

DRAFT

2023/17

Great Comberton Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Monday 6th November 2023, 7.00pm Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: K Collingwood (Chair), S Hamilton, G Hodgson & D Wilks
District Cllr B. Hardman

Clerk/RFO: Nicola Harding

In attendance: Two parishioners

1. Apologies:

Received from Cllrs A. Hardman, Hickey, Inglis & Lavelle.

2. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations.

3. Parishioner's Comments:

Two parishioners were in attendance to express their serious concerns regarding increasing speeds of vehicles through the village, especially on occasions where there are diversions. The Chairman provided a summary of the ongoing actions the Parish Council has been implementing to address this issue, including attempts to set up a Community Speedwatch programme, however regrettably, progress here remains slow. A variety of suggestions for potential traffic calming measures were also discussed and noted. It was suggested that these concerns should also be raised with the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner at his next open meeting.

The absence of a footway from Joe's Farm to Back Lane was raised as a safety concern, especially in light of some motorists not adhering to the 30mph speed limit, together with the state of repair of the footway from Joe's Farm down to Church Street. As assured by County Cllr Hardman previously, it was reiterated that despite budget constraints, funding has been allocated by Worcestershire County Council to make the necessary repairs to the footway and is on the list for completion in the next financial year.

An overgrown tree was reported opposite Bank Cottage and it was proposed to report this to Worcestershire County Council for attention as it is believed to be their responsibility. *Action: Clerk.*

4. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023

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

5. Progress reports from Parish Activities: brief updates:

- a. Lengthsman: The Clerk shared tasks completed from the October work plan. As a separate task, it was also agreed to request the lengthsman's assistance in snipping the tie racks and painting the clips at the base of the railings. *Action: Cllr Collingwood/lengthsman.*
- b. Highways: Some displaced blocks have been re-positioned, however there are additional ones which still require attention. A request to replace others displaced along the roadside verge towards the war memorial was forwarded to the County Council in September and this would be followed up. *Action: Clerk.*
- c. Police: The Clerk has completed the latest Parish contract and forwarded to the Safer Neighbourhood Team, identifying speeding as the top Parish priority at present. Despite several requests and communications from Cllr Inglis, there remain no positive updates in setting up a Community Speedwatch scheme in the village at present.
- d. Footpaths/PRoW: Cllr Hodgson confirmed that a broken hand rail and stile previously reported online remain outstanding, some time after the original report. *Action: Cllr Hodgson to check for updates and forward report reference numbers to District Cllr Hardman for further investigation.*
- e. Brailles Orchard: It was confirmed that a village update had been circulated to parishioners regarding the orchard's recreational use and at present, this is mainly used for dog exercising. Updates regarding potential regrading at the entrances had been forwarded previously to Cllrs and it was agreed to progress regrading both entrances once the new gate design has been installed, which is currently in hand.
- f. Comberton Quay: updates received from Land Registry regarding the Parish Council's first registration of land at Comberton Quay had been circulated to Cllrs ahead of the meeting. As a reminder to those present, the original application letter was shared with the meeting to put into context the ambiguous response received from Land Registry. As the latest correspondence noted that the application would be cancelled on 7 November 2023, the Clerk confirmed that a request for an extension had been submitted, in addition to a further review from a senior officer to re-assess the Council's application. *Action: Clerk/Cllr Inglis to continue to provide updates as received.*
- g. War Memorial: A first annual condition survey is to be completed in line with the conditions of the grant received. A request had been sent to a local conservation architect for its completion, who has supported the Parish Council throughout their application.

DRAFT

2023/18

6. Drainage

Following a recent spell of heavy rain, the Chairman conducted a walk around the village to establish the effectiveness of the drains. Problem areas had been identified and gully problems reported online to Worcestershire County Council, however the fundamental problem remains with the main pumping station which becomes considerably overwhelmed during periods of intense rainfall. WCC has confirmed that the main problem is the sewer and Severn Trent's responsibility, therefore the Chairman has reported the situation to them and also submitted a request for plans of all the foul, storm and combined sewers in the village, in order to gain greater understanding of how the system operates. Properties affected by the combined sewer erupting through the manhole covers between Quay Lane and the pumping station, had been advised by Severn Trent to consider the installation of a non-return valve, however it was noted by the meeting that this may then cause further issues up the road. *Action: Chairman to provide further updates as received.*

7. District Councillor's reports – in summary:

- Grant funding is available from Wychavon's Community officers to support activities to tackle social isolation. *Action: Cllr Hamilton to explore further with a potential invite to an officer at the January Parish Council meeting.*
- Chris Day has been voted as Council leader of the District Council, following the resignation of the outgoing leader, Bradley Thomas.
- The District Council is currently reviewing its policies during the next four years – ideas are welcomed for suitable projects in the district.
- The creation of wild flower areas is being encouraged across the County, with requests for suggested areas. Cllr Collingwood confirmed that verges had been sown in Back Lane.
- Cllr Hardman is keen to explore potential opportunities to address loneliness in the district, in particular, supporting those residents unable to or struggling to leave their homes. Potential suggestions were raised and any further ideas would be welcomed to address this issue in local communities. Although there are positive social opportunities and support locally via Pershore Hub, it was noted by a parishioner that the local bus service, although adequate to Pershore, has no return service available after 3.30pm, making it difficult for some service users should they wish to access the town after this time.

8. Planning

There were no new or existing applications to report.

9. Finance

a) Current Balances at 30th October 2023

Current Account:	£7,159.83
Savings Account:	£1,782.83
TOTAL	£8,942.66

b) Payments to report:

Salary: September 2023	£302.25
Salary: October 2023	£302.25
Lengthsman: August work-plan	£180.00
Lengthsman: September work-plan	£150.00
Lengthsman: October work-plan	£180.00
Clerk's expenses: September & October 23	£24.00
Village hall hire: July & September 2023	£14.00
TOTAL	£1,152.50

Income to report:

Precept (ii)	£2,456.00
CTSG (ii)	£121.00
WCC: July & August lengthsman	£360.00
TOTAL	£2,937.00

DRAFT

2023/19

*The Clerk drew attention to an annual data protection fee reminder received following circulation of the agenda, @ £40.00 from the Information Commissioner’s Office. It was agreed to include this as an additional payment to present.

c) Bank reconciliation (ii) 10 October 2023 & review of budget: documents had been forwarded to Cllr Hamilton for checks and these were verified and signed.

***2024-2025 budget requirement:** The Clerk confirmed that the total 2024/25 budget requirement is to be approved and forwarded to Wychavon District Council by Friday 26 January 2024.

d) Proposal to approve purchase of Remembrance Sunday wreath from Royal British Legion @ £23.95 from the miscellaneous budget:

Proposed Cllr Hamilton, seconded Cllr Hodgson, all in favour, to approve the payments presented and purchase of a memorial wreath.

It was agreed to hold a short ceremony to lay the new wreath at the memorial on Saturday 11th November 2023, convening ahead of 11am.

Action: Announcement to be made via village Facebook, email and poster. Chairman to draft wording. It was also noted that on occasions where Cllr Inglis is unavailable to circulate messages via the village email, it would be sensible to consider a back-up.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Inglis.

10. Broadband

There were no significant updates to report, however connections are continuing, with properties completed at Church Street and Hands Orchard. Customer Service remains an issue if service issues arise.

11. Correspondence

- | | |
|-----|---|
| WCC | The recent trial conducted by Worcestershire County Council to broaden the scope of the Parish Lengthsman Scheme to include elements of maintenance work on the Public Rights of Way network, is to be continued. |
| WCC | Details of a survey relating to WCC’s enhanced partnership plan to improve local bus services in the County have been received and circulated to Cllrs – to be completed by 12 November (emailed.) |
| WCC | Tree Warden scheme: There are new opportunities for volunteer tree wardens in Parishes: Further details can be obtained from the WCC co-ordinator, Wade Muggleton on wmuggleton@worcestershire.gov.uk |

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

There was no additional business to report, though Cllrs were informed by Cllr Hardman of a forthcoming Town and Parish Council event on 23 November 2023 at the Civic Centre, Pershore from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, to include an update from the Leader of the Council, with latest news and introductions to their three Communities Officers and how they can help support the local community.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.00 pm

Signed

Date.....

Chairman