

## **LITTLE COMBERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting, held in the village hall on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7pm

**PRESENT:** Parish Council chairman C Rabbette, vice chairman J Gough, Cllrs D Britten, P Morris and M Kibble, Footpath Warden P Gough and District Cllr G Mackison

**APOLOGIES:** were received from Cllr A Dermont

**MINUTES** from the Annual Parish Meeting 2018 were approved and signed

**CHAIRMANS REPORT:** Attached

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:** Attached

**POLICE REPORT:** Attached

**TREE WARDENS REPORT:** Attached

**CHURCH REPORT:** Attached

**BREDON HILL CONSERVATION GROUP:** Cllr Britten advised that the next meeting of the Group was scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> April

# LITTLE COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Chair's Report

Firstly, thank you to all the Parish Councillors for their support throughout the year, and to George Mackison and Adrian Hardman for their help and advice. Huge thanks also to our Clerk, Lynne Yapp, for her tireless efforts in support of the Parish Council.

### Over the past 12 months:

**Planning applications:** The Parish Council have commented on a number of planning applications, including two relating to the scaling up of horticultural activities at Hollyoaks Nursery on Pershore Road, associated with Hayloft Plants' stated intention of relocating many of their operations to this site. Other applications have been for extensions to domestic properties, some of which are Listed Buildings. Generally the designs have been sympathetic and the Parish Council has not raised objections to these.

**South Worcestershire Development Plan Review:** The Parish Council responded to the Issues and Options Consultation requesting stronger policies to protect the countryside in relation to the AONB, horticultural activities and static caravans.

**Traffic and Highway Issues:** The speed of traffic travelling through the village remains a concern to the Parish Council and an application for New Homes Funding for a Vehicle Activated Sign was submitted to Wychavon District Council in August 2018. This was approved and the sign was installed in early 2019 (albeit with a few teething problems). Grateful thanks to Councillor Andrew Dermont for leading on this initiative. The condition of Pool Close continues to be flagged up to the Worcestershire hub.

**Ditches and watercourses:** These continue to be carefully monitored, especially during times of peak flow. Parish councillors have liaised with Gerry Brienza from the County Council to identify priority areas to tackle in liaison with landowners.

**Lengthsman:** Brian Arrowsmith continues to fulfil his duties around the parish, paying special attention to maintaining the grips to keep runoff water away from the village.

**Parish Paths Warden:** Our grateful thanks to Peter Gough who has been active throughout the year monitoring the condition of footpaths, reporting issues and clearing overgrowth and litter.

**Tree Warden:** Our grateful thanks to Glyn Williams who has been keeping a close eye on trees in the village and reporting issues to the clerk. A replacement for a damaged tree has been planted in Orchard Drive and two replacement trees have been planted on Wick Road. We wish Glynn well with his house move and welcome Paul Bogard as our new Tree Warden.

**Bredon Hill Conservation Group:** Our thanks to Councillor Sue Britten who has represented the Parish Council on BHCG and highlighted any issues that the Parish Council has needed to consider.

**Memorial Garden:** Our grateful thanks to Pat Perry and Sandy and Kevin Lloyd for their continued care of the garden and grass area. Following a resident's suggestion a proposal for a steel plaque on the Millennium Stone in the Memorial garden to commemorate those who fought in the Second World War was submitted to Wychavon for New Homes Bonus funding, however this was unsuccessful. The resident is now exploring other sources of funding.

**Phone Box:** The phone box was de-commissioned in early 2017 and ownership transferred to the Parish Council. New Homes Bonus funding has been approved by Wychavon District Council to refurbish the phone box for use as a book exchange and information point. Quotes for undertaking the refurbishment are being finalised with a view to the work commencing in the very near future.

**Litter:** Our grateful thanks to Councillor Mark Kibble who has been regularly collecting litter from the roads around the village.

**Crime:** There have been several burglaries in Little Comberton and a number in neighbouring villages in recent months, these are a real concern and exploring measures to reduce crime will be a high priority for the Parish Council over the coming months

**Finance:** Accounts will be presented as soon as possible as we have not yet completed the financial year. Indications are that expenditure will be in line with budget.

## District Councillors report – March 2019

### Little Comberton

Well we are well into 2019. You have had your council tax paperwork and for the second year, the Wychavon element has not been increased. This is because of our excellent financial management. There is also a flyer showing our promises for this next year.

The Broadway car park at the end of the GWSR steam railway is open with 85 spaces.

Our public toilets have received a very positive response at the Loo of the Year Awards - 10 platinum and 3 gold standard awards.

We have received a Counter Terrorism briefing from the West Mercia Police on how to prepare for a potential terrorist attack – most apposite in the light of current events. Worcs Business Central has compiled a Brexit toolkit for various Brexit scenarios available for businesses as required.

Government has published four consultations as a follow up to the national waste and resources strategy:

1. Recycling consistency
2. Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility
3. Deposit Return Scheme
4. Plastic packaging and

Finally the LGA has produced an Purdah Guide regarding publicity during the pre-election period.

I plan to stand again for this ward at the May Local Government elections again.

Any Questions?

## 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 7 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:

	2017/18	2018/19
<b>Burglary</b>	1	3
<b>Theft from vehicle</b>	1	0
<b>Theft other</b>	1	2
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	1	1
<b>Other Offences</b>	2	1

(Includes mostly domestic related incidents)

This year has unfortunately seen a slight increase in residential burglaries in Little Comberton.

We have continued with increased patrols in the area and have issued security advice to residents but the main contributing factor in all of the burglaries throughout the year is that the properties are left without lights during the hours of darkness. We would strongly advise residents to use a lamp/s on a timer switch to give the impression that someone is present inside the property.

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

Little Comberton village Tree Warden report  
Year 2018-19

The past year was mainly uneventful except for the sudden removal of two trees along Wick road by Western Power. As you know this was done without consultation or prior warning and in that respect it was poorly handled by Western power. One can only trust that this will not happen again in that fashion. One tree has been replaced, a Field Maple, but the other promised specimen, a Wild Service Tree has yet to materialise.

I have planted several small trees along Wick road at the village end in gaps left behind by the removal of diseased Horse Chestnut trees, as previously reported, and these appear to be thriving as do other recently planted trees further along the road towards Wick. Hopefully we will be providing a welcome sight to people entering the village and increase the beautiful spring blossom which features along there.

Sadly, littering still occurs along Wick road as does evidence of dog faeces not being cleared up. I am at a loss as to possible solutions to this other than signage.

The ornamental pear trees in Orchard Drive continue to thrive and there will be a superb showing of blossom shortly. An additional specimen was obtained by the LCPC to be sited along Orchard Drive. Councillor Kibble assisted me with this and suggested planting at the Wick Road end which has less in the way of trees. When planting was attempted, this met with unnecessary hostility and threats to dig it up by two of the residents. The tree was eventually planted outside number one to the delight of the resident there and as I type it is showing blossom. It saddens me that people in a small community can be so opposed to efforts to enhance the village and feel it necessary to abuse people in the process.

One ornamental pear in Orchard Drive which had been snapped by high winds was cut back and is now producing new strong growth and it has been agreed to leave it and not replace it.

Other trees along Pershore road appear to be growing well following Ivy removal. In Manor Lane on the bank opposite Furrows End a number of large trees are heavily covered in Ivy. I have not intervened here as I am not certain on whose land they are.

As outgoing Tree Warden I have lately spent time with Paul Bogaard the new Warden. We have walked the village several times to familiarise him with our tree population and he has assisted in pruning. I feel sure that he will be an excellent replacement. I also spoke to Wade Muggleton at a recent Orchard event and he does intend to spend time with Paul in the future.. I have passed on a small stock of stakes and tubes to Paul for possible future use.

My final comments are that I have enjoyed the role and feel that my efforts have been beneficial in 'greening' the village. In current climes, the village should take every opportunity to plant further trees with the support of the County council. There are numerous sites where this could occur. Sadly, I feel the perennial problem of dog mess and littering really spoil the green areas of the village. I note that in Wick, they have a dog mess bin along Yock Lane. Could this be done for our village on popular dog walking areas? Perhaps 'The Link' and/or noticeboards could show that there is a Tree Warden and who it is in case issues arise? Many residents I have spoken to have no idea that the role exists. Thank you for your support.

Glyn Williams  
3/3/19.

## Church PCC Report for Parish Council February 2019

### Rector

Our new rector, the Revd David Lewis, was installed on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 and has settled into the parish. He came expecting to work in collaboration with the other clergy of the Bredon Hill Group, but sadly during the year the Revd Matthew Baynes, vicar of Bredon, died, and almost immediately the Revd Susan Renshaw, vicar of Eckington, retired, leaving David on his own, apart from the curate at Eckington, who is likely to move to a new job sometime this year. This has had some impact on David's workload and on the organisation of services around the hill.

### Worship

As a result, with only 2 clergy to provide Eucharistic services to the 14 churches in the Bredon Hill Group, it has been necessary to reduce the frequency of services in our parish and to change the times. We now have only one Eucharistic service a week in the parish, rotating round the villages, and the time alternates between 9am and 10.30am. One service a month in the parish follows the Book of Common Prayer.

We continue to hold a weekly service at 10am on a Wednesday in Little Comberton, and this is a communion service twice a month, and otherwise Morning Worship taken from Ionan or Northumbrian liturgies and led by lay members of the congregation.

In March it is planned to hold a Taize-style service in Little Comberton, which will be a quiet candle-lit service of prayer and simple chants from the Taize Community in France. Information about all the services in the parish continues to be provided in the Link magazine and on the church notice boards.

### Church Building

There has been no progress with the proposal to make alterations to the church, to improve disabled access and enhance the facilities. The project would be a big undertaking, would involve a lot of work, the need to find agreement about what changes should be made, and would be expensive. It is not entirely clear that this is justified with the current level of commitment to the church from the local community. This reflects a nationwide issue for the Church of England, especially for the rural churches. It is unclear what the future holds for these buildings, which are part of the heritage of the nation, which the small and predominantly elderly congregations of villages are struggling to sustain and finance.

Asbestos residues found in the boiler room were removed recently.

### Churchyard

The wild flower area that was created in memory of Dennis Toon struggled last year. After advice from a charity specialising in wildlife in churchyards, it emerged that we had probably set it in an inappropriate part of the churchyard, where it was starved of sunlight and easily overgrown by large aggressive weeds. A small group of villagers most generously offered to clear the weeds and undergrowth from the west end of the churchyard, and this was done in the autumn, inevitably destroying the wild flower area, which it is proposed to relocate in another part of the churchyard.

We are deeply grateful to the village volunteers, in particular to Pat Perry and Kevin Shaw, for the enormous amount of time and effort they put in to clearing this area. We are awaiting some pruning of trees in the churchyard, after which the work on the west end will be finished and a new composter built in the SW corner.

Penny Spiller