred from the deposit account to the current account the VAT element of the invoice, which will be returned once the VAT has been re-claimed.

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS/DISCUSSION - nothing raised

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Planning Meeting 20/02800 – Pool House 25th January 2021 at 6.30pm, and Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 following the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place at 6.30pm via Zoom.