

GREAT COMBERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH 2019

VILLAGE HALL @ 7pm

Present: Chairman K Colingwood, vice chairman K Barnes, Cllrs S Hickey and T Pearce, District Cllr G Mackison and one member of the public

Apologies were received from County Cllr A Hardman and Cllrs S Hamilton, S Inglis and H Peart

Approval was given to last years minutes

Reports: In addition to the full reports – full set attached, Cllr Collingwood reported in the absence of Cllr Peart on The Alderman Gibbs and Joseph Wright Charities. The combined income of £140 was distributed to seven elderly residents of the parish.

Please find below a resume of our WI year 2018

Great Comberton WI had another successful year with membership numbers remaining steady. We had eleven meetings and three coffee mornings. The Macmillan coffee morning and raffle in September was very well attended and over £200 were raised. We had 2 other coffee morning in 2018 but both were poorly supported despite advertising them in The Link, posters around the village and verbal invitations locally hence no more have been arranged. Our speakers and topics were varied and included Famous people who were born, worked or died in Worcestershire, Writing for women's Magazine, Punch and Judy ,Mary Quant and China`s ancient and modern treasures.

We also had a midsummer pub lunch in Wyre Piddle , garden party, craft afternoon making Christmas baubles, Christmas lunch at the Queen Elizabeth and of course an AGM. Great Comberton WI meetings are held on a Wednesday afternoon and we always have a very sociable tea-a very important part of our meetings . Some members have attended other WI events including The Daffodil Evening in aid of Marie Curie Nurses, lunch with a speaker and an evening learning all about life with 6 children the same age- the Walton sextuplets.

Annual Police Report 2018-19

The last 12 months has continued to be busy throughout our ever increasing local policing area.

This report is based using the recorded crime figures between 01/03/2018 and 01/03/2019. Overall the Parish had 13 recordable crimes (incidents where a specific offence has occurred) this was in comparison to 12 recordable crimes the previous year.

The breakdown of offences is as follows:

	2017/18	2018/19
Burglary Business	1	0
Burglary Residential	1	0
Theft of Vehicle	1	1
Theft from Vehicle	0	2
Criminal Damage	0	4
Arson	1	0
Other Offences	8	6

(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

72nd Great Comberton Flower Show.

I am delighted to report on another fantastic show with an increased attendance. The “Down on farm” Theme worked really well with lots of great outfits, classes, games, welly wanging – wellies ended up on the tent, and milk a cow.

The Dog show was as popular as ever and ran very smoothly to time. Our children’s fancy dress was not so well supported.

The Marquee was a colourful focal Point for the show. This year we linked up with Elmley Castle School who provided some stunning paintings. With such a dry summer we were expecting entries on ~Fruit, Veg and Flower to be down – but no – they were up and the quality was very high.

We thank Pershore Plum Festival for the new National Plum Jerkum Trophy and the promotion that they give us for free.

The results reflected the increased attendance (£1,665) and fantastic weather. We took £8,334 with costs of £3,451 (10% increase) with profit of £4,882.66 (5% increase). The bulk of this comes from the food and drink areas. **Allocation of funds:** it was decided that enough money should be left in the account to cover the cost of the 2019 marquee. Burgoyne’s have requested payment before the Show. We may need to purchase burners and pans for the BBQ. Could the new homes bonus buy these? The rest of the money was divided as follows:

£100 to the Youth Bus

£200 for the W.I.

£2,200 for the Church

£2,200 for the village Hall

We were delighted that the profits increased, however we constantly face rising costs and if we have a bad weather year then we may not break even.

This was a tremendous result for our village. But just as important it was so special to have some many of the villagers helping out, visiting the show and getting to know each other, this helps continue the great community spirit that we have in Great Comberton. Of particular note, was many of our young villagers returning for the weekend and running key stalls like the Bar and BBQ. Without them we would just not have the volunteers to run the show as it is today.

Thanks to the committee and helpers who give freely so much time, effort, energy, prizes without which the show would not be able to continue to operate. We rely also on the good will of the village, church, village hall and WI.

We look forward to next year our 73rd show and Circus theme.

Great Comberton Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2019

The most significant event this year has been the Allen's Caravans planning application, which attracted overwhelming opposition from the village and far beyond. We succeeded in getting it rejected by the Planning Committee but sadly we will always be vulnerable to the whims of the Planning Inspectorate who are able to overturn the democratic process. This will be the start of an inexorable pressure for expansion.

Other planning matters included an application for conversion of a large agricultural shed to three houses behind Shelton Farm which was approved despite not meeting the conditions required. The conversion of a barn at Tibbitts Farm has also been constructed in a manner not covered by the Planning Permission but without sanction. Although outside our boundary, Hayloft Plants have plans to relocate their business from Pensham to the old orchid farm at Hollyoak. While this is great news for Pensham which has been blighted by the traffic generated, it will have a dramatic effect on traffic between the village and Pershore and the views from Bredon Hill as the glasshouses are planned to quadruple in size. Overall it seems that Wychavon have no interest in following or enforcing planning policy where it concerns environmental quality.

We have been successful in getting the Avon Navigation Trust to remove a highly intrusive notice they installed on the quay without permission. We were also able to lend our support to residents of Hands Orchard in having a problem family removed and are currently pressing the police on ongoing drug dealing. Finally, the war memorial has been listed Grade II which is good news.

Thanks to all the Councillors who give their time. Rowan Williams retired during the year and we will miss his input but we have co-opted Shelagh Inglis to fill his seat. Also thanks to Brian the lengthsman and Lynne, our Parish Clerk who are the people who really do the work.

District Councillors report – March 2019

Great Comberton

The major issue in 2018 was the planning application by Allen's Caravans for the large caravan site- effectively doubling the size of the village. This caused a lot of angst to the residents. Since Christmas, we have been finalising our 2019/20 budget and deciding on the Council tax Precept. Wychavon has voted, for the second year running, to freeze their component of the Council tax for this year coming. This has come about because of our careful financial management and helpful capital investment – like the new Waitrose supermarket in Evesham which opened during the last year. This was built using Wychavon capital and will generate £ 1/2M rental income per year. We also have a new waste contract with Focsa which is expected to save £1/2 per annum.

Along with the freeze in Council Tax we have a whole list of new ambitious promises for the coming year which will be published with your annual Council Tax statement.

Our Evesham Community Contact Centre has closed and is now based in the Evesham library.

Late in February the Government published further consultations following on from the national waste and resources strategy, including plastic packaging and a deposit return scheme for some types of bottles. We have responded to counter a proposal to collect food waste for anaerobic recycling saying that we have already tried this and because of a lack of satisfaction on behalf of the residents, we stopped this service.

You may be aware that elections for District Councillors takes place in May this year and I plan to stand for this ward - Elmley Castle and Somerville again and hope to represent you for another 5 years – God willing!

Any questions?

County Councillor Adrian Hardman
Bredon Division

Annual Report 2018 / 19
Great Comberton

While it is a fashionable idea to worry about the finance at the County; it will end up with a small over spend of less than 1%. And next year we will see our budget rise for the first time in 10 years. Whether it will rise fast enough to deal with the pressure and needs in the Social services budget remains to be seen. But even here at the end of the food chain we are starting to see scorching austerity start to fade a little and we return to just austerity.

Even with this a lot is going on. On a clear day from here you might be able to see that work on the new Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station is continuing apace with external steelworks and glazing substantially completed on the station building. Currently work is concentrated on platform installation and paving the car park and the landscaping and planting around the site. The station is set for an opening at the end of this year.

Worcestershire has been successful in its bid for Government funding to test and explore 5G connectivity. 5G is the next generation of mobile technology. When it becomes available in the UK, 5G is expected to have a profound impact on the way people live their lives. As many as 1.4 billion 5G connections are predicted by 2025, as well as a host of new technologies not yet imagined. The Worcestershire 5G consortium, led by the County Council and Worcestershire LEP launched the first-ever British 5G factory trials at the Worcester Bosch factory earlier this week. Works are now underway on the final phase (4) of the Worcester Southern Link Road scheme. A security fence has been erected and vegetation is being removed on the southern side of Temeside Way between the Carrington Bridge and Powick Roundabout. The Ketch viewpoint is now temporarily closed.

The latest monitoring visit by Ofsted Inspectors has found that the Council has made progress in improving its services for children and young people who are at risk from sexual exploitation and those who go missing. The Council's more effective approach, said the report, had reduced the numbers of children and young people going missing. WCC's Cabinet approved recommendations for the development of a Wholly Owned Council Company as the alternative delivery model to deliver Children's Social Care. The company name is 'Worcestershire Children First'. A phased shadow period will commence on 1 April enabling the Company Board to begin working as a team, and with representatives from the Council, to help prepare for Worcestershire Children First to go live on 1 October 2019.

Adult Social Care turned 70 in 2018 and we were happy to celebrate this milestone. We shared videos, stories and interesting facts about the history of social care and how adult social care is improving vulnerable adults' lives.

A 70th birthday card signed by members from across the Council was handed over to the Health Secretary in December. I as, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care,