

2023/11

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Great Comberton Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Wednesday 5th July 2023, 7.00pm Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: K Collingwood (Chair), S Hamilton, S Inglis, A Lavelle, D Wilks
County Cllr A. Hardman

Clerk/RFO: Nicola Harding

In attendance: One parishioner

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr Hodgson & DCllr B. Hardman.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

3. Parishioner's Comments

Attention had been drawn to the condition of the public footpath from Eckington road to the church, following recent excavation works by National Grid. It was agreed to make contact with the technician in charge to request that the surface is smoothed over. Overhanging trees were also reported in the same vicinity: A Cllr confirmed they had checked the trees, and are not considered to be a hazard for pedestrians at present due to their height.

Action: Cllr Collingwood to make further contact with National Grid.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2023

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

5. Casual vacancy

One application had been received and circulated for consideration for the casual vacancy on the Parish Council, following the recent Parish and District Council elections in May. Proposed Cllr Collingwood, seconded Cllr Hamilton, all in favour, to co-opt S. Hickey. A new Cllr declaration was signed and the Clerk will notify Wychavon District Council, forward a register of interest forms for completion and other relevant documentation.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Hickey

6. Progress reports from Parish Activities - brief updates:

a. Lengthsman: Cllr Collingwood had been in communication with the lengthsman to discuss priority tasks, and work undertaken in the Parish in June was shared for information. Blocked gullies and drains along the main road to Quay Lane require attention and it was agreed to report these online. *Action: Clerk/Cllrs.* It was also noted that granite blocks forming kerbing at the War Memorial have become displaced and therefore need resetting, as they could present a hazard.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Hardman to report to the Senior Highways Liaison engineer at WCC.

b. Highways/Footpaths: Cllr Hardman confirmed that footpath resurfacing works scheduled in the village to the existing width are on the County Council's contractor's list for attention, however this was likely to be completed in the next financial year.

c. Police/CSW: There had been no further updates from the Community Speedwatch Team following Cllr Inglis' last communications, therefore it was agreed to raise this via the latest town and parish council police survey received. *Action: Cllr Inglis.* It was also confirmed that a request had been forwarded to the local police team to attend the forthcoming Flower Show.

d. PRoW/Trees: The Clerk shared the findings of an informal visual inspection completed by an adviser at the Woodland Trust, of the trees at the Quay side and general village areas in May/June. No tree safety risk issues or change in use, type or frequency are identified at present.

e. Rooftop Housing: There were no general reports to share at present. The neighbourhood officer had liaised with a member of the Council regarding a concern previously received relating to the location and security of the play area and it was agreed that no further action was required at this time.

f. Conservation Area Character Appraisal: Following the first meeting with volunteers and a village walkabout, a preliminary update has been drafted, awaiting further input and completion. It was noted that the relevant officer at WDC has now left the post.

g. Brailles Orchard fencing: Further repairs are needed to complete the recent works and ensure suitability. Contact has been made with a blacksmith regarding work to the gate, which requires completion. Previous discussions regarding the land management of the orchard and potential availability to parishioners outside of the cutting season were revisited, and reference was made for clarification to the agreement made between the Parish Council and land managers. It was therefore agreed to remind the land managers of the recreational clause agreed once the hay has been taken, with a subsequent note circulated to the village email to update parishioners when the orchard may be available for recreational use. *Action: Cllr Hamilton/Cllr Inglis.*

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7. District and County Councillor's reports:

District Council: A report received from District Cllr Hardman had been received and circulated ahead of the meeting, which was summarised and discussed. Further to updates provided regarding planning application W/22/01898, it was agreed to draft a response to Wychavon drawing further attention to an additional structure which has been noted, following checks of the planning officer's report.

County Council: Cllr Hardman provided the following summary:

There has been an overspend in the County Council budget, seen mainly in children's and learning disabilities.

The County Council has been instructed to take the Coroner's service from the Police, which will result in additional costs incurred.

Forthcoming highways road closures continue to be forwarded to the Clerk and shared with Cllrs, the most notable of which will be the repairs to Eckington Bridge, scheduled from 27 July – 25 August.

A discussion ensued regarding 20 mph speed schemes which have been implemented in some areas in Wales and elsewhere across the country. Four trials have been operated locally (of which Pershore High Street is one.) Alternative speed reduction measures were discussed as a potential substitute and the likely consequences of 20 mph schemes in terms of increased urbanization, noise and costs.

8. Planning

W/22/01898/FUL: Newfarm House, Russell Street - change of use of land for domestic purposes and retention of storage barn and container (retrospective) application has been approved.

W/22/00611/FUL: Lower End Farm Excavation of three ponds, a flood retention area and a ditch meander in two pasture fields. Removal of condition 3 on planning permission 21/02258/FUL - Notification of Planning Appeal REF: APP/H1840/W/22/3308308. There are no further updates at present.

W/23/00332/LB: Shelton Farm, Lower End - roof replacement of north elevation and porch and replacement of tiles, as required. It was confirmed that there are no comments to report.

9. Finance

a) Current Balances at 28th June 2023

Business Current Account:	£6,045.33
Business Savings Account	£1,774.37
TOTAL	£7,819.70

b) Payments to report:

* 12/5/23 GC Social Club: Coronation expenses	£250.00
* 23/5/23 Lengthsman expenses	£70.00

Salary (May & June 2023) £604.50	
Clerk's expenses (May & June 2023)	£24.00
Postage (May/June 2023) £6.00	
VH hire (May 2023)	£7.00
Lengthsman (May 2023)	£135.00

TOTAL **£1,096.50**

Proposed Cllr Inglis, seconded Cllr Lavelle, all in favour, to approve the payments presented.

c) Bank reconciliation (i) 28 June 2023: Documents had been forwarded to Cllr Hamilton for checks and verification. The Clerk drew attention to an amendment to the reconciliation, which was noted and approved as accurate.

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10. Worcestershire Calc: Training

New training dates scheduled for Cllrs and Clerks have become available, as reported under item 11, Correspondence. This was noted.

11. Correspondence

Worcs Calc	New Cllr training dates are available via Zoom on the following dates: Tuesday 11 th July/Tuesday 19 th September/Tuesday 3 rd October (New Chairman training)/Tuesday 21 st November 2023 – at a cost of £30 for member Councils.
Boundary Commission	Details have been received and circulated of a review of Worcestershire County Council's current electoral arrangements: comments if any are to be received by 19 th September.
SW Police	The latest edition of a Summer newsletter from the Rural & Business Crime Team had been received and circulated.
John Campion, West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner	A Town & Parish Council 2023 survey had been received and shared. One response is requested from Town and Parish Councils by Monday 14 th August, to comment on police visibility, accessibility, and crime and disorder in the local area. <i>Action: Cllr Inglis to complete on behalf of the Parish Council.</i>

12. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda:

Cllr Hamilton provided further Airband updates, reporting that the main infrastructure is now in place and some connections to properties are complete.

13. Date of Next Meeting: It was agreed to move future meeting dates to the first Monday, bi-monthly.

Next meeting date: Monday 4th September 2023 at 7.00 pm

Action: Clerk to update the village hall bookings clerk and Cllr B. Hardman.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman