

2019/01

GREAT COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 23rd January 2019, in the village hall at 7pm.

PRESENT – Chair K Collingwood, Vice Chair K Barnes and Cllrs H Peart, S Inglis, T Pearce and S Hickey, District Cllr G Mackison and one member of the public

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr S Hamilton

MINUTES from previous meeting were approved and signed

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr K Barnes – Rooftop Housing shareholder
Cllrs K Collingwood and S Hickey – Planning application 18/02640 – Shelton Farm

OPEN FORUM - Issues brought to the attention of the parish council:

- Footpath – Following the request received from a resident at the last meeting with regard the removal of stiles in favour of gates on footpaths to enable easier access, the clerk reported that she had been in contact with WCC that if the stiles are recorded on the definitive map, then it is the landowners decision if they are to be changed. To be investigated further, but a suggestion was made that maybe the cost could be borne from New Homes Bonus. Clerk to raise the question with WDC

MATTERS ARISING

- a) Lengthsman – the clerk was asked to see if the LM was able to remove the fallen willow tree from The Quay. The clerk would ask him for a quote.
- b) Highway Matters – nothing to report
- c) Police – The clerk advised that Elmley Castle Parish Council is hosting a return visit with the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion. Date is to be agreed but it would be opened up to residents in both Little and Great Comberton
- d) Footpaths:
 - Footpath Gates – already reported on in Open Forum
- e) New Homes Bonus – currently stands at £4642. The clerk had received notification from WDC that uncommitted NHB funds for parish councils could be at risk of being re-allocated if there is no indication of any suitable projects. This was discussed at length and it was suggested that a project could be directed at the village hall, to include car park re-surfacing and new toilets. Cllr Inglis also suggested that there could be scope to extend the hall out into the car park (which would reduce car parking space) or alternatively to add a floor thus extending into the roof. It was agreed that in the first instance this be discussed with the Village Hall Committee
- f) Rooftop Housing – Cllr Barnes reported:
 - Manhole issues – the clerk would raise the poorly laid manhole cover direct with Severn Trent
 - Drug Activity / Motorbike Issues – had been reported to the Police
 - Repairs to Footpath – It was agreed that this was taking far too long to resolve considering the poor condition of the path, and the high number of elderly residents. The clerk would refer this back to Rooftop, and to include the CEO in the circulation list

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- g) The Quay – the sign had been removed, with the exception of the posts. With regard the fallen tree, the clerk would also obtain a quote from a local tree surgeon to compare with that from the LM

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – Nothing to report

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT - Copy available from the clerk

PLANNING

- 18/02127 – Hollyoaks Nursery – Provision of 5 x accommodation units – approved by WDC
- 18/02640 – Shelton Farm Lower End – The clerk suggested that this item be deferred to the end of the meeting, so that Cllrs Collingwood and Hickey could leave the meeting and go home – this was agreed by everyone
- SWDP – Cllr Collingwood had met with Andrew Ford (WDC) re the clarification of the meaning of ‘mobile home’ under the SWDP policy terms, and whether the fact that being connected to electric, sewerage and water means that this would in fact mean that any dwelling falling into this category should in fact be classed as permanent. The wording of the policy on static caravans was also discussed.

FINANCE

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

Lengthsman	664	120.00
Clerks Salary	SO	121.81
Clerks Office Expenses	SO	12.00
Hard Drive	665	12.00
BHCG	666	30.00
Lengthsman	667	288.00
Clerks Salary	SO	121.81
Clerks Office Expenses	SO	12.00
HMRC PAYE	668	91.40
Lengthsman	669	144.00
Clerks Salary	SO	121.81
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Lengthsman	670	144.00
Subscription Fees	671	70.68

- (ii) Up to date accounts had been circulated to Cllrs
- (iii) Budget/Precept – the clerk presented income and expenditure to date, projected income and expenditure to end of the financial year and a budget proposal. This was discussed at great length, as a proposed increase of 6% in the precept would only leave a surplus of £6. Whilst this was considered a very tight margin, a contingency of £500 had been included which hopefully would not be needed. It was suggested that ideally, the parish council needed to look at other ways to increase its income, and this included a suggestion that we should ask for donations from anyone using Brailles Orchard i.e. car parking. It was considered that this was a better option, rather than increasing the precept any higher than the proposed 6%. It was agreed that the budget proposal presented be accepted, meaning an increase in precept to £3,025 (+6%)
- (iv) It was agreed that anyone using Brailles for parking should be aware of a Disclaimer by the parish council in the event of injury or accident

GRIT / SALT BINS - A request had been made for salt/grit bins in Hands Orchard and Russell Street. It is the responsibility of parish councils to purchase them and to arrange for their re-filling. Concern was raised that residents would use the salt/grit for their own paths, thus incurring more cost on the parish council to finance the re-filling. Cllr Barnes would see if Rooftop would finance a bin for Hands Orchard.

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AOB/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Parking at Brailles Orchard – a request had been received from a resident for the use of the Orchard for parking for a forthcoming wedding – just during the church service. There were no objections but it was agreed that we should ask for a donation for the use of the field and that they should be aware that vehicles are parked at owners own risk and that the parish council are not responsible for any injury to persons.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 6th March 2019 – 7pm start to be followed by the Parish Council Meeting

Cllrs Hickey and Collingwood left the meeting

PLANNING:

- 18/02640 – Shelton Farm Lower End, Notification of Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use – Cllr Barnes took over this agenda item - lengthy discussion took place and it was pointed out that there had been a change of use back in 1996, no longer using the site as agricultural storage, but for caravan storage. It was unclear as to whether or not this had been implemented. Concerns were also raised with regard to vehicular movements to and from the application site, considering the close proximity to the War Memorial, and whether there would be sufficient parking spaces made available (as stipulated in the WCC Street Design Guide). A request was made that should the application be considered suitable for approval, a condition be placed ensuring that all materials and works associated vehicles are kept within the curtilage of the site, and that all work activity is restricted between the hours of 9 and 5, Monday to Friday, and that all works cease at weekends and bank holidays. It was agreed that taking these comments on board, the clerk would draft a response to WDC, to be circulated for final approval to Cllrs before sending off