

DRAFT

2022/08

LITTLE COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting, held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7pm at Little Comberton Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs: N Jamieson, A Dermont, C Rabbette and S Britten, no parishioners.

Cllr Jamieson was voted Chair for the meeting – all in favour.

CO-OPTION: An application for co-option had been received from Adam Haycock and was circulated to members. All Cllrs were in agreement to formally co-opt Mr Haycock as Cllr at the April meeting of the Parish Council.

1. **APOLOGIES:** There were apologies received from Cllr L Haycock, DCllr Kearsey and A Haycock.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none declared.
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes from the previous meeting on 1st February 2022 were approved, proposed Cllr Dermont, seconded Cllr Britten – all in favour.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

There were no parishioners in attendance, however Cllr Dermont shared a matter received from a parishioner prior to the meeting. A concern had been raised regarding a short cut being taken from Wick Road on private land to the rear of Pool Close gardens and farmland towards the public footpath. It was suggested that a post positioned in the middle of the strip of land in question, with appropriate signage, may be sufficient to deter walkers.

Actions: Cllr Dermont agreed to contact the landowner and discuss the above. Cllr Jamieson to assist with the signage.

4. PROGRESS REPORTS:

a) Highway Matters:

- Drainage, Corner of Orchard Drive – Matter ongoing, therefore it was agreed to retain as an agenda item.
- A46 Road Safety Campaign: No further reports at present, however Cllr Haycock has agreed to continue to provide updates as and when received.

b) Footpaths/PRoW: The latest report received from the footpaths warden was shared and discussed. It was agreed that Cllrs Jamieson and Rabbette would look at the areas referred to, to establish if there are safety or access issues.

Action: Clerk to forward details to Cllrs Jamieson and Rabbette, who agreed to action during the last week in March.

c) Lengthsman: No communication has been received for some time. Some debris by the Church had recently been cleared, though it was unclear by whom. Cllrs discussed potential options in moving forward.

Actions: It was agreed that the Clerk would attempt further contact with the lengthsman to establish his current position, ahead of potential requests for help from the Parish Council being extended to the village. It was also agreed to check contractual obligations with Worcestershire County Council Lengthsman Scheme.

d) Ditches/watercourses - Old House Farm:

Recent works completed by WCC to remove tree roots blocking the drain, appear to have made a positive impact during periods of recent, prolonged rainfall. It was agreed to monitor the situation and retain as an agenda item for the next meeting.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT:

County Cllr Hardman was not in attendance, therefore no report.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT: DCllr Kearsy provided the following update ahead of the meeting:

- Planning: Help was extended to the Parish Council to review any representations agreed on current planning applications ahead of their submission.
- Boundary Commission: The recent motion was passed unanimously at Wychavon District Council and will now go forward to the Boundary Commission. Cllr Kearsy had reviewed concerns raised by the Parish Council and recommended that they be forwarded to the Boundary Commission for their consideration. Any further proposals to be forwarded to Cllr Kearsy.

Cllr Jamieson extended thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for Cllr Rabbette's excellent responses to the boundary changes. All members agreed that additional comments received by Cllr Haycock should also be included in a final response on behalf of the Council.

Action: Cllr Rabbette agreed to modify a final draft, which Cllr Jamieson will email to parishioners with a short introduction, including the relevant link to make comments. Clerk to make a final submission on behalf of the Council ahead of the closing date for consultation – 21st March 2022.

7. PLANNING:

- 21/02701: The Old Rectory, Pershore Road - erection of residential annexe following demolition of outbuildings and wall.

A decision remains pending by the District Council, and a discussion ensued regarding the current proposals and queries raised by Wychavon District Council. All members agreed that the revised annexe application is a vast improvement on the annexe design which was previously approved, and as such, unanimously agreed to reiterate their support for the application, which the Council believes is not detrimental to the Conservation Area and compliments the integrity of the existing dwelling.

Action: Cllr Rabbette to formulate a response on behalf of the Parish Council and forward to DCllr Kearsy for clarification. Clerk to forward a final response to WDC once this draft is completed.

- 21/02596: Cornerways, Pershore Road: *Application approved.*
- 22/00105: Ringsmere Orchard, Main Road – Replacement garaging:
Cllrs considered the new application and plans received. Although the new proposals will not be out of keeping as a structure, a discussion took place regarding uncertainty surrounding the proposed access and potential for future business use. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft comments to this effect and circulate for comment to Cllrs and DCllr Kearsy's checks, ahead of the end of the consultation period on 15th March.

Action: Clerk to draft a response and forward to WDC once members are in agreement.

8. FINANCE / GOVERNANCE:

a) Payments for approval / made since last meeting:

Proposed approval of payments, to include two village hall payments @ £13.00 for hall hire in January/February 2022.

Proposed Cllr Jamieson, seconded Cllr Rabbette, all in favour to note current balances and approval of village hall payments.

Clerks Salary	SO	306.32
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Lengthsman Nov & Dec	794	288.00
VH Hire	795	13.00
Dog Waste Bin Emptying	796	93.11
Clerks Salary	SO	306.32
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
	797	
Cheque cancelled	798	
Trees - College	799	142.49
Clerks Salary	SO	306.32
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00

Account Balances:Current Account: **£6,393.29**Deposit Account: **£4,930.39****b) Barclays Bank mandate - Approval to agree required mandate changes:**

The Clerk provided an update with the changes Barclays require in terms of notification of change in Clerk details, cancellation of previous Clerk salary payment and removal/addition of Cllr signatories.

Action: As an existing signatory, Cllr Rabbette agreed to make contact with Barclays to initiate the changes.

9. TREES: Feedback on recent tree planting

- Red May Trees: It was confirmed that the tree planting had been successfully completed since the last meeting. Cllr Jamieson proposed that a card of thanks be sent to those volunteers who assisted with the planting, and Cllr Dermont agreed to action this.

Cllr Jamieson confirmed that two requests had been received from parishioners to dedicate a memorial plaque to two of the trees in memory of a loved one, with potential interest from a third parishioner. The Council agreed that the selection of a tree could now proceed and small plaques purchased by the two confirmed parishioners.

Action: Cllr Jamieson to relay the Council's approval to two interested parishioners; Cllr Britten to confirm interest with a potential third parishioner.

- Trees, Orchard Drive: Cllrs provided feedback following an initial quote received for the remedial action of the split pear tree and pruning of the remaining pear trees. All members were in agreement that although County Cllr Hardman had kindly offered to finance this, the quoted figure was high and therefore not the best use of public money. Concerns had also been raised that once trees are planted, they need to be maintained and if a tree requires removal in the Parish, it should be replaced with another.

A second quote had therefore been requested, which the Clerk reported to the meeting:

Removal of damaged tree to ground level, grinding out resulting stump and replanting of new tree @ £150.00 (no VAT charged.)

The quote proposed a liquid amber replacement tree in keeping with the area, providing suitable autumnal colour.

Proposed Cllr Jamieson, seconded Cllr Rabbette, all in favour to accept the second quotation and to also request advice regarding the remaining trees and any pruning which may be beneficial. Confirmation was also requested that the proposed replacement tree would definitely be in keeping with the street scene.

Action: Clerk to contact tree specialist and County Cllr Hardman, providing further updates to members once received.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence had been received from Airband regarding a notice of intent to install electronic communications apparatus in Little Comberton and Great Comberton. No formal planning application or notice of prior approval is required for this development, and there is no right of refusal or fee involved. The proposal incorporates the installation of 7 wooden telegraph poles 9m above ground across Little Comberton and Great Comberton, to carry fibre cable between spans and linking from current BT poles. Stake notices have been placed, letters are being sent to local residents and cabling installation is anticipated to commence in April. Airband intend to hold meetings for Parish Councils and parishioners in the near future to provide further information – details to be confirmed.

11. MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS / DISCUSSION:

- Policy Review – in hand / on going
- Cllr vacancies – to continue to promote
- VAS signage – Cllr Dermont confirmed that although a quote for an identical VAS sign had been assured for the meeting, this had not been received, therefore this will be pursued and included on the agenda for the April meeting.
- Planning training – The Clerk circulated details of forthcoming planning training to be delivered by Worcestershire Calc. Questions were raised regarding how appropriate this training may be in demonstrating an understanding of the role of the Parish Council in the planning process. It was agreed therefore that the Clerk would establish which, if any, of the three proposed sessions would be most appropriate and if there would be any training offered in the future tailored more specifically to the role of Parish Councils.

Action: Clerk to contact Calc and provide further updates.

Cllr Rabbette requested that sincere thanks be extended on behalf of the Parish Council and all the village for the 23 years of hard work demonstrated by the outgoing Clerk. All members were in agreement that the Clerk had served the Parish with great dedication and as such, a card and village collection would be forwarded in recognition of this effort. *Cllr Rabbette to action.*

It was also noted that thanks be extended on behalf of the Parish Council for Cllr Haycock and A Haycock's contribution and input to the recent village newsletter publication.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 5th April 2022 in the Village hall at 7pm.

Availability of Cllr Haycock to be confirmed to act as Chair at the meeting, as Cllr Jamieson offered his apologies for this date.

To agree the May date of Annual Parish Meeting to coincide with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.