

**GREAT COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes from the Annual Parish meeting held on Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup> 2018, at 7pm in the Village Hall

**PRESENT** - Chairman K Collingwood, Cllrs H Peart, R Williams, T Pearce and K Barnes and ne member of the public

**APOLOGIES** were received from Cllrs S Hamilton

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None declared

**MINUTES** from last year’s meeting were approved and signed

**POLICE REPORT** – Copy attached

**CHAIRMANS REPORT** – Copy attached

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT** – Copy attached

**BHCG REPORT** – Copy attached

**ALDERMAN GIBBS & JOSEPH WRIGHT CHARITIES REPORT** – Cllr Peart apologies for the lack of report this year.

**FLOWER SHOW** - copy attached

**A COPY OF THE REPORTS CAN BE REQUESTED FROM THE CLERK (0797 1362445 or 552233)**

## Annual Police Report 2017-18

The last 12 months has continued to be busy throughout our ever increasing local policing area which extends from Whittington, Upton Snodsbury and Dormston in the north to Bredon and Beckford in the south. With targeted patrols, attendance at village surgeries and numerous parish events, messaging via Twitter and the Community Messaging Service (CMS) the team have continued to be actively involved in the community. The whole team remain committed to tackling all levels of crime throughout the area including rural crime and poaching and providing security advice and support to victims and vulnerable residents.

This report is based using the recorded crime figures between 27/2/17 and 28/2/18 the comparison is relating to the corresponding dates in 2016/17.

Overall the police recorded 53 incidents that were reported by members of the public this is compared to 27 incidents reported the previous year.

Of the 53 incidents the Parish had 12 recordable crimes (incidents where a specific offence has occurred) this was in comparison to 6 recordable crimes the previous year.

The breakdown of offences is as follows:

	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
<b>Burglary Business</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Burglary Residential</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Theft of Vehicle</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Arson</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other Offences</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>

(Includes mostly domestic related incidents or concerns for welfare)

Overall the figures show a steady but low crime rate for the past few years. This year has seen a small increase in crime for Great Comberton, however the figures clearly present the picture that Great Comberton and the surrounding area is still a safe place to both live and work, however we all have a responsibility to ensure we maintain this.

On behalf of the team and myself I should like to offer my thanks to the Parish Council for all its help over the last 12 months. I would also like to say thank you to the Parish as a whole for its continued support of the local policing team and for the numerous calls we have received relating to suspicious activity, all we ask is that you continue to do this.

**Pershore Rural North and South Local Policing Team**

Non-emergency phone number: 101

## **71st Great Comberton Flower Show.**

I am delighted to report on a fantastic show – The weather was perfect and we had a record attendance. We had fun with our “Day at the Races” Theme with lots of great outfits, and classes - Decorated Hats, Rosettes, Limericks, photos and iced cakes.

The Dog show was as popular as ever and we sold out of eggs for the Annual Great Comberton Egg throwing Competition. It’s always surprising how far the egg can be thrown.

The Marquee was a colourful focal point, there were slightly less entries this year but the standard remains very high for a village show. The weather might have had a slight impact on the fruit and produce sections. We were delighted to introduce a new Class for Plum Jerkum. This was well supported so please get busy making it ready for next year. We will have a special award for this provided by the Plum Festival which we are linked to.

The results were Record Breaking!!!! - Record takings of £7727 and a Record profit of £4562 nearly double last year’s. This has been distributed between the Church and Village hall, who are both grateful for the funds raised, with £200 going to the WI and £100 for the Youth Bus. This was a tremendous result for our village. Thanks to everyone who helped with the show – it was an amazing village effort and reflects the great community spirit and willingness of people to get involved which keeps our show thriving.

There are a number of pictures on our facebook page Great Comberton Flower Show – so feel free to check them out and follow us to keep up what’s on for next year. We have exciting ideas based round our “Down on the Farm” theme. The date is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and we will of course hope to have the same fab weather.

Suzanne Hamilton (chairman)

[www.theflowershow.org.uk](http://www.theflowershow.org.uk)

# Great Comberton Parish Council

## Chairman's Report 7th March 2018

The main event in the village this year has been the application for static caravans on the Golf Course, which was rejected by the Planning Committee following a successful campaign from both within the village and well beyond. Allens have said they will appeal and I think we have every chance of getting it dismissed. Planning for this is in hand, and the PC has agreed to allocate £1000 towards legal costs.

Other Planning Applications in the year have included the two barns at Tibbitts Farm and various works at Mill Croft.

We have been encouraging Rooftop Housing, the County and District Councils and the Police to deal with the anti-social behaviour at a couple of houses on Hands Orchard which has been making life difficult for others nearby and we hope for a resolution to this in the near future.

We have been trying to find someone who can shot blast the phone box in preparation for painting but so far have not been successful. We have some new possibilities which may work.

The Avon Navigation Trust has erected a large and ugly sign on the Quay, on land owned by the PC without permission, and we are in the talking to them about it.

Finally, our Parish Clerk Lynne Yapp's workload increases every year as the District Council saves money by offloading tasks to the parishes. We have therefore increased her hours, and I'd like to thank her for the excellent support she gives to the PC. We have also agreed a 5% increase in the part of Council Tax allocated to the PC, as our reserves are well below the recommended amount. Although 5% sounds like a large increase it equates to an extra 91p a year for a band D property.

## Bredon Hill Conservation Group

The Bredon Hill Conservation Group has been active in representations over the proposal to allocate 500 houses at Mitton Bank just this side of Tewkesbury, and in the opposition to the Beckford Care Village, which was rejected at planning and had the appeal dismissed. This case has many parallels with the caravan site application in which the village was also supported by an objection from the Group.

## **Great Comberton March 2018 – Annual report.**

**I have been looking back over my reports for the whole of the last year and also at last year's report to try to pick out the significant things which have happened.**

**In March 2017 I reported the 2016/17 Wychavon element of the council tax increase of £5 for a band D household. The increase for 2017/18 will be zero for the Wychavon component of the Council tax. Of course there are significant increases for WCC, Fire and Police.**

**The Boundary Commission has reported back on their final proposal to reduce the number of parliamentary seats by 50 and try to make all the constituencies about the same sort of size. The revised thought is to take the West Worcestershire part of Wychavon and to combine it with Mid Worcestershire part and to call the new constituency 'Evesham'. I do not expect this to find time in the parliamentary timetable this year.**

**You may have seen that in the recent government reshuffle that Harriett Baldwin, our MP, has been promoted a Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with responsibility for Africa.**

**May saw the County Council elections and Cllr Adrian Hardman was re-elected. Cllr Li Eyre is also the Wychavon chairman for this year, which is rapidly coming to an end. I again had a stand at the Great Comberton Flower show to give residents a chance to raise concerns with me. It was a good event and the weather was kinder this year.**

**October saw the eagerly awaited report on enforcement – lots of good ideas were in the report. There will be an annual review on improvement. Sadly I don't see much improvement yet. The Pershore Plum festival won an award in the 'Best Festival' category for the fourth time. Broadband continued to be rolled out, but in November 2016 it was announced that the Severn Waste Environmental Fund was to close in April 2017 because of the transfer of residual waste from the waste site at Throckmorton to the waste to energy plant at Hartlebury.**

**In January Wychavon was placed third nationally in the Halifax 'quality of life' survey behind Winchester and the Orkney Isles.**

**February saw the change to the Planning application website.**

**Which brings us to March – a whole year gone.**

**There has been a massive increase in the Council Tax base. Caused by the enormous number of new houses being built in the District. County Council elections took place in May 2017. The next District Council elections are not for another 2 years. During the year we had the Allen Caravan planning application which caused a great deal of work and soul searching.**

**Any Questions?**