

LITTLE COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting, held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7pm at Little Comberton Village Hall

1. **PRESENT** – Cllrs: N Jamieson, A Dermont, L Haycock, C Rabbette and S Britten, plus one observer.

Cllr Haycock was voted Chair for the meeting – all in favour

2. **APOLOGIES** were received from District Cllr E Kearsley

3. **CO-OPTION** – No applications received.

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

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No parishioners present

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)** – Minutes from previous meetings 4th and 24th November 2021 were approved, proposed Cllr Rabbette, seconded Cllr Dermont – all in favour

5. **PROGRESS REPORTS**

a) Highway Matters :

- White Gates – the clerk to chase WCC for response to previous communication
- Drainage, Corner of Orchard Drive – Clerk to chase WCC

b) Footpaths/Rights of Way – Cllr Jamieson reported that he had put down some gravel on muddiest parts on path at Old House Farm. The clerk to liaise with footpath warden for any updates.

c) Lengthsman – The LM had made a formal request for an increase in his hourly rate from £12 to £13 per hour. This was agreed as acceptable by the parish council but on the condition that communication with Cllr Jamieson is improved and an agreement for specified days / hours being met

d) BHCG – Cllr Britten reported that there had been no communication from the BHCG for several months. She would make enquiries with other member parishes to establish the situation.

e) Ditches/watercourses – Old House Farm – this has been raised again with Cllr Britten reporting that whilst there is a drain cover there is no outlet pipe into the adjacent ditch. The clerk would liaise with officers at WCC

6. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT** – No report received

7. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT** – No report received

8. **PLANNING:**

- Hayloft – Cllr Haycock reported on a site visit at Hayloft before Xmas with representatives from Great Comberton and Elmley Castle parish councils. Concerns raised:
 - regarding HGV vehicular movements turning ‘right’ out of the site and travelling through the villages. A promise was made that signage would be put in place directing traffic to turn ‘left’, but this, as yet is not in place.
 - Pedestrians (workers) walking on the highway with no verges / street lighting and difficult to see
 - Concerns raised regarding the ‘conduct’ of the adjacent neighbour at their Pensham site
 - Concerns raised to be shared with District Cllr, Emma Kearsley

2022/02

- 21/02486 – The Orchard, Wick Road – *approved by WDC*
- 21/02701 – The Old Rectory, Pershore Road – erection of residential annexe following demolition of outbuildings and wall – *there were no objections to this application with Cllrs being in full agreement that this was a fine design and in no way detrimental to the Conservation area*
- 21/02596 – Cornerways, Pershore Road – 2-storey extension and detached garage – *the parish council discussed this application and had no objections to this application.*

Following extensive discussion, Cllrs felt that it would be useful if there was some specific guidance from WDC planning officers as to what they are looking for from parish councils in responding to planning applications. The clerk would take this up with the District Cllr with a view to organising some sort of 'workshop / training' covering the commenting on planning applications.

9. FINANCE / GOVERNANCE –

a) Payments for approval / made since last meeting –

Clerks Salary	SO	306.32
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
VAS Sign Mtce	781	152.03
Lengthsman September	782	144.00
Dog Waste Bin	783	621.06
Donation	784	50.00
Half Yr Grass Cutting	785	125.00
Half Yr Grass Cutting	786	125.00
VH Hire	787	13.00
Cheque cancelled	788	
Lengthsman Oct	789	144.00
Clerks PAYE	790	228.45
Clerks Salary	SO	306.12
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Cheque cancelled	791	
VH Hire	792	13.00
Xmas Wine	793	82.00

Proposed approval of payments and accounts to date Cllr Jamieson, seconded Cllr Rabbette– all in favour

Account Balances:

Current Account: £6787.61

Deposit Account: £4,930.00

b) Budget / Precept 2022/23 – the clerk had circulated a draft budget proposal to Cllrs for consideration with a proposed increase of 4.5% (an increase of £2 per annum for a Band D property). In the main this is to cover the expected increase in general running costs for the parish council, i.e. insurance, subscription and clerks expenses, but also to be able to increase 'reserves', for example tree maintenance and a general 'maintenance' reserve. All Cllrs were supportive of the proposals made, proposed acceptance Cllr Jamieson, seconded Cllr Rabbette with no objections

9. HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report

10. RED MAY TREES - following the granting of the final amount of New Homes Bonus (£119) to be used to complement the existing Red May Trees within Little Comberton, an initial suggestion had been made that two could be placed at the junction of Orchard Drive / Wick. However, objections had been received from two residents. The parish council took on board the reasoning for their objections but considered that the

grass verges between the footway / pavement and the highway were not 'private property' and that a Red May on each corner at both junctions (with Pershore Road and Wick Road) would enhance the approach where the attractiveness of the street scene has been diminished by the removal of mature trees in recent years.

The parish council are fully aware that the opinion from two residents were against this proposal, however there may well be other residents that would support this suggestion. It was therefore agreed that a consultation with the whole village would be the appropriate way forward, with an opportunity for parishioners to suggest alternative locations. Communication would be made via email and leaflet drop to those known NOT having access to email.

11. BROADBAND UPDATE - Cllr Jamieson reported that he had met with Airband, and that work will commence at the end of January with a new box to be placed in the verge opposite the junction with Orchard Drive / Pershore Road. It is envisaged that works will be completed during April.

12. VACANCIES / MEETINGS:

- Cllr Vacancies – There are currently two vacancies for Cllrs with a third as of May 2022. It was agreed that it may be useful to produce a New Year newsletter thanking volunteers from within the community for their contributions, and to include an update of the role of the parish council
- Clerks Vacancy – this has been advertised within the local community and wider afield.
- Meetings -moving forward, it was agreed that the parish council, where possible, meet monthly, with the exception of August and December (unless in the case of emergency).

13. CORRESPONDENCE – The clerk reported on the proposed Boundary Review with a proposal that Little Comberton is to be moved to the Fladbury Ward, and separated from Great Comberton. This information was received by the clerk too late to be included as an agenda item for this January meeting but will be added for discussion on the February agenda

14. MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS / DISCUSSION:

- Policy Review – in hand / on going
- Cllr vacancies – to continue promote
- Open Space – a suggestion made to seek a small piece of land, either to purchase or lease with on a 'peppercorn' rent to be used as an 'open space' for parishioners to meet up, sit and chat. To consider possible options for consideration

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st February 2022 in the Village hall at 7pm