

LITTLE COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting, held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 7pm at Little Comberton Village Hall

1. **PRESENT** – Cllrs: L Haycock, N Jamieson, A Dermont, L Haycock, and S Britten, District Cllr E Kearsey, County Cllr A Hardman, one observer (with regard Co-Option) and ten parishioners.

Cllr Haycock was voted Chair for the meeting – all in favour

2. **APOLOGIES** were received from Cllr C Rabbette

3. **CO-OPTION** – No applications received, however Adam Haycock indicated that he would like to be considered for co-option and would submit a formal application for consideration at the March meeting.

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

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)** – Minutes from previous meeting on 12th January 2022 were approved, proposed Cllr Jamieson, seconded Cllr Britten – all in favour

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Points raised by parishioners in attendance:

- Lengthsman – a question asked as to who the LM is and what he does? Opinions were that he is never seen about the village. *Cllr Jamieson responded that he had tried to negotiate a specific day of the week when the LM would attend (ideally on a fortnightly basis) and that he had been off sick for several weeks prior to the meeting.* Leaves on the footpath from the VH to church were a H & S issue and needed clearing. The clerk would contact the LM and ask that he contacts Cllr Jamieson
- Proposed new trees, Orchard Drive – the residents in attendance wanted to raise concerns and objections to the **suggestion** to plant a Red May tree at each of the four corners of Orchard Drive, namely:
 - Tree roots and the damage to utilities
 - Leaf / blossom clearance
 - Visibility at the junctions with Wick Road and Pershore Road
 - Difficulties for property owners who mow their grass verges
 - Reference made to the trees previously in Orchard Drive and the damage caused to pavements. During consultation at the time that the new trees were planted, many of the residents were against any tree outside their property
 - Maintenance of the trees

Cllr Haycock thanked everyone for their comments which the parish council had taken on board. Apologies were made to one resident for not responding personally to their email.

6. **PROGRESS REPORTS**

a) Highway Matters :

- White Gates – despite efforts to try and clean the white gates it was agreed that these should be painted in the spring
- Drainage, Corner of Orchard Drive – WCC have advised that the repair to the collapsed gulley would necessitate a road closure. The parish council need to remind WCC to ensure that it does not slip off the radar.

- A46 Road Safety Campaign - Cllr Haycock reported on recent meetings she had attended regarding the fatality rate on the A46 (Cheltenham Road). The campaign is starting to move in a positive way. Cllr Hardman advised that progress may come about in 2022/23 and that Harriet Baldwin is now involved. Cllr Kearsey advised that everyone involved in promoting the awareness should be thanked, and something as simple as a 50mph speed limit at the accident 'black spots' could be the answer
- VAS Sign – Cllr Dermont reported that he was obtaining quotes for a second VAS sign
- b) Footpaths/Rights of Way – A report had been received from the Footpath Warden covering the paths / Public Rights of Way in the village. Some works had been carried out but there were some minor actions which would need attention by the appropriate landowners
- c) Lengthsman – Already covered in *Open Forum / Public Questions* above.
- e) Ditches/watercourses – Old House Farm – WCC had advised that this would be attended to in the coming weeks, to remove tree roots seemingly blocking the drain into the ditch. *Since the meeting we are aware that these works have been carried out. We await to see if this resolves the problems*

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Hardman reported:

- Covid cases have started to increase slightly locally with five cases in ICU
- WCC budget to be set at 3.9% to enable extra provision for Adult and Children social care
- Flooding – an extra £1 million would be allocated to flood alleviation
- Investment to be made in footways - Cllr Hardman advised he would put forward the path from the VH to the Church
- Trees Orchard Drive – Cllr Hardman kindly offered to finance the 'pruning' of the trees in Orchard Drive. Clerk to liaise with Bolton's

8. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Keasey reported:

- A further round of Covid Business grants can now be applied for
- The new Apprenticeship Support scheme is up and running
- Cllr Kearsey interacted on agenda items during the meeting

9. PLANNING:

- Hayloft – Cllr Kearsey advised she would chase Hayloft for the direction signage promised by Hayloft
- 21/02701 – The Old Rectory, Pershore Road – erection of residential annexe following demolition of outbuildings and wall – *awaiting decision by WDC*
- 21/02596 – Cornerways, Pershore Road – 2-storey extension and detached garage – *awaiting decision by WDC*

Cllr Kearsey took the opportunity to suggest that Cllrs would benefit from 'planning' training following on from the point raised at the last meeting on how to reply to planning applications, and that that they can reach out to her to clarify planning issues and the process we should follow to best represent the interests of the village.

10. FINANCE / GOVERNANCE –

- a) Payments for approval / made since last meeting –

Clerks Salary	SO	306.32
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
VAS Sign Mtce	781	152.03
Lengthsman September	782	144.00
Dog Waste Bin	783	621.06
Donation	784	50.00
Half Yr Grass Cutting	785	125.00
Half Yr Grass Cutting	786	125.00
VH Hire	787	13.00
Cheque cancelled	788	
Lengthsman Oct	789	144.00
Clerks PAYE	790	228.45
Clerks Salary	SO	306.12
Clerks Expenses	SO	12.00
Cheque cancelled	791	
VH Hire	792	13.00
Xmas Wine	793	82.00

Proposed approval of payments and accounts to date Cllr Jamieson, seconded Cllr Dermont – all in favour

Account Balances:

Current Account: £6787.61

Deposit Account: £4,930.99

10. **RED MAY TREES** - *Feedback following consultation with village residents re the siting of four Red May trees on each of the corners of Orchard Drive and the junctions with Wick Road and Pershore Road* - Cllr Dermont reported on the responses to the survey. From the 130 questionnaires emailed to villagers, 30 responses were received of which 22 supported the proposal and 8 were against. 13 responses to the same questionnaire hand-delivered in Orchard Drive and Brooklands were received, of which 6 were for the proposal and 7 against. Overall, 65% of the village were supportive and 35% were against tree planting in Orchard Drive. Taking on board the objections received from parishioners in attendance, other locations were considered, with the general agreement that the lower end of Wick Road, to add to the avenue of trees already planted. Two of the parishioners in attendance kindly offered to help with the planting. This was proposed by Cllr Haycock, seconded Cllr Jamieson with all Cllrs in favour. It was further suggested that perhaps a plaque commemorating the trees to a loved one would be well received by residents, and this would be requested in the next communication with residents.
11. **CLERKS VACANCY / APPOINTMENT** – interviews had been carried out and a new clerk appointed to take over from 1st March 2022. The outgoing clerk would arrange a hand-over meeting in the next couple of weeks
12. **CORRESPONDENCE – Boundary Review** – to clarify the position that the proposal is for Little Comberton to move into the Fladbury Ward, Great Comberton to move into Eckington Ward, Bricklehampton to remain in Fladbury Ward and Elmley Castle to move into the Bredon Ward. Cllr Kearsy pointed out that these were just proposals at this stage and representation should be made during the current consultation period. Both Cllrs Hardman and Kearsy did not understand the reasoning behind these proposals and urged everyone to comment. It was agreed that this information should be circulated to parishioners to make them aware of the forthcoming changes.
14. **MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS / DISCUSSION:**
- Policy Review – in hand / on going
 - Cllr vacancies – to continue promote
 - Open Space – a suggestion made to seek a small piece of land, either to purchase or lease with on a ‘peppercorn’ rent to be used as an ‘open space’ for parishioners to meet up, sit and chat. To consider possible options for consideration

2022/07

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st March 2022 in the Village hall at 7pm. March is when the parish council usually hosts the Annual Parish Meeting, however it was agreed to defer this to allow the new clerk time to settle into the role first.