

**2020/01**

**GREAT COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7pm

1. **PRESENT** – Cllrs K Collingwood, S Inglis, T Pearce, A Lavell, K Barnes and H Peart, one parishioner and 2 attendees
2. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllr S Hamilton and County Cllr A Hardman
3. **MINUTES** from previous meeting were approved and signed
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Barnes – Rooftop Group
5. **MATTERS ARISING**
  - a) Lengthsman – nothing raised
  - b) Highway Matters – it was reported that the main road through Great Comberton is scheduled for road closure. Concerns were raised on the impact the diversion routes would have, in particular in the event of Eckington Bridge being closed due to flooding. The clerk would raise concerns with WCC as a matter of urgency
  - c) Police – The clerk advised there had been no crimes reported
  - d) Footpaths- A request was made by the parishioner in attendance for some of the stiles on footpaths/rights of way to be replaced with gates to enable easier access for those less mobile. The clerk explained, that if the Definitive Map stipulated a stile, then it would be up to the landowner to make the decision to change to gates. It was suggested that the clerk and parishioner liaise with WCC to see what the DM says.
  - e) The New Homes Bonus – Cllr Inglis reported that the Village Hall committee chairman is in the process of gathering tenders for the works proposed. The clerk reminded the parish council that once we had firm costings, we would need to consult the village with details and costs. It is hoped these would be available by the end of January
  - f) Rooftop Housing – Cllr Barnes reported that there was now a new housing officer for the area at Rooftop and he would be arranging a meeting with him shortly. It was agreed that there were a number of longstanding issues that remain unresolved and it would probably be sensible to ‘start from scratch’.
  - g) Notice Board – This has now been delivered and awaiting installation
  - h) Tree Warden – Cllr Collingwood reported that there was a tree at the Quay which needed some attention with a willow branch overhanging the river. The clerk would get in touch with the Tree Warden.
  - i) War Memorial – The clerk had put in a Pre-Grant Application and awaiting feedback from the War Memorials Trust.
  - j) Smartwater – The clerk reported that we had been given £186.90 from Rooftop Housing Groups Community Fund towards the cost of Smartwater, for the rented properties in Hands Orchard. Addition paperwork is needed to be completed and a request will be made for the Police and Crime Commissioner to allow us grant monies of £225 in lieu of signage in the village
6. **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT** – Nothing to report
7. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT** - There was no District Cllr in attendance. Concerns were raised over the lack of attendance by the District Cllr over the past 12 months, although we were aware that he

## 2020/02

had been unwell for some time during last summer. It was felt that there were several issues that required input and support from a District Cllr, and that this was lacking. The clerk was asked to contact WDC and ask for support from another District Cllr in the short term.

### **8. PLANNING**

- 19/01629 – land south of Greenfield – *This has gone to Appeal on the grounds of ‘non determination’ by WDC*
- 19/01841 – Hollyoak Nursery – new agricultural building – *This was approved by full planning committee. Cllr Collingwood and Inglis attended the meeting and were disappointed by the lack of support from WDC*
- 19/02547 – Land adj. to The Birches – proposed garden room – there were no objections to this application
- 19/02674 – Land off Pershore Road, Gt Comberton – creation of new access and rural workers dwelling – an introduction was given by the applicants architect, to give detail on the reason for the move from the current location in Netherton and plans for the future growth of the business. Following discussion, the parish council supported the business in general but were concerned about the continuing erosion of the ‘gap / open countryside’ between Pershore College and The Combertons. It was agreed that the clerk should ‘make an observation’ to this effect to WDC planning.

### **9. FINANCE**

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

HMRC PAYE		705	94.80
Lengthsman Oct		706	120.00
Lengthsman Nov/Dec LY		707	280.00
Clerks Expenses		SO	12.00
Clerks Salary		SO	126.15
Clerks Salary		SO	126.15
Clerks Expenses		SO	12.00
Lengthsman Dec		708	144.00

- (ii) Accounts had been circulated to Cllrs
- (iii) Current Account Balance (less u/p cheques): £2,238.53  
Deposit Account Balance: £4,854.49
- (iv) Budget / Precept – the clerk had circulated to Cllrs a draft proposal for the budget for 2020/21, and it was agreed that the precept would be increased by 6.2%, although this would only give us an additional £223 to cover rising costs of insurance etc. Cllr Pearce highlighted the fact that some provision should be made for any repairs on the War Memorial, if not covered by grant finding already applied for, and it was suggested that a fund raising event could possibly be held to cover any shortfall, or it could come from reserves. Cllr Pearce proposed accepting the budget as it stood, seconded by Cllr Inglis, 5 Cllrs were in favour with one abstention.

**2020/03**

Cllr Lavell brought to the Council's attention, suggestions for the parish council to move forward. The main discussion focussed on the fact that there was very little in the way of surplus funds available. The clerk would add this to the next agenda for a full review and consideration

**10. POLICIES:** The parish council's Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct were now out of date and it was necessary to review them, using 'models' provided by NALC (National Association of Local Councils and WDC). These had been circulated to Cllrs and everyone was in agreement to accept and adopt the amended versions.

**11. BHCG** – A request had been received from BHCG for a 'blanket' speed restriction around Bredon Hill. This was discussed and whilst we understood the sentiment behind the request, it was felt that this would only result in additional signage and would have little impact. It was considered that if there was an issue with speeding traffic in a particular parish, this should be for that specific parish council to address. Collingwood would respond accordingly.

During this discussion, concerns were also raised regarding the increased level and speed of traffic through Great Comberton, particularly as there is no street lighting and little footways. The clerk would request speed monitoring from the police and enquire about 'data collection' strips for a longer period of time

**12. 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

**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** – an invitation had previously been made by the owners of Allens Caravans to Cllrs to visit the site. It was agreed that we should ask parishioners if there were any points they would like to raise

**15. PRIORITIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL** – Cllr Lavelle suggested two specific plans but the council, collectively and individually, decided that they wanted no plans, so Cllr Lavelle's plans were not discussed

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm