

# DRAFT

## Great Comberton Parish Council

2022/11

### Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 7.00pm Village Hall

**Parish Councillors Present:** K Collingwood (Chair), S Hamilton, G Hodgson, S Inglis, A Lavelle and H Peart.

**Clerk/RFO:** Nicola Harding

**In attendance:** Two parishioners

#### **1. Apologies**

Received from District Councillor Kearsley.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

#### **3. Parishioner's Comments**

No parishioner's comments were received.

#### **4. Casual vacancy:** Proposal to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council by Co-option.

Two applications had been received for the Councillor vacancy, which were shared with Councillors ahead of the meeting. Each candidate was provided with an opportunity to introduce themselves and convey their interest in the role. Following a secret ballot, checked and shared by the Clerk, Councillors voted David Wilks as new Parish Councillor. Congratulations were extended to the successful candidate and thanks to the additional candidate for their interest shown and willingness to support the Parish Council in future ventures.

*Actions: Clerk to report the newly co-opted Cllr to the monitoring officer at Wychavon District Council. Clerk to forward a register of interests form to DW for completion and forwarding to WDC, in addition to all relevant new Councillor documentation regarding Council procedures.*

#### **5. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

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

#### **6. Progress reports from Parish Activities: brief updates:**

##### a. Lengthsman:

There were no reports noted at present.

##### b. Highways - BB & Community Speedwatch Scheme:

Information remains pending from the Senior Highways Engineer at Worcestershire County Council, therefore it was agreed that the Clerk would request updates regarding: visibility fencing at Brailles Orchard, surface dressing works reported and due for completion along Pershore Road and scheduled footpath resurfacing. It was also noted that parts of the road surface are cracking on the way to Eckington, therefore Cllr Hamilton agreed to take photographs to report. Cllrs also agreed that ahead of planned road closures resulting in future diversions through the village, a request be made with Worcestershire County Council to place 'no HGV's' signage at the nearest motorway junction and in Bredon, in order to deter heavy goods vehicle movements through the village.

*Action: Clerk/Cllr Hamilton.*

Following a request for volunteers to gauge interest in forming a potential Community Speed Watch scheme in the Parish, it was reported that a positive response had been received from willing parishioners. It was recommended that further information is now required in establishing the precise logistics of the scheme in practise, including the appropriate, safe location to conduct the speed checks. Cllrs therefore agreed to approach the Community Speed Watch organisation and a neighbouring Parish currently operating the initiative, in order to arrange a future meeting to which volunteers would be invited to gain awareness of the finer detail.

*Action: Cllr Inglis to arrange a meeting, details of which to be circulated to volunteers.*

c. Police: Information had been received regarding the appointment of the new Worcestershire local policing commander, as noted under item 13, correspondence.

d. Footpaths/PRoW: No items had been reported by the Footpaths Warden, however Cllr Hodgson raised a broken handrail discovered on the bridge over the brook from Church Street to Elmley Castle.

*Action: Cllr Hodgson to report location and issue online to Worcestershire County Council.*

e. Rooftop Housing: No reports had been received.

##### f. War Memorial:

Following removal of the top of the shaft and cross on 19<sup>th</sup> July, Cllr Lavelle reported that he had visited Worcester Stonemasons to request updates on progress with the repair works. It was confirmed that due to a busy schedule of additional works, repairs have not yet

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commenced, however it is hoped that this will be actioned within the next fortnight. Cllr Hodgson highlighted cracks in the remaining part of the memorial, but it was noted that the local conservation architect would provide expert advice in this regard.

g. Quay Lane: Following the Parish Council's recent application to Land Registry for a first registration of land to gain title deed for Great Comberton Quay, the Clerk reported that confirmation of receipt of the application had been received, however a significant increase in the volume of applications has seen a backlog of applications. There are therefore no further updates at present, but the Clerk confirmed she would contact the customer support centre to establish any possible updates on the application, which was submitted in July.

*Action: Clerk.*

Cllr Lavelle raised the possibility of the Council's consideration of a ladder installation at the Quayside, to assist bathers with river access. Potential locations were considered; however concerns were also raised regarding liability in the event of a potential safety issue. No further actions were agreed at present.

Cllr Hodgson reported a burnt patch of grass that had been discovered at the Quay – it was agreed that once the current ownership issue has been established, this item be revisited further to discuss the potential installation of a bollard and signage to deter such issues.

h. Broadband: As it was confirmed that Airband have gone live in neighbouring Little Comberton, Cllr Hamilton agreed to request updates to establish progress. Duct clearance works are scheduled on 10<sup>th</sup> October which has resulted in a planned road closure of the C2008 Pershore Road for three days. A recent request had been made to Western Power Distribution for their consideration in allowing Airband to add their cable to the pole near Little Orchard, thus enabling the service of high speed broadband to nearby properties, or alternatively, to consider the pole as part of their existing pole replacement programme, given its condition. The Clerk reported that confirmation had been received from WPD that the enquiry had been passed on to their tree contractors who would make further contact to arrange a survey of the pole.

*Action: Clerk to make further contact to establish dates/updates and forward to the Council.*

## **7. District and County Councillor's reports:**

District Cllr Kearsley had forwarded a report ahead of the meeting which was shared with members. In summary:

- Flower show: Thanks and congratulations were extended to all those parishioners involved in the recent successful annual flower show.
- SWDP: A further press release from the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) will shortly be in the public domain, as it goes before all three Councils later in September.
- CLG: The fourth round of the Community Legacy Grant has now been awarded – Pershore Town Council were successful in their bid for a zip wire in Abbey Park.
- Abbey Park: Greater protections of Abbey Park by Wychavon, in conjunction with the local community, have been put in place to deter further incursion attempts.
- Boundary Commission review: Final recommendations are expected in the near future – further attempts have been made by Wychavon to reconsider the revised boundaries, yet issues remain in maintaining electoral equality.

## **8. Conservation Area Character Appraisal**

Cllr Collingwood referred to a document forwarded to members regarding the potential completion of an appraisal of the village conservation area, to allow for a review of the conservation area boundary as a mechanism for offering the Parish an extra layer of protection in planning matters. Support is forthcoming from a Conservation Officer in a neighbouring authority, in addition to a dedicated officer at Wychavon District Council. The process includes a public consultation and Cllr Collingwood therefore proposed to pursue this initiative further, which was supported by all members.

*Action: Cllr Collingwood.*

## **9. Brailles Orchard**

The future management of Brailles Orchard was revisited as a village amenity and parking facility provided by the Parish Council. It was noted that such a village amenity should be available for all parishioners to use, however there are important cost implications to consider in the amount of grass-cutting involved, should the Parish Council assume responsibility for this. Following comments raised about the importance of the provision of an amenity to benefit all parishioners, it was also noted that there appears to be a misconception that the area is not readily available for all, however inevitably, the hay growing season prevents access at certain times. Consideration of using part of the acreage available was also raised when establishing the cost implications. It was agreed that the village should be consulted on the types of amenities the area could be used for in the future, but in the first instance, the Chairman proposed that precise costs of a potential mowing contract for a fortnightly grass-cut during the Summer season should be obtained. The financial implications could then be further considered with a future proposal put forward to the village.

*Action: Cllrs Hodgson, Lavelle & Hamilton agreed to collaborate to establish the costs incurred for a mowing contract and potential financial implications, to report back to the next meeting.*

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## 10. Bonfires

Complaints had been received during the Summer regarding bonfires causing a nuisance in the village. Polite reminders have been regularly circulated via the village email, however members were reminded that the Parish Council has no actual powers to enforce any action in this regard. It was agreed that this should be reiterated should future reports be received, and in the meantime, general respect and consideration of neighbours should be considered by all when lighting any bonfire.

## 11. Planning

**W/22/00611/FUL: Lower End Farm** Excavation of three ponds, a flood retention area and a ditch meander in two pasture fields. Removal of condition 3 on planning 21/02258/FUL – *decision pending*

**W/22/00741/HP: Pool House:** Proposed single storey ancillary accommodation - variation of condition 2 of planning reference number 20//02800/HP – *decision pending*

**W/22/01037/CU: Tibbets Barn:** Retrospective change of use from agricultural part track, yard and storage barn for domestic use – *decision pending*

**W/22/01179/HP: Valley House:** Demolition of detached garage and erection of new garage and office/studio – *decision pending*

**Boundary Commission proposals:** *Comments forwarded ahead of 8/8/22 in response to latest consultation – no further updates at present.*

*Action: As there had been no updates in some time relating to applications currently pending, it was agreed to request any further information from District Cllr Kearsy.*

## 12. Finance

a) Current Balances at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022

Business Account:	£3,860.83
Community account	£1,770.63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,631.46</b>

b) Payments to report:

Salary (July/August)	£556.40
Clerk's expenses (July/August)	£24.00
B. Arrowsmith (July LM tasks)	£156.00
B. Arrowsmith (August LM tasks)	£156.00
ICO – Data protection annual fees	£40.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£932.40</b>

## 13. Correspondence

West Mercia Police	Rebecca Love: Introduction as the new Local Policing Commander for South Worcestershire.
SWDP	August newsletter received for information – in summary, the additional work relating to development sites and the infrastructure needed to support them has now been completed, with a 6-week consultation on the SWDP review due to take place from 1/11/22 to 13/12/22 – the plan & supporting documents will be considered by District & County Councillors in October, (Wychavon's meeting on 19 <sup>th</sup> October.) Following the consultation, planning officers will consider the responses and potentially recommend modifications to the plan prior to submitting the document to the Planning Inspectorate, expected to be in 2023.

## 14. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda:

There was no additional business to report.

## 15. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 7.00 pm

Signed .....

Date.....

**Chairman**