

Great Comberton Parish Council

2022/1 Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Wednesday 2nd March 2022, 7.00pm Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: Cllrs Hodgson, Inglis and Lavelle

Clerk/RFO: Nicola Harding

In attendance: One parishioner

In the absence of Chair Collingwood and Cllr Barnes, Cllr Hodgson was voted as Chair for the meeting – all in favour

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Chair Collingwood, Cllr Hamilton, Cllr Holton and District Cllr Kearsley.

2. Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations made.

3. Parishioner's Comments: Meeting adjourned for public question time

A parishioner was in attendance to raise concerns regarding current experiences with Airband Community Internet. Small wooden posts with notices attached had recently appeared, indicating the proposed sites for new pole installations. It was reported that no official communication had been received regarding proposals ahead of the posts being erected, therefore a direct objection had been lodged by the parishioner. Assurances have subsequently been made that this would not proceed without first attempting to obtain licenses to use existing infrastructure. The scheme's manager had confirmed that permissions are still being sought for use of existing poles where possible, ahead of alternative methods being explored. A discussion ensued and Cllrs stressed that this was a Worcestershire County Council initiated scheme, and is therefore not endorsed by the Parish Council.

The Clerk shared correspondence recently received regarding a notice of intent to install electronic communications apparatus in Little Comberton and Great Comberton, the detail of which was shared by the Chair along with a pole location map. It was noted that no formal planning application or notice of prior approval is required for this development, with no right of refusal or fee involved. The Clerk also informed the Council that an Airband Community Liaison representative had made contact to arrange a convenient date and time to provide a Zoom or face to face update to Parish Councils regarding the civil works involved in the scheme, where a member of the project build team would also be available to answer specific questions. Although a separate online Webinar session is also offered to members of the public, Cllrs were united in their agreement that a single face to face public meeting is preferable, whereby a thorough village discussion with Great Comberton residents can take place.

Action: Clerk to put forward this request to Airband and confirm a date with members once agreed. Cllr Inglis to advertise on the village email thereafter.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 23rd December 2021

Proposed Cllr Lavelle, seconded Cllr Inglis, all in favour, to approve the minutes as a true record.

5. Brailes Orchard: Cllr Lavelle informed the meeting that a Zoom gathering of interested parties, separate to the Council, had met to discuss potential proposals for enhancing and developing biodiversity within the Parish, and how this may be extended to Brailes Orchard. Potential suggestions were discussed as possibilities to gradually develop this process.

A request had also been received from a parishioner, requesting to use the orchard for parking at their forthcoming wedding in June. There were no objections from Cllrs present to this request, however it was noted that this may affect the hay production which would require clarification first. Cllrs were in agreement that a meeting would be sensible with all interested parties to discuss the management of Brailes Orchard to ensure future clarity and transparency. Cllr Inglis proposed that without the knowledge of Cllrs Collingwood and Hamilton who were not in attendance, it would be sensible to postpone discussions until a future meeting when they were present. To this effect, it was agreed to exercise the Clerk's delegated powers outside the meeting to liaise with Chair Collingwood who would confirm the hay situation and report back to the Council.

6. Progress reports from Parish Activities: brief updates:

a. Lengthsman: It was noted that there had been little communication with the lengthsman of late with either the Clerk or Chair Collingwood, other than the submission of the December timesheet. It was agreed that the Clerk would attempt further contact to establish the current position and provide further updates thereafter.

b. Highways: The Council is awaiting a response from Worcestershire County Council Highways following Chair Collingwood's recent communications. BB has agreed to inspect the white railings around Brailes Orchard regarding additional support and restoration of their alignment and clarify their ownership. It has also been agreed that BB will explore whether permission is required for the installation of steps to provide foot access from the field leading to the village hall. Once this has been completed, further updates will be provided.

c. Police: The latest newsletter from the Rural Beat South Worcestershire Police Rural and Business Crime Team had been circulated and appended to the agenda for information.

d. Footpaths/PRoW: The new footpaths warden has completed training and will commence work within the Parish. Further updates provided under item 12, correspondence.

e. Rooftop Housing: Cllr Barnes provided a brief update ahead of the meeting, relaying that the Housing Officer had confirmed there were no issues or updates to report at present, but a request had been made by Cllr Barnes to meet for a neighbourhood walk to discuss matters relating to parking, garages and the play area.

f. War Memorial: Following the recent grant offer from the War Memorial Trust, the Clerk confirmed that the contract and relevant documentation had been completed and returned to the War Memorial Trust, along with the contractor declaration from the approved stonemasons. The Clerk had established with the heritage team at Wychavon District Council that Listed Building Consent is required ahead of works commencing, in addition to further detail from the Stonemasons, which the Clerk had requested. Chair Collingwood had also sought advice from a local conservation architect regarding this process. The Stonemasons have confirmed that in order to finalise the start date for the works, a 50% deposit will be required. (Item 9c.)

Action: It was agreed that an enquiry should be made regarding potential costs of a Listed Building application – Chair Collingwood to confirm.

g. Severn Trent: There were no further updates and Cllrs agreed that this was no longer required as an agenda item.

h. Quay Lane: *Update on legal agreement from Cllr Inglis:* A meeting had been scheduled for 18th February following the Christmas holiday period, however due to unforeseen circumstances, this had to be postponed. There are therefore no further updates at this time, however Cllr Inglis confirmed that a meeting would be rebooked in the near future, after which further information will be provided to members.

7. District and County Councillor’s reports: A report had been received ahead of the meeting from DCllr Kearsey which the Clerk shared with the Council. In summary, District and County Cllrs have been working together on the boundary commission review and County Cllr Hardman has agreed to fully brief the Parish Council on the issues, proposed solutions and the options that have been considered. Cllrs were in agreement that this clarity was needed regarding the possible implications for the proposed ward changes to the Combertons and Elmley Castle, in order to enable members to agree upon a collective response.

A full Wychavon District Council update will be provided when District Cllr Kearsey is next in attendance, but currently, the main point is that Council tax has been frozen for the fifth year running. Councillors were thanked for their recent updates provided, and are requested to make contact regarding any help or advice required.

8. Planning

W/21/01364/FUL Waterbrook House: Demolition of existing stables and outbuilding and erection of a 4-bedroom dwelling and creation of a vehicular access. *Application approved.*

W/21/01594/CU: Millcroft Proposed change of use of land for the siting of one shepherd hut for holiday accommodation. *No further updates at present, regarding the planning appeal lodged with The Planning Inspectorate 21/12/21.*

W/22/ 00199/PP: Yew Tree House: Demolition of an existing garage and erection of a domestic outbuilding in its place. *Decision pending.*

9. Finance

a) Current Balances at 1st March 2022

Business/Deposit Accounts:	£7,159.84
TOTAL	£7,159.84

b) Payments to report:

Salary: January/February 2022	£551.64
Clerk’s expenses: January/February 2022	£24.00
Lengthsman: December ’21 invoice	£144.00
Fisher German: Brailes rent 29/9-24/3	£112.50
Worcester Stonemasons deposit payment:	£1,350.00
TOTAL	£2,182.14

c) Proposal to approve 50% deposit payment to Stonemasons of Worcester @ £1,350.00 in order to finalise start date of commencement of works to the War Memorial.

Proposed Cllr Lavelle, seconded Cllr Inglis, all in favour to approve the payment.

d) Proposal to approve internal auditor for completion of 2021/22 accounts:

Proposed Cllr Lavelle, seconded Cllr Inglis, all in favour to instruct the internal auditor to complete the relevant checks for the 2021/22 accounts. *Action: Clerk to prepare the necessary paperwork in line with the external auditor requirements and liaise with the internal auditor to agree a date to hand over the relevant information.*

10. Broadband:

Cllr Hamilton had forwarded a brief report in advance of the meeting which was shared with members. Cllrs were in agreement that any proposals for a further pole installation at Stowe Cottage are unacceptable, and this had been relayed to Airband. The format of a public meeting needs to be agreed and circulated to the Parish once confirmed.

Action: Clerk to liaise with meeting provider as indicated under item 3.

11. Community Speed Watch:

A Community Speed Watch initiative has previously been explored by the Parish Council, however at the time, it had been reported that there was a considerable waiting list for training. Cllr Inglis raised the potential to explore this initiative again, to establish prospective support from the community in engaging with road safety in the village. A discussion took place regarding whether speeding is a regular issue of concern or more prevalent when there are local road closures, in addition to the previous locations which had been deemed too dangerous for speed checks by the Police. Cllr Lavelle shared traffic calming measures with members and which may be the most suitable/cost effective in the Parish. These were discussed and Cllr Inglis proposed to gauge whether there is an appetite for a community speed watch scheme first, ahead of exploring further, potential solutions. Cllrs agreed this would be a community led scheme, run by volunteers with training provided.

Action: Cllr Inglis to prepare wording to establish support of the village, circulating to members ahead of forwarding to villagers.

12. Correspondence: The Clerk drew attention to the following correspondence received:

WDC	My Parish Matters – appended to the agenda
West Mercia Police	SW Rural Beat newsletter – appended to the agenda
J Dent	Request for Council’s consideration to allow use of Brailes Orchard for wedding reception on 25/6/22 – as discussed under item 5.
WCC Senior PRow officer	Confirmation received that the approved footpaths volunteer (Andy Miller) has now attended WCC’s mandatory training for volunteers and can commence in this role. Contact details have been provided and with regards to reporting issues found on the network, WCC recommend using their reporting form Worcestershire County Council initially, as opposed to direct to AM.

Items for consideration for future agenda:

Cllr Lavelle drew attention to correspondence received from Evesham Safe Neighbourhood Team, regarding West Mercia Police’s Parish Contracts, whereby Parishes are requested to consider their top three community issues.

Action: Cllr Lavelle to circulate to Cllrs ahead of the May meeting.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

Annual Parish meeting, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Cllr Lavelle proposed to extend an invite to the lengthsman, footpaths warden and tree warden in order to provide Parish updates to residents over the course of the past year.

Action: Clerk to make contact.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman