

**GREAT COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7pm

1. **PRESENT** – Cllrs K Collingwood, S Inglis, T Pearce and A Lavell, Tim Williams (West Mercia Police) and County Cllr A Hardman
2. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllrs H Peart, S Hamilton and K Barnes
3. **MINUTES** from previous meeting were approved and signed
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None declared

**Tim Williams** made a presentation on the benefits and effectiveness of SmartWater – the property marking kit is an active deterrent to the criminal community and is being rolled out to towns and villages with a discounted cost of £8.90, an initiative from the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion. If 70% of parishioners take and commit to the scheme, free signage will be given to the village which is known to have positive effect on the crime rates compared to areas that aren't using the scheme. SW can be used on any item, however large or small, with a guaranteed shelf life of 5 years with evidence showing that the solution is still effective after 12 years in an outdoor environment. Recovered property is 'scanned' for SW to enable return to rightful owners, and any criminals taken into custody suites are also scanned for the solution which shows up on their skin under UV light. Research throughout prisons has identified that very few burglars operate in SW areas and this has been followed up by significant reduction in thefts reported in those areas. West Mercia do all the registering of kits. Mr Williams advised that he would be happy to give a presentation to the whole village if required. County Cllr Hardman has made a donation of £400. Rooftop Housing has made a donation to a neighbouring parish council towards the kits and it is expected that they would be consistent and do the same for Great Comberton (for the housing association properties).

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

- a) Lengthsman – nothing raised
- b) Highway Matters:
  - Cllrs Collingwood and Lavelle would liaise with WCC regarding the introduction of pollinator areas in Great Comberton, that could be easily managed by residents
- c) Police – The clerk advised there had been no crimes reported
- d) Footpaths- Nothing was reported
- e) The New Homes Bonus – currently stands at £4642. Cllr Inglis reported that the VH Committee had met recently to discuss options for the village hall. One proposal for improving the outside toilet facilities, re-surfacing the car park and storage was considered not suitable for the Community Legacy Fund by WDC, that they would be looking for a much larger scale project. It was decided that to improve the toilets using the NHB funds available with a further contribution from the VH funds was the best option. The parish council supported this decision and would await costings in order to move forward with the application for the funds
- f) Rooftop Housing – Although not present at the meeting, Cllr Barnes had provided the following update:
  - Dog barking was still a nuisance in Hands Orchard and was yet to be resolved by the dog warden

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- A neighbourhood watch scheme had been asked for – Cllr Inglis advised that she would be able to include any resident on to the village email list if they let her have their address
- He was still awaiting a response from a recent request for a contribution towards Smart Water kits – the clerk would take this up
- Overgrown vegetation had been inspected and a report awaited
- Nothing had been done with regard the request for the footpath to be improved

- g) Notice Board – This is now ready for collection. *Since the meeting the clerk had received a phone call from the prison to advise that due to its size, they would deliver it free of charge*
- h) Tree Warden – nothing to report
- i) War Memorial – The clerk had put in a Pre-Grant Application and awaiting feedback from the War Memorials Trust.
- j) Smartwater – Following the presentation earlier in the meeting, it was agreed that the parish council would move forward with providing 120 kits for distribution throughout the village. With the reduced cost to the parish council from an initiative from the Police and Crime Commissioner, the donation received from County Cllr Hardman, and hopefully the housing association properties funded by Rooftop, it was estimated that there would be up to £300 to be paid by the parish council. It was suggested that an informal coffee morning / raffle could be held to raise additional funds. The clerk would make the necessary arrangements for the order to be placed with a view to rolling out the kits in the New Year.

### **6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT** – Cllr Hardman reported:

- He fully supported any Smart Water initiative
- River levels were down and Eckington Bridge was now open
- Church Street – he was of the opinion that an historic issue with drainage in Church Street had yet to be resolved and would look into this.
- A request from Cllr Collingwood for CC to cut the verge adjacent to the bus stop – this was promised to be done by Robert Deri (WCC) back in the summer and had not been done

### **7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT** - Nothing to report

### **8. PLANNING**

- 19/01629 – land south of Greenfield – *awaiting decision by WDC*
- 19/01841 – Hollyoak Nursery – new agricultural building – *awaiting decision by WDC. Cllr Collingwood reported that it appeared that building work had started at the site, despite no formal decision from WDC on the application. It was agreed that we write to the Planning Department with our concerns*
- 19/02138 – Land off Gt Comberton Road – *approved by WDC*
- SWDP – Cllr Collingwood had attended a meeting at Guildhall, Worcester with regard the outcome of the SWDP Review and the sites chosen. Gt Comberton remained a category 4 village and the previously proposed site at Brailles Orchard had been taken off the list for sites to be considered. Three new settlements had been proposed at Throckmorton Airfield, Norton (Worcester) near the new Parkway Station and at Rushwick. There is additional development planned for Pershore, Evesham and Mytton Bank Tewkesbury and it was agreed that this would bring additional traffic through the village, particularly if Eckington Bridge is shut. Category 4 villages would have the development boundary removed and it was considered that it may of a benefit. The consultation

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period was now open and would run until 16<sup>th</sup> December. A response from the parish council would be drafted for approval and submitted

### 9. FINANCE

(i) Payments for approval/made since last meeting:

Brailles Rental	700	112.50
Defib Pads	701	77.20
Clerks Salary	SO	126.15
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Lengthsman (Sept)	702	144.00
Notice Board	703	353.12
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Clerks Salary	SO	126.14
BHCG Subscription	704	30.00

(ii) Accounts had been circulated to Cllrs

(iii) Current Account Balance (less u/p cheques): £2,727.49

Deposit Account Balance: £4,854.49

**10. PRIORITIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL** – Defer until January meeting. Cllrs had been given copies of existing Standing Orders / Financial Regulations and the Code of Conduct and the proposed amended versions for consideration with a request that any comments / queries be made to the clerk in readiness for the January meeting

**11. FIRST AID / DEFIB TRAINING** - It was agreed that an email be sent to parishioners to gauge interest with a view to organising a session in the New Year

**12. TREES AT QUAY** – The Parish Council had been advised of a large willow that had fallen at The Quay – it was agreed that it was not in the way and could be left.

**13. POLICIES** - Cllrs had been given copies of existing Standing Orders / Financial Regulations and the Code of Conduct and the proposed amended versions for consideration with a request that any comments / queries be made to the clerk in readiness for the January meeting

**14. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS/DISCUSSION**

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – TO BE AGREED