

2020/16

LITTLE COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from a meeting of the Parish Council, held via Zoom on Tuesday October 6th 2020 at 7pm

OPEN FORUM – Cllr Haycock welcomed the parishioners to the meeting and asked if there was anything specific they wanted to raise:

- Pool Close - Parishioner felt most of the points they wanted to raise in relation to the flooding in Pool Close had now been resolved. Thanks were passed onto the clerk for phone calls and email sent over the past couple of days to get WCC engineers back on site.
- Bonfires - Parishioner asked why the parish council were not speaking to the specific residents who were continually burning bonfires rather than email the whole village. The clerk responded that we had pointed everyone in the village to Worcs. Regulatory Services to follow through their reporting process. Cllr Jamieson reported that a recent email had been sent to two residents complaining of bonfires, asking for the identity of offenders to be known to the parish council, but no further information had been received. Cllr Haycock reported that there is little else we can do and asked the parishioner to let us know who is responsible for any offensive bonfires to enable us to make contact.
- Speeding is getting worse and no action is being taken. Cllr Haycock asked what actions the parish council could take. Cllr Kibble reported that we had paid for a VAS sign capable of obtaining data, but had been previously reported that this was likely to never to be enforceable. Clerk to ask if regular speed checks can be carried. Cllr Dermont reported that data would be inaccurate due to the high number of residents turning out of side roads onto the Pershore Road and travelling at just 10 or 12 mph. It was felt that the sign needed a designated post, specifically for the VAS sign – the clerk would speak to WCC about this
- Lengthsman – feels no evidence of the LM
- Accessibility of the Parish Council – Parishioner feels that the parish council should communicate with villagers in person, rather than via email. Suggestion that contact details should be displayed on notice boards and website. The clerk will update this. Cllr Haycock agreed that a positive way forward is to reach out to Cllrs personally, but any response would be a collective reply / action

PRESENT – Stand in Chairman L Haycock, Cllrs S Britten, N Jamieson, A Dermont, M Kibble and P Morris, County Cllr A Hardman and two parishioners

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllr Rabbette

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

3. **MINUTES** from the previous meetings were approved, proposed Cllr Jamieson, seconded Cllr Britten

4. **PROGRESS REPORTS**

a) Highway Matters

- Pool Close – Re-surfacing has now been carried out but following the continual rainfall of the previous weekend, surface water was not draining away creating a flooding issue that was considered worse than before. Photographs were taken, with the clerk forwarding these to WCC and communicating with them direct. A video survey was carried out (during the day of this

meeting) and a substantial amount of tarmac/muck was discovered in one of drains, completely blocking the channel. A hole had been knocked through and instantly the water started to flow.

Contractors who carried out the re-surfacing would be coming out later in the week and to put right the problem. It is hoped that this is the end of the problem. Cllr Dermont paid credit to the speed at which WCC reacted to the problem and the clerk asked Cllr Hardman to pass on thanks to WCC. Cllr Dermont added that residents of Pool Close were extremely pleased with the finish of the surface in Pool Close, and thanked Cllr Hardman personally for any input that he had

- Lay-by Pershore Road – Cllr Haycock updated those present on the situation – that residents of the bungalows had raised objections to the general use of the lay-by. The clerk reported that the information passed to the parish council, from neighbouring residents, was that the lay-by was ‘private’ for the sole use of the adjacent bungalows with substantiating evidence to prove this. The clerk obtained the original planning approval to check any conditions that may have been included. The clerk reported that the only ‘condition’ was that a service road (the lay-by) was in place before construction of the properties. She also reported that she had been in communication with WCC, who confirmed that the lay-by has in fact been adopted by WCC. Cllr Hardman confirmed it was ‘public right of way’, and if legal to park there, anyone can park there – any dispute would arise if the residents continued to maintain that it was their property and was wrongly adopted by WCC. Cllr Hardman felt that this was no longer between the residents and the parish council, but now an issue for WCC to get involved. Cllr Haycock asked what course of action the parish council should now take? That the PC should advise the residents of the bungalows to take this up with CC, and also to issue a correction to the residents of Little Comberton, following our previous email. It was agreed that we go back to residents of the bungalows to advise that our investigations do not provide enough evidence to suggest it is private road, and that we will be notifying the village that we have been unable to find enough hard evidence to support their claim that it is private and that they should take this up with WCC themselves. All agreed

b) Footpaths/Rights of Way – Cllr Haycock had reported a collapsed wooden bridge up Double Hedges. Also opposite church pond, a dead tree which is at risk of falling into the road. Cllr Hardman suggested we write to the landowner direct. Cllr Haycock advised that she would speak to the landowner. Parishioner in attendance mentioned that the missing way marker (previously reported end of 2019) is still missing. The clerk would chase this up with WCC Footpaths Officer

c) Lengthsman – Parishioner in attendance commented on the lack of activity by the LM. Cllr Jamieson reported that he had met with the LM on a couple of occasions – once on a ‘walk of the village’, identifying grips, and on a second occasion pin pointing drains in Wick Road full of gravel following the surfacing of Wick Road – since he had reported this to WCC, twice a drain cleaner has been and cleared the loose debris, and following heavy rainfall the drains were now flowing freely. Cllr Jamieson was satisfied that the LM was active and doing what he could. The clerk reported that the LM completes a detailed time sheet which is submitted to WCC for payment, and a copy which is also sent to Cllr Jamieson. The clerk asked Cllrs and parishioners to report to either the Clerk or Cllr Jamieson if there was any area which they felt needed attention and they would liaise direct with the LM

d) Planning -

- Fence at Orchard View, Manor Lane – Notice was served on the residents back in September. Concerns were raised over the length of time this has taken to get to this stage. The clerk would chase this up
- 20/01209 – Well Furlong – change of use for 2 combined Shepherd huts – approved by WDC
- 20/01562 – Ringsmere Orchard – erection of replacement garaging – approved by WDC
- 20/01959 – 13 Orchard Drive – single storey extension – no objections were raised
- SWDP – Nothing further to report
- Planning Reforms – White Paper Consultation – briefings to take place on 7th and 8th October – Clerk was going to attend

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- e) BHCG – Cllr Britten reported that a Zoom meeting was being held the following week. Nothing to report at this stage
- f) Ditches/ Water Courses:
 - Drainage Junction Orchard Drive / Pershore Road – the clerk reported that two gully’s had been replaced but a further problem has been identified and is with WCC engineers
 - Great Comberton Junction – Cllr Hardman reported that works had been carried out and this job was now complete
- h) Minerals Extraction, Charlton - The clerk reported that Tarmac had withdrawn their interest in Charlton. This did not mean that another minerals extraction company may be interested in the site at a later date.

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Nothing to report

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – County Cllr Hardman reported:

- Covid is on the increase
- Contract tracing has worked well
- Wychavon looking at 38 cases per 100,000 (at the time of the meeting) with hospital cases starting to increase
- Care homes – 17 homes have 2 or more cases of coronavirus
- There seems to be a lot of positive talk regarding a vaccine
- Clerk paid thank to WCC for the re-surfacing in Pool Close
- Maybe Orchard Drive would be something for consideration

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

(a)

Clerks Salary	SO	326.56
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Lengthsman July	731	96.00
VAS Maintenance	732	147.60
ICO	733	40.00
Clerks Salary	SO	326.56
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Lengthsman August	734	150.00
Salary Back Pay	735	73.08
Grass Cutting (1/2 Yr)	736	125.00
Grass Cutting (1/2 Yr)	737	125.00
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Clerks Salary	SO	326.56

(b) Village Hall lease – says the insurance policy should be in joint name. Cllr Morris would speak to the Insurance Company and report back

(c) Clerks Salary Award as per recommendations by NALC had been presented to Cllrs – there were no objections

8. HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report

9. GRASS VERGE CUTTING – a request from one resident for their grass to be cut and financed by the parish council. The clerk had made enquiries with WCC and their grass cutting grant and also a quote from a local

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company. The information from WCC came too late to be considered fully and it was agreed this be deferred to the next meeting

10. ST PETERS CHURCH – A decision had been made to close ST Peters Church due to falling numbers with St Mary's Elmley Castle to be the place of worship for the time being

11. MILLENIUM PLAQUE – A lot of dead insects had collected under the cover – Cllr Morris advised that this just needed the cover to be removed, cleaned and then re-sealed. *Action Cllrs Morris / Kibble.*

12. DOG FOULING – nothing new to add

13. FERAL CATS – Cllr Britten reported that Cats Protection have neutered a number of cats which had now been returned. Residents appeared not to be feeding them. Eight kittens had been taken to re-home. Thanks were paid to Cllr Britten for all her effort and time

11. CRIME:

- Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing further to report

11. MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS / DISCUSSION:

- Village Website
- Signs at entry to village – shields
- Workers Accommodations at Hayloft

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 3rd November