

DRAFT

Little Comberton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting - Minutes Tuesday 7th May 2024, 7pm Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: N Jamieson, C Rabbette, L Schmitz, D Smithson, N Smithson, District Cllr B Hardman

Clerk/RFO: Nicola Harding

In attendance: Twelve parishioners

L Bugg & R Wooley: Avon Vale River Action group

Apologies: received from County Cllr A. Hardman.

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 16th May 2023:

Proposed Cllr Rabbette, seconded Cllr Jamieson, all in favour, to approve the minutes as a true record.

Reports:

In advance of the meeting, the following reports were circulated and are appended to the minutes:

- Parish Council Chairman's report
- Sports & Social Committee's report

Avon vale River Action Group:

Two members of this voluntary group were in attendance, to provide a presentation outlining their work of monthly water sampling and monitoring of the River Avon & its local tributaries. Of primary concern, was a recent unexplained event at Mary Brook, whereby an unidentified substance had pooled across the surface. This was subsequently reported to the Environment Agency & Severn Trent however the event remains unexplained. Potential causes may include a discharge of sewage from the nearby works, intensive agriculture & surface runoff from roads and fields. Ongoing testing is therefore invaluable in obtaining good quality data of phosphates, indicating the health of the waterways. Access to data is available via the following link:

[Avonvale River Action Group | Clean Rivers for Everyone](#)

Details of the work and goals of this voluntary organisation were discussed and circulated, with an intention that by regular testing and contributions to the national database in conjunction with the National Angling Trust, pressure will be put on the water authorities both locally and nationally to commit to greater investment in sewage plants. Sampling is now established in many local villages with support available from Wychavon District Council for the purchase of testing kits and training is provided in line with the Angling Trust.

Following the presentation, there were opportunities for questions from parishioners, including the potential for dredging the Avon in order to make it deeper. It was confirmed that this was a question to raise directly with the Avon Navigation Trust, however as a charity, resources are limited. Further to some of the data shared, it was also confirmed that upgrades are planned by Severn Trent in their programme of works over the next few years to the local sewage works, as this is currently unmonitored.

The meeting also noted the recent contact from Severn Trent and information distributed regarding issues alerted at the local sewage works. A reminder had been circulated via the village email and leaflets distributed around the parish, as a reminder of appropriate disposal of waste into the system.

It was confirmed that the Avon Vale River Action Group will respond to any incident reported and will train interested volunteers in order to improve the invaluable asset of our local waterways. In the interim, it was agreed to raise further awareness with the village and consider the future funding of testing kits for volunteers. It was also agreed to request further updates from Severn Trent to establish if issues still exist within the system & to also raise awareness with neighbouring Great Comberton parish.

Actions: Clerk to request PDF version of the presentation distributed & Cllr Jamieson to circulate details and links via the village email/e noticeboard, in order to spread the word amongst residents & request for volunteers.

Clerk to raise information at the next meeting of Great Comberton Parish Council & request any further updates from Severn Trent following the information shared last year.

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30mph speed zone upgrade:

Cllr Jamieson had circulated his 2023/24 chairman report to those present, extending thanks to the Parish Council team for their efforts and combined achievements throughout the year. A summary of the approved 30mph speed zone upgrade was also distributed, following the recent village consultation to reduce speeds through the village. Cllr Jamieson summarised the proposals which had been supported and approved by Worcestershire County Council Highways. On behalf of the Parish Council, sincere thanks were extended to Andrew Dermont who led and managed a successful bid for £3,100 of funding from West Mercia Police's Safer Roads Fund & County Cllr Adrian Hardman for his generous financial contribution of £1,500 confirmed. Given that funding is now in place, it is hoped that the planned upgrades will be completed during the Summer.

Opportunities for comments from parishioners were provided, including a concern raised of the very poor condition of the passing places on Wick Road. It was confirmed that the Senior Highways engineer at WCC had already made assurances that road shavings would be used to fill these gaps in the near future and it was agreed to follow this up as a matter of priority.

Action: Clerk to request update from WCC Highways.

A separate enquiry was also raised regarding the potential for a replacement tree at the memorial garden, following the removal of a diseased tree some 8+ years ago. It was confirmed that as the ground was infected at the time, a replacement was not considered, however given that a tree inspection of the existing trees is due at this location in the Summer, it was agreed to discuss this matter under item 7e of the main annual meeting of the parish council, in order to consider further.

District Cllr B. Hardman

In relation to the Avon Vale River Action Group item, Cllr Hardman informed the meeting of her request for £10,000 of funding for the purchase of water testing kits and training of additional volunteers. Further reports were shared under item 11 of the main annual meeting of the parish council agenda.

On behalf of the parish council, Cllr Jamieson extended thanks to all contributors at the meeting and for such a positive turnout of villagers.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman