

DRAFT

Great Comberton Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Wednesday 1st March 2023, 7.00pm Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: K Collingwood (Chair), S Inglis, G Hodgson, D Wilks & H Peart.

Clerk/RFO: Nicola Harding

In attendance: No parishioners

1. Apologies

Received from Cllrs Hamilton, Kearsley & Lavelle.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

3. Parishioner's Comments

No parishioners were in attendance and no comments had been received.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 4th January 2023

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

5. Progress reports from Parish Activities - brief updates:

a. Lengthsman: Details of the lengthsman's February work plan had yet to be forwarded to the Clerk. Once received, tasks undertaken will be circulated for information. *Action: Clerk.*

b. Highways: There are no further updates to report at present.

c. Police/CSW: A report had been received of a break in at Woollas Hall Farm, though no formal police report had been received. Cllrs Collingwood & Inglis had met with two PCSO's from the Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT,) to discuss appropriate locations to undertake speed checks in the village. The SNT confirmed they would conduct speed monitoring in the Parish and if successful, would refer on to the West Mercia Speed Watch Co-ordinator, to establish if a CSW initiative can be considered for Great Comberton. Updates to this effect had been forwarded to parishioners who had volunteered their services, should the CSW initiative come to fruition.

Action: Cllr Inglis to forward any further updates as received.

d. Footpaths/ProW: Cllr Hodgson has completed a further online report to WCC, requesting attention to the loose handrail and stile at the public footpath from Church Street to Elmley Castle. *Action: ongoing.*

e. War Memorial: A local conservation architect has agreed to conduct an annual inspection of the newly restored war memorial in November, using the War Memorial Trust's condition appraisal guidance.

f. Conservation Area Character appraisal: Six parishioners have volunteered to assist in the appraisal and will meet together to discuss the process in April. *Action Cllr Collingwood to co-ordinate.*

g. Brailles Orchard: Following discussion at the November Parish Council meeting regarding the current & future land management of the Orchard, it was confirmed that the land managers are happy with the Parish Council's letter of agreement forwarded in February, clarifying the future maintenance arrangements of the field for the next two years. The Chairman signed the letter of agreement, to be forwarded for signing to the land managers. It was also confirmed that works to reinforce the fencing at Brailles Orchard were almost complete, following receipt of County Cllr divisional funding from Cllr Hardman. Some minor tidying repairs are now required by a Blacksmith, and the rails will then require painting. *Actions: Chairman to liaise with Blacksmith. Clerk to forward agreement to the land managers and arrange payment to fencing contractor.*

Cllr Hodgson raised with members National Network Grant funding which had been secured in neighbouring Eckington Parish to provide a community space, children's play area and woodland walk. It was noted that this funding stream will shortly no longer be available and that once secured, maintenance is the responsibility of the Parish Council.

h. Broadband: Airband have reapplied to use the pole outside Home Orchard, but a response remains pending from National Grid. The fibre signal has now been brought into the village and most properties have been reached. An estimated completion date and updates from National Grid will be forwarded once received.

6. District and County Councillor's reports:

Cllr Kearsley's report had been received and circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Apologies were made for being unable to be in attendance, particularly as it is likely to be the last before the elections. Thanks were therefore extended to all members for their working relationship developed with Cllr Kearsley in her time serving as their District Councillor, and acknowledgment of their diligence in tackling the matters facing the village. The following summary report was provided for information:

- Coronation celebrations: it was agreed at the last Wychavon meeting to double the amounts given to parishes for the Queen's Jubilee, for the King's Coronation. Details to follow.
- A Council tax freeze was agreed at the last meeting, continuing for the sixth year running. This will mean £2.7 million has been left in resident's pockets, whilst maintaining all services.

- The design code consultation is open until 31/3/23. This is a proactive initiative, well ahead of any planning reforms/requirements, and all residents are encouraged to have their say via: <https://communities.createstreets.com/WychavonCentral>
- Dog fouling: it is advised to publicise “report it” to residents online, as evidence gained in this way will be enforced to back up any potential, future signage agreed upon in the Parish.
- A Wychavon leaflet will be distributed to all residents, outlining the many achievements of the current Wychavon District Council, available via the following link: <https://bit.ly/3k3ia7g>

7. Planning

W/22/01898/FUL: Newfarm House, Russell Street - change of use of land for domestic purposes and retention of storage barn and container (retrospective.) A decision remains pending and it was noted that as development at the site is ongoing, further advice should be requested from Cllr Kearsley & the District Council. *Action: Chairman.*

8. Finance

a) Current Balances at 20th February 2023

Current Account:	£4,754.31
Savings Account	£1,772.17
TOTAL	£6,526.48

b) Payments to report:

Salary: January 2023	£302.25
Salary: February 2023	£302.25
Expenses: January/February 2023	£24.00
Lengthsman: January 23 work plan	£156.00
Lengthsman: February 23 work plan	£156.00
Fisher German: Brailles Orchard rent (ii)	£112.50
Village Hall hire: July 22 – Jan 23	£39.00
TOTAL	£1,092.00

*As the Parish Council do not have internet banking facilities at present, it was agreed that the Clerk could make a BACS payment to the Bio-diversity group for their wildflower seeds purchase, and claim the expenditure back. The following additional payment was therefore presented:

Mrs N. Harding £43.78

Action: Clerk to make BACS payment to PA, Bio-diversity group.

Income to report:

Cllr Hardman divisional funding: Brailles fencing	£1,300.00
Cllr Hardman divisional funding: Biodiversity group	£150.00

c) Proposal to approve Clerk’s salary to a monthly standing order:

Proposed Cllr Hodgson, seconded Cllr Wilks, all in favour, to approve the payments presented and to progress the salary monthly standing order application.

Action: Clerk to forward document signed by signatories to Cllr Hamilton and Barclays.

9. King’s Coronation event

Confirmation had been received regarding a funding proposal approved by Wychavon District Council towards Coronation celebratory events in Parish & Town Councils. A discussion ensued regarding potential ideas for the Bank Holiday weekend: at present, the Social Club Committee have proposed a champagne and nibbles event on Saturday 6th May to toast the King, followed by a quiz event thereafter. A view had been received and shared with members that a lunch/street party is a typical traditional event held on such an occasion, and it was agreed therefore to share this view with the Social Club Committee and to gauge interest amongst the village. It was confirmed that plans may still evolve as there are future meetings planned to discuss this event.

Action: Cllr Hodgson/SCC members.

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10. Elections

Details of 4th May 2023 elections process had been received from Wychavon District Council & the Clerk had circulated guidance for candidates ahead of an election notice to be circulated for display in parishes on 14th March.

Further information for any parishioner interested in applying to become a Parish Cllr and nomination papers are available from the elections team via: elections@wychavon.gov.uk
<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/elections>

Cllrs were reminded of the guidelines and restrictions on publicity during the pre-election period (previously known as purdah,) which starts on 27th March 2023, which apply to all elections happening during this period.

It was agreed to circulate information regarding the elections process via the village email to update all residents and to also obtain the most current version of the register of electors to assist in completion of the forms.

Action: Clerk.

11. Correspondence

- Wychavon DC Design Code: An extension of the public consultation has been agreed to 31st March 2023.
Comments to be made via:
<https://communities.createstreets.com/WychavonCentral>
- GC Church Following a recent report of dog waste left in the churchyard, it was agreed that the issue appears to have been resolved to date. The potential for an additional dog waste bin was discussed and it was noted that demand is there given the amount deposited in the general waste bin by the phone box, which is collected weekly. Potential locations were considered, however given the costs shared by the Clerk for the purchase of a bin, administration & emptying charges @ £523.77, it was agreed to monitor the situation at present and revisit in future if necessary.
- JR A proposal had been received to consider installation of defibrillator signage at the Village Hall. A request had been forwarded to the Village Hall Committee, who have agreed to action.
- PA – GC Biodiversity Group Confirmation had been received that Cllr Hardman has approved a grant of £150 towards the purchase of wildflower/grass mix for the verge on Church Street. The Clerk confirmed that the group had purchased wild flower seed mix and £106.22 of funding remains available for future purchases.

12. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda:

There was no additional business to report.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.00 pm.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman