

2018/01

GREAT COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 24th January 2018, in the village hall at 7 pm

PRESENT – Cllrs K Collingwood, H Peart, and K Barnes, District Cllr G Mackison

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs S Hickey and T Pearce

MINUTES from previous meeting were approved and signed

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – K Barnes – Rooftop Housing.

MATTERS ARISING

- a) Lengthsman – no issues were raised
- b) Highway issues:
 - Block Drains – CC had advised that drains are to be jetted – this had still not been done. The clerk would chase
- c) Police – Nothing to report
- d) Footpaths – Nothing to report
- e) Planning :
 - 17/01435 – Allens Caravans – refused by WDC – awaiting notification of appeal
 - Allens Caravans – Strategy for Appeal – Enquiries had been made and it would appear that using the services of a planning barrister would cost, at a minimum, around £5,000. It was considered that a number of residents would be prepared to contribute towards the costs, but that the parish council should also be seen to making a contribution. Whilst the parish council does not have any surplus monies, there is a reserve to cover emergencies. It was agreed that £1,000 be made available towards the cost of any legal services from the reserve. The clerk advised that although we were quorate, this should gain the approval of the rest of the parish council. She would make contact with them. A village meeting would be organised, provisionally booked for 15th February – to be confirmed
 - 17/01216 Tibbetts Farm – replacement of a barn as a dwelling and a new outbuilding Approved by WDC
 - 17/02001 – Mill Croft, Back Lane to Pershore Road – Construction of timber pontoon style landing stage – approved by WDC
 - 17/02580 - Mill Croft, Back Lane to Pershore – Erection of single storey rear extension to form new sitting room/new porch roof/ demolition of UPVC pool cover and replacement/glazed balconies/insulated render and stone cladding/replacement windows and doors – the parish council had no objections to this application
- f) New Homes Bonus – £3076 available
- g) Phone Box – The clerk is seeking ‘mobile’ sand blasting companys for quotes
- h) Rooftop Housing – Councillor Barnes has been working with Rooftop to ratify some of the issues in and around Hands Orchard. Outstanding Issues:
 - Footpath from lay-by to Hands Orchard – Scheduled between April and November 2018
 - Playground – Awaiting decision from Rooftop if this is to be included in their refurbishment programme
 - Car Park to the rear of Hands Orchard has now been cleared

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- Dropped kerb – Cllr Barnes would take photographs of the section referred to and a request made to CC, to see if they would consider doing the works

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – Nothing to report

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT - Copy available form clerk

NAVIGATION TRUST – SIGN AT QUAY – The clerk had written to Avon Navigation Trust, and although an acknowledgement had been received, nothing further.

FINANCE

- (i) Bank Reconciliations / accounts to date – Circulated to all councillors. No issues raised
- (ii) Payments for approval/made since last meeting

B Arrowsmith		638	120.00
L Yapp		SO	102.20
L Yapp		SO	12.00
Cheque Cancelled		639	
B Arrowsmith		640	120.00
B Arrowsmith		641	144.00
HMRC PAYE		642	76.40
L Yapp		SO	102.20
L Yapp		SO	12.00

(iii) Budget/Precept – the clerk had circulated income and expenditure for the past couple of years, a projected income and expenditure to the end of the financial year and a proposal for the next financial year. Clerks Salary – this had not been reviewed for many years, despite the ever increasing work load. It was agreed that she have an increase in the number of paid hours from 11.5 to 13.5. This was approved by all, and to be reviewed annually. The parish council is not in a financial position to pay for any more at this time. This was approved by all. She outlined the fact that previously we had purposely kept our budget request to an absolute minimum but due to ever increasing costs, we would have to consider a more substantial increase. It was agreed that a budget request be made to WDC for £3000, meaning an increase of 5%. This would mean an increase of 91pence to £19.25 to the Band D charge property (currently £18.34). This was agreed by all.

AOB/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Bus service – the clerk advised that, as always the bus service was at risk, and it is a case of ‘use it or lose it’
- Tree Works – the clerk and Cllr Peart had been contacted by Wester Power Distribution with regard necessary tree works in Great Comberton, in and around Church Street/Back Lane. The parish council gave consent to these works being carried out. There was a question over trees on the boundary of Hill Breeze. The clerk would ask the property owner to liaise direct with Western Power

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 7th March, to include the Annual Parish Meeting, to start at 6.30pm