

LITTLE COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from a meeting of the Parish Council, held via Zoom on Wednesday 10th March 2021 following the Annual Parish Meeting

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

1. **APOLOGIES** – None received

OPEN FORUM: - There were no parishioners in attendance

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None declared

3. **MINUTES** from the previous meeting of February 2nd 2021 were approved, proposed Cllr Morris, seconded Cllr Dermont – all in favour

4. **PROGRESS REPORTS**

a) Highway Matters

- Lay-by Pershore Road – Communication from the residents of Pershore Road to WCC is being copied to the parish council. Cllr Hardman reported that he is awaiting communication from the residents to substantiate their claims and that they should seek their own legal advice.
- VAS Sign – Awaiting the new pole to fix the VAS sign to. It has been approved by WCC but Covid and flooding issues throughout the County have had an impact on manpower available for non-urgent issues.

b) Footpaths / Rights of Way – Cllr Dermont reported that the owner of Grange Farm asked for a message to be distributed asking parishioners not to use the farm access from Wick Road as a Public Right of Way (as a H & S aspect – this is a working farm). He has no objection to local people using the farm track. Also, a polite request that dogs are kept on a lead at all times when entering a field with sheep, and to keep well away from ewes, particularly during the lambing season. A message to be distributed via the village Gmail service.

c) Lengthsman – Cllr Jamieson had nothing to report.

d) Planning – nothing to report.

e) BHCG – Cllr Britten had nothing to report – next meeting scheduled for April

f) Ditches/ Water Courses – The clerk reported on tree planting and ‘leaky dam’ initiatives as an option to alleviate flooding

g) Village Broadband / Website– Cllr Jamieson reported that he is waiting for new guidance to come through but feels confident that we are within the ‘qualifying window’. He would update all those that had signed up for the scheme. He also advised that there is a new ‘roll out’ expected in April.

h) Village Signs – *The clerk to speak to WCC for new signs at the entrances to the village.* Cllr Jamieson reported that the LM had ‘power washed’ the white gates which, whilst not perfect, were an improvement. It was suggested that a test patch with paint be tried out in an inconspicuous place to see if that worked to ‘fill in the grainy’ finish on the gates making them easier to clean in the future.

i) Dogs:

- Waste Bin at Memorial Garden – It was agreed that the litter bin at the Memorial Garden be removed completely. It was considered that it would be too large to be re-located elsewhere as a dog waste bin and it is hoped that it can be stored at the VH for use at the Street Market in the future. Cllr Hardman kindly gave us £200 towards the cost of a new dog waste bin. Suitable sites for

the new bin on Wick Road (which would appear to be the obvious location) close to footpaths used by dog walkers are being investigated and will be considered at the next meeting.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Rowley reported:

- SWDP Review Regulation 18 – a further consultation looking at alternative sites only, with a sustainability appraisal. It was reported that there is nothing that would affect Little Comberton, although there may be some need for consideration to be given to the site at Pershore College (Section G)
- County Council elections are scheduled for 10th May, with a bi-election for a District Cllr to cover Little Comberton
- Traveller / Travelling Show People Consultation – Consultation expected May 2021. WDC are slightly ahead with their allocation of sites, which gives strength to any future proposals
- Boundary Commission – the next phase of the consultation is to look at the number of ward members – the parish councils will be consulted on this important consultation
- Council Tax has been frozen for the fourth year in a row.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Hardman reported in brief (full report attached):

- Broadband – awaiting for instruction from the Government for the next scheme / roll-out
- ‘Bridge to Nowhere’ – Tewkesbury – this has been approved
- Flooding – More funding to be available for flood alleviation projects
- Footways – More funding to be available for footways (pavements)

7. PLANNING:

- 20/02607LB & 20/02606– The Old Manor House, erection of swimming pool enclosure – *to consider includes Listed Building Approval - there were no objections to this application*
- 21/00257 – the Old Rectory - Single storey extension to south east including a boot room and greenhouse. Erection of two storey structure to contain a passenger lift - *there were no objections to this application*
- 20/02826 – Tythe Court, Manor Lane – erection of Menage / Stables - *this application was received too late to be considered at this meeting and would be included as an agenda item at the April meeting – however it was agreed that a site meeting was necessary*

8. FINANCE –

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

Signage		756	59.52
Lengthsman January		757	168.00
Notice Board		758	10.85
Clerks Salary		SO	333.08
Clerks Expenses		SO	12.00
Clerks PAYE		759	5.40

Account Balances:

Current Account: £4986.24 (less unrepresented cheques)

Deposit Account: £4930.51

(b) Grass Cutting Contribution to Church – The clerk reported on the response from the Diocese and that there would appear to be some discretion allowed with regard to ‘an open space’ element rather than the fabric of the church – it was therefore agreed that the parish council continue to make the financial contribution for the grass

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cutting costs on the grounds that the parish council is supporting the maintenance of an important and publicly accessible open space at the heart of the village which enhances the setting of church - all Cllrs supported this decision.

9. HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report

10. AGRICULTURAL CHANGES POST BREXIT – Cllr Dermont reported that he had spoken to a local landowner who thought that interaction with the parish council was a good idea due to the fact that environmental issues will become increasingly important in the coming years. The local landowner was aware that future subsidies are partly dependent on the upkeep of footpaths / PRow and also local environmental issues, but there was not much information available at the moment. It was agreed that this should be a 'regular' agenda item and that dialogue / communication would be encouraged between the parish Council and landowners / farmers.

11. NEW HOMES BONUS – The application for the funds for trees had been approved and received. Consultation would take place in due course re location of the trees

12. CRIME:

- Neighbourhood Watch – The parish council are looking for a replacement co-ordinator – a note to be circulated to parishioners

13. TREES:

- Barnie Court - WCC had approved removal of the tree, subject to approval of Risk Assessment and suitable replacement tree – *in hand*
- Mistletoe – it was reported to the parish council that a lot of mistletoe was evident in the trees on Wick Road – there was a serious risk of losing the trees affected. It was agreed that the parish council would seek volunteers to help with the removal of the mistletoe, with a village resident offering to take the mistletoe away.
- Tree Warden – to seek volunteer assistance for the role of Tree Warden

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION / AGENDAS:

- Planning Application 20/02826 – Tythe Court – erection of stables /menage
- Volunteers – to seek volunteer support from within the community for a new parish Cllr, NW co-ordinator handyman and Tree Warden
- Public Rights of Way / Footpaths – *Request from Cllr Jamieson*

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 6th April 2021