

2020/09

LITTLE COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from a meeting of the Parish Council, via Zoom on Tuesday 5th May 2020 at 7pm

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN – Cllr Rabbette advised she was happy to continue for another year, proposed Cllr Jamieson, seconded Cllr Dermont

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN – Cllr Haycock advised she was happy to continue for another year, proposed Cllr Rabbette, seconded Cllr Britten

Cllr Rabbette wanted to record thanks to all the volunteers who had stepped forward to assist those who are self-isolating, to the Rolletts for the vegetable box scheme and ‘Pantry’ and to Cllr Jamieson who had worked hard on IT to get messages out to parishioners and to enable the ‘visual noticeboard’ to be used by anyone wishing to post notices.

OPEN FORUM – A query had been received from a resident before the meeting as to why bonfires were still an issue. The clerk had explained it was just as a follow up in response to complaints received by the parish council. A request had been received for the footpath leading down to the Gt Comberton junction to be cleared of moss and debris.

PRESENT – Cllrs C Rabbette, L Haycock, S Britten, N Jamieson, M Kibble and A Dermont, District Cllr T Rowley, County Cllr A Hardman

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllr P Morris, Mr A Rollett

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None declared

3. **MINUTES** from the previous meetings were approved and signed.

4. **PROGRESS REPORTS**

a) Highway Matters

- Pool Close – this is on the ‘list’ for 2020/21 but concerns were raised that the Wick Road surface dressing was more likely to be carried out first. Cllr Dermont had advised residents in Pool Close that the reason for the postponement of the previous scheduled repairs was to ensure that the drainage works were carried out satisfactorily first. Cllr Hardman explained that Wick Road is a simpler ‘top dressing’ whereas Pool Close requires full engineering works. It is unclear at this stage as to when contractors would be able to carry out the full works for Pool Close, due to the Covid-19 situation. Cllr Hardman advised that he would look into whether the ‘passing bays’ in Wick Road could be infilled, even as a temporary measure. Cllr Rabbette asked Cllr Hardman to see if Pool Close could be prioritised over Wick Road.

b) Footpaths/Rights of Way – The new Footpath Warden had completed all necessary paperwork and this had been sent into CC. She had not heard anything back but this could be due to the current Covid situation.

c) Lengthsman – The LM is now able to resume some duties, but not a full schedule. Requests were made for him to cut back overgrowth from signage.

A comment was made that the bench on the Wick Road was in need of some repair and re-staining. *Since the meeting the clerk has been in touch with a village resident who had previously treated the bench and was happy to do it again. He would also look into doing the minor repair to the broken slat*

d) Planning -

- Fence at Orchard View, Manor Lane – Still awaiting outcome from Enforcements. Cllr Rowley had asked Enforcements for a report on the current situation.
- SWDP – Cllr Rowley reported that a review of all the policies being carried out and hopeful to be able to stick to the same timescale.
- Hayloft Access – Cllr Rowley has been in contact with the Managing Director, who is still happy to have a meeting with representatives from local parish councils as soon as restrictions are lifted.

e) BHCG – Cllr Britten advised that there had been no meeting or communication received

f) Ditches/ Water Courses:

- Gt Comberton Junction – It was reported that some repairs had been carried out and following heavy rainfall there appeared to be no problems
- Drain Issues Junction of Orchard Drive / Pershore Road – clerk to chase this up
- Cllr Rabbette reported that she was aware of grips that had been attended to before the lockdown.

g) Trees / Tree Warden:

- It was agreed that after 'lock down' we should re-advertise again for a Tree Warden.
- Red May Tree, Elmley Road – This was now starting to show some sign of limited life. Cllr Britten would speak to Chris Beale to take a look at the Red May on Elmley Road.
- Trees on Wick Road – it was reported at a previous meeting that the trees on Wick Road were getting overgrown and with the Spring growth were now road edge but larger vehicles were keeping the growth down.
- Trees Overhanging Village Hall – the clerk would chase up the adjacent landowner with regard getting the overhanging branches cut back.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Rowley reported:

- Most staff members were working from home with limited numbers going into the offices. Senior management are taking it in turns to go in. Meetings are continuing remotely.
- Waste collections have been continuing and the bulky waste collection is now being re-introduced. Fly tipping has not been the problem that was expected because of the tip closure but it is hoping that these will open soon.
- Bonfires – the Wychavon alert went out as a result of Cllr Rabbette contacting Cllr Rowley and thanks were paid for that
- The majority of parishes throughout the county had community / support networks to help those self-isolating / vulnerable during the Covid-19 crisis which are working well. Only issues that have been high lighted is with delivery of prescriptions
- Cllr Kibble raised the point that a large litter bin from Pershore Bridges had found its way down to Nafford Lock after last flooding and needs returning to its location. Cllr Rowley advised that he would look into this.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Hardman reported:

- Works within Social Care had been particularly busy at this time. There are currently under 50 patients with Covid and only 7 in intensive care with 300 spare beds in the two acute hospitals. The message seems to be getting across that people should not put off going to the GP / hospital. Intensive training sessions are being carried out for those working in the care homes with a big push on testing. Congratulations were made to Little Comberton for the community / support network that has been set up
- Bonfires – Cllr Hardman also reported that a request had been received from the Chief Fire Officer for people not to have bonfires as they had been called out to too many that had got out of control. Cllr Rabbette further reported that the fire officers / bonfire guidance notice had been sent out on the village email list, this was a useful reminder to villagers not only because of the fire risk but also the problems caused for those with respiratory problems

7. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE - Cllr Rabbette reported that the new gmail address was working well as a means of getting messages out to parishioners, currently covers over 50% of households in the village. The virtual noticeboard is working well, with details of the village pantry and vegetable box deliveries and local shops that are offering deliveries. It was reported that there had been a call on a few volunteers for some help, with neighbourly support being offered and being taken up, particularly for shopping.

8. FINANCE – Payments for approval / made since last meeting:

Hall Hire	716	13.00
Lengthsman March	717	156.00
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Clerks Salary	SO	261.36
Subscription	718	222.14
Underpayment Salary	719	130.40
Insurance	720	168.53

a) Copies of the accounts had been presented to councillors

Account Balances:

Current A/c (after u/p cheques) **4119.86**

Deposit Account: **4928.39**

- b) Year End Accounts 2019/20 – The clerk had circulated the final year end accounts, which were approved – proposed acceptance Cllr Rabbette, seconded Cllr Haycock.
- c) Village Hall Insurance – a query was raised at the last meeting regarding the liability being shared between the village hall committee and the parish council. The clerk would ask the VHMT to send a copy of the insurance policy to check this.
- d) Scheme of Delegation – a document to enable urgent decisions to be made outside of meetings, for example payments or planning applications. All Cllrs were happy to support this.

9. HEALTH & SAFETY: Nothing to report

10. BONFIRES – Since the message had been sent out, there had been no further complaints regarding bonfires received by the parish council

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11. MEMORIAL GARDEN - Cllr Rabbette reported on the waste bin at the Memorial Garden which had been filled to the top with dog waste. A sign had been placed on the bin requesting dog walkers to either take their bags home or use the dog waste bin further up the road

12. CRIME – Cllr Haycock reported that there had been an incident with lead being taken from the church.

13. MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS / DISCUSSION:

- **Village Website** – Cllr Jamieson has started to look at companies that offer levels of access to the parish council and other village groups

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: June 2nd – to be conducted via Zoom