

# DRAFT

## Great Comberton Parish Council

### Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 7.00pm Village Hall

**Parish Councillors Present:** K Collingwood (Chair), S Hamilton, S Inglis, A Lavelle & D Wilks  
District Cllr B. Hardman

**Clerk/RFO:** Nicola Harding

**In attendance:** No parishioners

#### **1. Apologies**

Received from Cllrs Hardman, Hickey & Hodgson.

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

There were no declarations.

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

No parishioner's comments had been received.

#### **4. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

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

#### **5. Progress reports from Parish Activities - brief updates:**

a. Lengthsman: The Clerk shared details of the July work plan for information and awaits the August invoice for checks and payment.

*Action: Clerk.*

b. Highways: Confirmation had been received from WCC that displaced blocks around the war memorial have now been reset with tarmac, though it was noted at the meeting that there remain some gaps along the roadside verge towards the memorial which require resetting.

*Action: Clerk to update BB at WCC.*

Concerns had been raised regarding the diversion along Church Street for the forthcoming road closure on 26<sup>th</sup> September – the Clerk shared these with WCC Highways and it was noted that this would be raised with the street works team in terms of clear signage, given the narrow width of the lane and unsuitability for passing cars and large vehicles.

c. Police: There have been no progress reports received regarding a Community Speedwatch Scheme in the Parish, despite several communications from the Parish Council throughout the Summer. It was proposed to escalate this further when there is another closure of Eckington bridge, so that the local police team may have the opportunity to observe the issue of additional volume and speed of traffic through the village when diversions are in operation. It was also noted that the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner will be in attendance at a meeting in Bredon in the near future – date to be confirmed, therefore it was agreed that the Chairman would attend in order to relay the Parish Council's concerns. *Action: Cllr Collingwood.*

d. Footpaths/PRoW: New Public Rights of Way notices have been received from Worcestershire County Council for publication on parish noticeboards, providing details of access to interactive maps, reporting defects and walking routes for members of the community, landowners and visitors. *Action: Cllr Hamilton to advertise on parish notice board. Clerk to forward a copy to Cllr Inglis for circulation via the village email.*

e. Brailles Orchard: *New gate:* Cllr Collingwood had sourced and circulated a new gate design for the Brailles Orchard pedestrian entrance which was discussed and approved by Cllrs. Following consultation with the original WI members, a final cost will be confirmed and an order then submitted. £500 has already been donated from the WI towards these costs and it was suggested that any shortfall could be met by Flower Show and/or Open Gardens funds. It was agreed that the land would need regrading and gravelling at the entrance as previously agreed with a local builder. *Action: Cllr Collingwood to draft a request to local builder for the Clerk to forward.*

*Recreational use:* Following a recent request to hold a wedding reception at Brailles Orchard in September 2024, Cllrs had confirmed they were in agreement for such use, requesting that music is lowered by 11pm, stopped by 11.30pm and the field vacated by guests by midnight. Regarding wider public access, Cllrs had agreed and circulated an update online to residents, outlining the existing agricultural lease arrangement between the Parish Council and Church, with permission to use the field for recreational events and the annual flower show. Residents were reminded that in line with current agricultural use and management of the grass, social/personal events and car parking for villagers have been permitted by prior agreement with the Parish Council. Given that the field is currently used for hay as opposed to animal grazing, the Parish Council has now agreed to open up the field for village recreational use until late Autumn, once the hay is cut and field tidied, closing again at the end of March 2024 until the next hay cut, in line with current grass management. Residents have also been reminded of considering neighbours when using the field and request that the field does not become a regular dog exercising area, given the potential for dog waste affecting hay making and children playing. The current arrangement and its appropriate use will be reviewed by Cllrs during the next year.

*Railings:* Additional welding repairs are required and it was proposed and agreed to leave the railings their existing colour as they would require considerable painting and rust would only return. It was also agreed to request the lengthsman paints the clips at the bottom of the railings so they are less visible. *Action: Cllr Collingwood to liaise with blacksmith and lengthsman.*

f. Quay: No updates have been received regarding the Parish Council's title application, however Land Registry confirmed in July 2022 that the estimated completion date is 26 September 2023.

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*Action: Clerk to monitor and contact Land Registry, should notification not be received by this date.*

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

### ***District Cllr Hardman:***

*Flower Show 2024:* Following another successful annual Flower Show over the August bank holiday weekend, Cllr Hardman requested if the District Council may be provided with a slot in 2024 as an opportunity for a meet and greet with visitors, potentially focusing upon the environment/keeping safe as an opportunity to raise local awareness. *Action: Cllr Hamilton to forward an application form to Cllr Hardman for completion.*

*Parish/District Council volunteering:* Funding is available for setting up community groups in Parishes, with the support of the District Council. Opportunities were discussed and it was agreed to establish further information from Wychavon as a positive initiative to take advantage of in the Parish.

*Action: Cllr Hardman to forward details to Cllr Hamilton who agreed to liaise with the relevant contact at WDC and provide further updates, in addition to discussing with the Parish Social Committee.*

### ***County Cllr Hardman:***

Due to his attendance at another meeting in the County, Cllr Hardman provided the following report which was shared with the meeting:

- **WCC budget:** The County Council budget is under great pressure as a result of inflation and staff shortages in nursing and adult social care. Overspends are therefore expected in social and children's care and also home to school transport.
- **RAAC Concrete:** There may be some lightweight concrete in a small area of Pershore High School, however this is due for demolition as part of the approved £22 million rebuilding programme.
- **Eckington bridge:** Repairs are complete and went to schedule, however another closure will be necessary due to further damage recently sustained on the opposite side.
- **Parish footway improvements:** It has been confirmed that the Parish Council's request for footway improvements from Joe's Farm down to the road junction are in WCC's system, and it is anticipated that these should be completed next financial year.
- **Flower Show:** Congratulations were extended for another successful Flower Show over the August bank holiday weekend.

## **7. Planning**

**W/23/00332/LB: Shelton Farm** Roof replacement of north elevation and porch and replacement of tiles, as required. *Application approved.*

**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 permission 21/02258/FUL - Notification of Planning Appeal REF: APP/H1840/W/22/3308308: *appeal decision allowed with planning permission granted.*

## **8. Finance**

### **a) Current Balances at 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

Community Account:	£5,319.08
Premium Account:	£1,778.07
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7,097.15</b>

### **b) Payments to report:**

VHC: Hall hire 24/4 & 10/5/23	£17.50
Salary S/O: August 2023	£302.25
Expenses: August 2023	£12.00
Fisher German: Brailles rent 25/3-28/9/23	£112.50
Lenghsman: July work plan	£180.00
Wychavon DC: Uncontested election admin fee	£50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£674.25</b>

*Proposed Cllr Lavelle, seconded Cllr Hamilton, all in favour to approve the payments presented.*

**9. Broadband**

There has been a positive response to the Council's request for feedback regarding Airband's FTTP initiative in the village, which has been shared with villagers for information via email. It is believed 30-40% of the village is now connected and although general experiences seem positive once the service is up and running, there remain customer service issues in getting through for support when necessary.

**10. Correspondence**

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Worcestershire<br>County Council | New Public Rights of Way notices have been received for information for publication on parish noticeboards.   |
| N Power                          | Notification has been received of a price increase to the phone box electricity tariff due to energy supply increases to reflect current market prices (last updated in December 2021.) |

**11. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda:**

There was no additional business to report or items for the next agenda.

**12. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.00 pm**

Signed .....Chairman

Date.....