

**LITTLE COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes from a meeting of the Parish Council, held via Zoom on Tuesday February 2nd 2021 at 7pm

**PRESENT** – Chairman C Rabbette, Cllrs N Jamieson, A Dermont, and P Morris, County Cllr A Hardman, District Cllr T Rowley and one parishioner

1. **APOLOGIES** – were received from Cllrs L Haycock and S Britten. Since the last meeting M Kibble has resigned from the parish council.

**OPEN FORUM:** - Parishioner in attendance questioned the way the parish council handled a situation that came about last summer. Because the action that followed and subsequent correspondence was anonymous, it was considered by the parish council to be a general PC issue. However, at the tonight's meeting, the parishioner gave additional information, including the name of the complainant which suggested that this was not the case, and was not directed at the parish council collectively, but personally at one particular Cllr. The clerk requested that the complainant contact her direct so that the issue could be resolved once and for all.

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

3. **MINUTES** from the previous meeting of January 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 were approved, proposed Cllr Dermont, seconded Cllr Jamieson – all in favour

4. **PROGRESS REPORTS**

a) Highway Matters

- Lay-by Pershore Road – Cllr Rabbette reported that she had received a copy of a letter that was sent to WCC.
- VAS Sign – Awaiting the new pole to fix the VAS sign to. It has been approved by WCC but Covid and flooding issues throughout the County have had an impact on manpower available for non-urgent issues.

b) Footpaths / Rights of Way – Nothing to report

c) Lengthsman – Cllr Jamieson had nothing to report, however the clerk advised that the LM had 'power washed' the white village gates. This had made some improvement but because of the 'grooved' surface it was impossible to clean properly. A suggestion was made that these would be painted with a suitable paint, which would 'fill in the textured finish' and enable the gates to be cleaned satisfactorily in the future. This will be investigated to ensure that any product will be long lasting.

d) Planning – nothing to report.

e) BHCG – Cllr Britten had nothing to report other than the Group is looking for a new secretary.

f) Ditches/ Water Courses – Cllrs Rabbette and Dermont reported that despite heavy rainfall over the past few weeks and raised water levels, surface water dispersed quickly and there have been no reports of flooding.

g) Village Broadband / Website– Nothing further to report. Cllr Jamieson reported that he had chased the WCC co-ordinator and Open Reach for further information and quote but had not heard anything back.

h) Village Signs – nothing further to report.

i) Dogs:

- Dog Fouling - New dog fouling signs have been purchased and will be sited in worst affected areas.
- Waste Bin at Memorial Garden – A number of complaints have been received by the parish council regarding the amount of dog waste being deposited in the bin at the Memorial Garden and the problems with the bin overflowing at times and odour. The Garden is a central focal point of the village which attracts a lot of attention and is carefully tended throughout the year by volunteers.

A suggestion has been made that the bin is re-located. In the first instance the clerk would seek guidance for this from WDC about the costs and other considerations and report back.

**5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Rowley reported:**

- Covid rates are just starting to level off although there has been an increase in the number of cases in the over 60's which suggests that care home cases may be on the increase. The average overall in England, however is reducing.
- Business Support Grants are now being rolled out, along with the vaccination programme.
- WDC car parks are still offering free car parking although 'roadside' restrictions still apply.
- SWDP – the next stage is Regulation 18, which focuses on looking at alternative sites – as a 'Plan B'. The consultation for this commences on 1<sup>st</sup> March and runs for 7 weeks. The final 'draft' is not expected until October 2021.
- Minerals Local Plan – Examination in Public – Representation had been made by the joint 'parish councils' of the Avon Valley corridor. The Inspector has yet to issue their report.
- Parking Elmley Castle – Cllr Rowley reported on excess car parking in Main Street, Elmley Castle, presumably 'visitors' to the area during lockdown. If any similar issues are reported in LC, please report to Cllr Rowley.
- Fly Tipping – similarly, fly tipping is now a problem locally – any issues to be reported to WDC or the local police.
- A By-Election is expected in May 2021, for new District Cllr to cover Elmley Castle ward – County Council elections are expected to still go ahead although no door- to door canvassing is permitted .

**6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Hardman reported:**

- Flooding – he had not received any reports of flooding issues following the last heavy rainfall.
- AONB Flood Mitigation Fund – Councillor Hardman is aware of some funding from the Cotswold AONB to help with flood alleviation and suggested that there might be scope for a Bredon Hill wide flood mitigation and re-wilding project - the clerk to seek clarification from Cllr Hardman on this scheme.

**7. FINANCE –**

**(a) Payments for approval / made since last meeting:**

Clerks Training (divided by 6)	<b>753</b>	300.00
Dog Bin Emptying	754	90.97
Lengthsman December	755	168.00
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Clerks Salary	SO	333.08

(b) Grass Cutting Contribution to Church – A suggestion has been made that Little Comberton & Elmley Castle parish councils write a joint letter to the Diocese on the legal issues with regard the contribution made to the church towards their grass cutting costs and hopefully to find a way to resolve this.

**8. HEALTH & SAFETY – Nothing to report**

**9. AGRICULTURAL CHANGES POST BREXIT – Cllr Dermont had put together a paper which had been circulated, for which he was thanked for. Cllr Jamieson commented that he had found it very interesting. The clerk is to put together a list of local landowners and forward to Cllrs Dermont and Haycock.**

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**10. NEW HOMES BONUS** – The parish council has £119 of NHB left which needs to be applied for by 31<sup>st</sup> March or we lose it altogether and it will be placed in a much larger Community Legacy Grant fund. A suggestion had been put forward to purchase some additional Red May trees to compliment those already on the Elmley / Wick Roads (exact locations to be agreed at a later date). The Red May trees have a long history in the village with the original ones being planted to commemorate the Coronation of George VI. All Cllrs were in favour of this, proposed Cllr Jamieson, seconded Cllr Dermont. It was agreed that an email be sent out on the village email group and notices put on the boards, although for amounts of less than £200 the consultation process required is greatly reduced. Cllr Rabbette would seek costs for new trees.

**11. CRIME:**

- Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Rabbette reported that the NW co-ordinator had stepped down from the role. Thanks were paid to Mr Bigg for all of his hard work and it was agreed we advertise for a replacement via the village g-mail group.

**12. TREE – (OUTSIDE BARNIE COURT)** - the clerk had received a request from the owners of Barnie Court for the tree on the verge outside their property (Orchard Drive side) to be removed. Tree roots are causing damage under the fence and into their garden, and branches are interfering with overhead cables, and following discussion it was agreed by the parish council and Cllr Hardman that the tree, that was planted many years ago by WCC, was not the best suited variety. There were no objections to the tree being removed and something more suitable being planted. Cllr Hardman advised he would be prepared to finance the removal of the tree from his Members Budget but suggested the clerk seek approval from WDC / WCC in the first instance.

**13. NOTICE BOARD AT CROSSROADS** – the clerk had been advised that the notice board at the X-roads in the village needed some repairs carried out. It was agreed that a request for assistance on some general maintenance be included in the same email to parishioners asking for a volunteer, replacement NW co-ordinator.

**13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION / AGENDAS:**

- **Cllr Vacancy** – the clerk had notified WDC of the vacancy and notices have been put on the website / notice boards. The parish council have made contact with Mr Kibble thanking him for his contributions to the parish council.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 10th March 2021