

2021/09

GREAT COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7pm **held via Zoom**

1. **PRESENT** – Cllr K Collingwood, K Barnes, S Hamilton, S Inglis, A Lavelle, G Hodgson and H Peart, plus two members of the public
2. **APOLOGIES** – were received from County Cllr Hardman and District T Rowley
3. **ELECTION OF CHAIR** – A proposal was made for Cllr Collingwood to be re-elected as Chairman, proposed Cllr Inglis, seconded Cllr Hodgson – all in favour
4. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR** – a proposal was made for Cllr Barnes to be re-elected as Vice Chairman, proposed Cllr Collingwood, seconded Cllr Hamilton – all in favour

Open Forum – two parishioners in attendance gave their views on planning applications 21/00572 and 20/02800. Their comments were noted

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Collingwood: planning applications 21/00572 and 20/02800 – Pool House
6. **MINUTES** from the previous meeting were approved, proposed Cllr Inglis, seconded Cllr Lavell, all in favour
7. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) Lengthsman – It was agreed that we ask the LM to attend the next meeting in July
 - b) Highway Matters –
 - Drainage / Joes Farm – The clerk to press WCC for an update
 - Footways – Following lengthy discussion it was agreed that we wait until the next meeting and discuss options with the County and District Cllrs in more detail.
 - Flooding, Russell Street – Since the last meeting, Cllrs Collingwood and Inglis had walked the area, looking at ditches and possible reasons for the continued flooding issues. Some suggestions were made to a resident of Russell Street, but we have not had any reply. This would now be removed as an agenda item
 - Road Closure Eckington – the clerk reported on a forthcoming complete road closure in Eckington in the summer, which would impact on Great Comberton. The clerk had been reassured that this closure would NOT be carried at the same time as the works to be carried out by Severn Trent (re Allens Caravans)
 - c) Police – Nothing to report
 - d) Footpaths/PRoW – Nothing to report
 - e) Rooftop Housing – Cllr Barnes reported that the playground is ‘officially’ closed. A list of issues had been reported to the area officer, but with another change in staff it is unclear as to when it will re-open. It was agreed that Rooftop Housing had done little to engage with the community they represent, and the lack of action on any of the issues raised was considered to be extremely poor. It was mutually agreed that we take this up with the newly appointed District Cllr
 - f) Tree Warden – Nothing to report
 - g) War Memorial – The clerk has been in contact with the War Memorials Trust, and they have been assisting with obtaining additional quotes, which we will need to substantiate the grant application.
 - h) Severn Trent Foul Water - Sewerage Issues – Nothing further to report

2021/10

8. **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT** – Cllr Hardman was unable to attend the meeting because of the period of ‘purdah’ prior to elections

9. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT** - Cllr Rowley gave apologies because of a previous commitment.

10. **PLANNING:**

- 20/02702 – Mill Croft – proposed change of use of land for the siting of two temporary holiday accommodation units with parking area – *awaiting decision by WDC.*
- 20/02800 – Pool House – proposed single storey replacement ancillary accommodation – *to consider amendment to application. Cllr Collingwood was transferred to the ‘waiting room and did not participate in discussion. Taking on board the comments made by parishioners in attendance during ‘Open Forum’, the parish council were of the opinion that the previous arguments for objecting to this application had not been considered and the proposed planting scheme was poor. Concerns were raised that as long as the ancillary accommodation (with a proposed footprint similar to the main Pool House) was a separate building, there was always the risk that this could eventually be converted to a completely separate dwelling. It was also agreed that the tree planting scheme was poorly thought out, with some varieties not suitable for the type of soil in Gt Comberton. The parish council were in full agreement to object to the changes and that any previous comments still stand.*
- 21/00571 – Pool House – to replace existing front porch with single storey extension – *Cllr Collingwood remained in the ‘waiting room’ and did not participate in discussion. It was considered that the new ‘extension’ was of a poor design and too large for the front of the property. Whilst the parish council agreed there was no ‘policy’ reason to object, it was agreed that we ‘comment’ to this effect.*

Cllr Collingwood re-joined the meeting

11. **FINANCE**

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

Village Hall Toilets	749		12540.00
Lengthsman January	750		168.00
Brailles Orchard	751		112.50
Clerks Expenses	SO		12.00
Clerks Salary	SO		129.26
Clerks PAYE	752		97.00
Clerks Salary		SO	167.50
Clerks Expenses		SO	12.00
Lengthsman		753	50.00
Lengthsman		754	192.00

Proposed acceptance of payments and full accounts circulated by Cllr Lavell, seconded Cllr Barnes, all in favour

(ii) Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020 /21– Internal Auditor Report – The Internal Audit had been carried out satisfactorily with no issues raised

2021/11

- (iii) Annual Governance & Accountability Return Certificate of Exemption 2020 / 21 – *A proposal to approve made by Cllr Lavelle, seconded Cllr Hodgson – all in favour*
- (iv) Annual Governance & Accountability Return Section 1 2020 / 21– Annual Governance Statement – *A proposal to approve made by Cllr Lavelle, seconded Cllr Hodgson – all in favour*
- (v) Annual Governance & Accountability Return Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020 / 21 – *A proposal to approve made by Cllr Lavelle, seconded Cllr Hodgson – all in favour*

12. PHONE BOX – LIGHTING – After more than 12 months of debating the non-existence of the light in the phone kiosk (despite having to pay an annual standing charge), and the cost of removal of the supply altogether in excess of £1,000, it was formally recorded that this matter be closed and that the council would just continue to pay the annual charge to EON

13. BROADBAND – Cllr Hamilton reported that new residents had joined the scheme and that OpenReach had indicated a keenness to ‘link up’ surrounding villages. She also reported that there is soon to be a new roll-out of funding, and that she was meeting up with the representative from OR later in the week. Thanks to Cllr Hamilton were recorded.

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS/DISCUSSION :

- GDPR – policy review and Cllr specific email addresses
- 21/00975 – Eastwood House, Russell Street – proposed replacement detached garage – *the clerk reported that she had received notification of this application, although too late for inclusion in the agenda for this current meeting. It was agreed that this be a quick meeting on Wednesday 19th May at 6pm – this would have to be outside the VH as we are no longer allowed to hold ZOOM meeting to conduct parish council business.*
- Allens Caravans – the clerk reported that she had received communication from Allens Caravans with regard the conifer trees at the rear of the War Memorial and the fact that they have contributed to the damage to the wall. Allen were keen to take on board the feelings of the community on any course of action they take. The PC were in full agreement that cutting back these trees would do little to enhance the locality of the Memorial and would prefer to see them removed altogether. The clerk would report back to Allens

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 7pm