

DRAFT

Little Comberton Parish Council

2025/04

Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Wednesday 12th February 2025, 7.30pm Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: C Rabbette, D Smaylen & N Smithson.

District Cllr B Hardman.

Clerk/RFO: Nicola Harding

In attendance: No parishioners

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr Jamieson, Cllr Schmitz, Cllr D. Smithson & County Cllr A. Hardman.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

3. Parishioner's Comments

The Clerk shared a report received of animal welfare concerns in temporary vehicles sited along Wick Road. The parishioner had reported these concerns to the RSPCA & WCC Regulatory Services. As a response had yet to be received, it was agreed to follow this up again with the RSPCA for advice and establish if Wychavon still have a dog warden who may be able to advise. *Action: Clerk.*

4. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2025

Proposed Cllr Smaylen, seconded Cllr N Smithson, all in favour to approve the minutes as a true record.

5. Progress reports from Parish Activities: brief updates:

a. Lengthsman: The January invoice has been received and the contents shared.

b. Highways: (i) A works order has been raised to re-set the loose VAS post along Pershore Road & the new village posts will be installed as soon as possible to complete the speed initiative scheme.

(ii) A works order has been raised to infill the lay-byes along Wick Road with plainings. Any future erosion will be dealt with in the same manner.

(iii) Cllrs noted a road closure pending along Pershore Road on 17-20 February for National Grid works. As Cllrs weren't aware of the reason behind this closure and whether there would be any temporary interruption of power, it was agreed to enquire with National Grid & WCC Highways.

Action: Cllr Rabbette/Clerk.

(iv) Attention was drawn to dropped verges which have appeared along both sides of Wick Road just into Wick Parish. As these have become more problematic during recent road closures where additional traffic has been diverted, it was agreed to establish with Wick Parish Council if these have been reported for attention to WCC Highways.

Action: Clerk/Wick PC Clerk.

c. Footpaths: Cllrs expressed their thanks to County Cllr Hardman & the WCC Highways team for their efforts in successfully delivering the new footpath scheme beside the village hall. A Cllr noted a steep cut had been made into the bank beyond the hall on the right hand side, therefore it was agreed to request if the lengthsman could monitor, as this may require future attention.

Action: Clerk to notify lengthsman.

PRoW: # 501 - way marking may need to be refreshed in due course and it was noted that the tenant is aware of the presence of a PRoW and the need to keep this area accessible.

Action: Continue to monitor.

d. Trees: (i) Cllrs reiterated the background of a diseased beech tree which was removed at the memorial garden in 2014. Further comments raised by a parishioner regarding a request for a potential replacement tree were revisited. Following advice received from WCC Highways regarding the visibility splay at the crossroads, additional tree planting in the vicinity is considered a safety issue as this would further affect the sight line for traffic coming out of Wick Road. As a new tree has subsequently been planted without approval, it was agreed to request its removal, given the concerns noted by Highways.

Action: Clerk to update parishioner with the Council's decision and reasoning.

(ii) The tree warden has liaised with a parishioner to arrange for the planting of a suitable memorial tree along Wick Road.

e. 'Our Community Can' WDC initiative: A successful fitness and mobility class continues to be delivered in Great Comberton. A future craft based session is intended for Little Comberton & a dance related session in Elmley Castle, details of which will be finalised once a revised meeting has been arranged with the WDC co-ordinator. Further details to be shared via the village Gmail & Link magazine. *Action: Cllr Rabbette.*

Cllr B Hardman extended her thanks to all those Cllrs involved in setting up the project in the three local parishes.

f. Local Police Team: updates were shared from Cllr N Smithson. Traffic monitoring has been conducted at the village hall car park and concerns shared regarding peak times when vehicles have been identified speeding in the parish. Advice has been requested regarding inappropriately parked vehicles, however following positive discussions, this has now eased. It was agreed that data from the new VAS sign would be helpful to gauge if there is indeed a speed problem present in the parish and if necessary, to share with the local police team for their consideration. *Action: Cllr Jamieson.*

DRAFT

2025/05

g. Village Hall Committee: Decoration has commenced at the hall and bookings will be closed from 24th February for two weeks, whilst the new mural is completed.

6. District and County Councillor's reports:

District Council:

(i) The proposed devolution of County Council and District Councils continues to dominate, meaning that Wychavon will finish in approximately three years' time. The government are going to replace counties and district councils with unities and a mayor with special powers who will cover several of these. Further details to be shared as received.

(ii) There has been progress in dealing with some backlogs of planning applications at Wychavon.

(iii) Parish Councils are encouraged to consider ideas for potential projects that Wychavon may in future be able to support, should funding be secured, though this is not confirmed at present.

(iv) Wychavon is proposing a slight inflationary increase in Council Tax within the next two weeks – the council still remains the third lowest in the country for council tax charges.

County Council:

(i) Local Government reorganisation continues to dominate, as recorded under District Council comments (i).

(ii) The County Council is required to borrow £80 million to balance the revenue budget over the next two years.

(iii) Positively, the new parish footways have been completed in the village. All agree they look much improved and Cllrs thanked WCC Highways for their input. The drains in Pool Close have also been enhanced, following the recent works in December.

7. Planning

No applications have been received or are pending to date.

Cllr Rabbette summarised the presentation at Bredon View Holiday Park, following the consultation event on Wednesday 29th January.

A planning application is expected to be submitted in March/early April.

8. Finance

a) Current Balances at 5th February 2025

Treasurer's Account:	£13,056.11
----------------------	------------

TOTAL	£13,056.11
--------------	-------------------

b) Payments to report:

Salary: February 2025	£405.08
-----------------------	---------

S. Blunsom: Lime tree reduction	£475.00
---------------------------------	---------

*Expenses: February 2025	£12.00
--------------------------	--------

*Lengthsman: January 2025	£165.00
---------------------------	---------

*Hall hire: January 2025	£13.00
--------------------------	--------

**To be authorised online by Cllr Rabbette*

TOTAL	£1,070.08
--------------	------------------

Proposed Cllr Rabbette, seconded Cllr Smaylen, all in favour to approve the payments presented.

9. Correspondence

Bluebird care
Worcester &
Wychavon

Service advertising request for inclusion in a future edition of Parish Link magazine. Further details to follow as received.

Wychavon DC

Reminder of the Parish/Town council event taking place on Thursday 6 March 2025 at the Civic Centre, Pershore from 6.00 to 8.00pm. Registration and refreshments will be available from 5.30pm. A place has been booked for Cllr Jamieson to attend the Neighbourhood Planning workshop.

DRAFT

2025/06

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

- Any updates regarding the local water monitoring following WDC training in December.
- Any further updates from Airband regarding the ongoing request for pole removals along Wick Road.

11. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.30 pm

Parish Cllrs present confirmed their attendance.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman