

COMBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Combroke

Present

Tim Goodhead (TG)

DCllr Chris Mills (CM)

Jo Price (JP)

CCllr Williams (CW)

Stephanie Connah (SC)

Brenda Rayson (BR), Chairman

Georgina Lowe (Clk), Clerk

Members of the Public 0

1. Apologies

None.

2. Acceptance of Apologies from Parish Councillors

None.

3. Declaration of Interests

None.

4. Public Representation

None.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th November 2017 had been circulated. Proposed TG, seconded JP and

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting be confirmed and signed by the Chairman

6. Chairman's Report and Other Reports for Information Only

a. Chairman:

- i. The Chairman began by proposing the letter from County Highways regarding access through the village for the gritter be considered under item 12 together with a brief review of snow and ice matters
- ii. Parish Councillor Briefing on the new Code of Conduct will take place on Thursday 22nd of March between 5pm and 7pm at Elizabeth House. The session will be recorded for future training purposes

b. Clerk:

No report.

7. To Consider the Purchase of Dog Waste Bins

This item was raised by a resident in response to the leaflet issued which included a reminder about dog owners bagging their dog waste in public areas. There followed a discussion on costs, emptying and possible locations, as well as impact on the street scene. It was concluded that within the immediate village area, no one was more than ten minutes from their home and it was not a significant burden for owners to carry waste bags to dispose of in their domestic bins. It was therefore unanimously agreed not to take the matter further at this stage.

8. To Consider the Relocation of Grit Bin at the Entrance to Leys (Top of Church Hill)

During snow/icy weather the most challenging section of the lane up Church Hill is on the bend adjacent Imladris. The nearest grit bin is beyond the top SE gate entrance to the Leys. It had therefore been proposed to move the grit bin closer to the bend and adjacent to the new fibre cabinet. Upon further discussion it was agreed to await the installation of the new fibre cabinet and then to co-ordinate with Patch Byrne (County Highways)

9. **Planning Update**
- 9.1 Pending 14 Combrook**
Installation of two air source heat pumps
Correspondence with the Case Officer continues *BR / TG*
- 9.2 Granted St Mary & St Margaret's Church 17/03158/TREE**
T1 – Leylandii – Fell
- 9.3 Granted The Little House, 21 School Lane 17/03560/TREE**
T1 – Field Maple – Fell
- 9.4 CE Gilbert Site Update**
BR advised the installation of the replacement sewer across Deepdene had been completed just before Christmas. Severn Trent had confirmed it was happy with the standard of the sewer and would be adopting it.
- The Clerk reported Gary Watson, Planning Enforcement Officer had written to the developer having checked the visibility splays at the lane. The developer had subsequently sent photographs showing a reduction in the height of the fence and hedge but this had yet to be verified by a follow-up visit. The Officer had also confirmed that there should be nothing in the splay that exceeds 0.6 metres in height and as such would be checking with a senior planner as to the suitability of the hedge. *Clk*
- 9.5 14 Combrook Outbuilding Update**
It is understood the Enforcement Senior Planning Officer visited the site in December and the applicant made aware that the outbuilding is in breach of approved planning permission 15/00443/FUL. The Parish Council awaits a further update. *BR*
10. **The Leys Project Update**
To note, in response to comments made at the last meeting, photographs of the proposed Victorian estate gate and a standard tubular farm gate were displayed at the Village Hall Coffee Morning. Comments received were in favour of the Victorian gate. Grant funding is now to be explored.
- An email to residents seeking volunteers to join a Leys Management Committee and also volunteers to be involved in practical matters to be produced / circulated prior to next meeting. *BR / SC*
11. **Village Hall Gate Pillar Update**
The Clerk reported Biffa had accepted liability. Photographs of the damaged pillar together with a quotation for the repair had been submitted and notification of when the loss adjuster would be visiting the site awaited. *Clk*
12. **Lanes and Drainage**
- 12.1 County Highways Repair and Improvement**
In December County Highways wrote to all households highlighting the difficulty their gritter drivers were having getting through the village due to parked cars. County Highways have noted the improvement however residents are asked for their continued co-operation.
- After a wintry spell TG reported a grit replenishment order had been logged with the County Council. In doing so it was also noted grit bin locations needed to be updated to assist with future replenishments. *TG*
- TG reported that he had spoken with Patch Byrne reference the proposed new gully on the road section descending from Compton Fields. Patch advised he would be conducting a site visit in the coming weeks where upon he would be able to indicate when the work was likely to be scheduled in.
- TG also advised that bubbling water had appeared through a section of tarmac close to the grass triangle. Patch had been informed and would investigate the matter further.
- 12.2 Leys Drainage Flood Grant** – To note a site meeting is arranged with WCC's Drainage Engineer on Tuesday 23rd of January. *BR / Clk*

13. **Village Lanes Update**

The Chairman referred Members to Appendix 3 of the reports pack.

In July 2017 BR reported the OS online mapping was appearing with Combrook Rd marked on the lane through the village. This was thought to be the outcome of the contact made with OS mapping to ask for Spring Lane and Church Hill to be confined to the identified road segments for which the names have traditionally been used.

Liz Taylor, Spatial Information Officer for SDC confirmed this to be the case citing the national mapping requirement to name unknown roads when mapping issues arise. Following discussion with Liz, corrections have now been made to the Combroke map, to delete "Spring Lane" from occurring outside Compton Fields and ensure it terminates at the grass triangle after Appletrees and before No 39; however, Combrook Road will appear on those previously unnamed road segments on the road through Combrook from the Fosse to the Kineton Junction. The Church Hill segment will remain in its traditional section. Liz confirmed the Parish Council could still request the name to be changed, if there was a strong enough feeling to do so. She advised against encouraging anyone to use Combrook Road in their postal address but just to let it be on the map. The current use of simply: "Combrook and postcode" is well established under the Royal Mail PAF system (Postcode Address File) and their digital mapping is marketed to delivery companies.

After discussion it was agreed this was a sensible approach and to remove the item from future Agendas.

14. **Village Broadband**

To note contact has been made with the CSW broadband project to find out exactly what progress has been made during the recent road closure. And to note a further road closure is planned for the beginning of March to install the fixture for a fibre cabinet on Church Hill.

15. **Financial Administration**

15.1 To consider payments to be made:

Current Account: £384.96 Deposit Account: £5,167.20

Invoices were presented , approved and cheques signed for :

Clerk's Dec / Jan Salary £205.97 (Includes £10 Vodafone Top up Voucher)

CPRE annual donation £36.00

Also prior approval agreed for Internet Security up to the value of £100

15.2 2018/19 Precept

Following last month's discussion no further questions were raised, it was therefore unanimously agreed to increase the precept by 4% raising it to £4,304.00

15.3 Notification of External Auditor for 5 year period commencing 2017/18

The Chairman referred Members to Appendix 2 of the reports pack.

To note that PKF Littlejohn LLP has been appointed as external auditor for the "smaller authorities" across Warwickshire

16. **District Councillor's Report**

- i. Preventing Online Grooming – Keeping your family safe online. Warwickshire County Council is running a number of free sessions between the 16th of February and the 23rd of March. To book your free place, or for more details , please contact the Community Safety team at communitysafety@warwickshire.gov.uk
- ii. Stratford-on-Avon District Council Cabinet Budget Proposals – This year Central Government, within their spending calculation assumed that Council Tax would increase by £5, which equates to a 3.7% increase. However the District Council's Cabinet will be recommending an increase of just 1%. That equates to an increase of £1.36 on a Band D property (less than 3p per week).
- iii. Visitor Information Centre Open For Business – Its business as usual for Stratford Visitor Centre after Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet recommended that the current visitor information service continues.

The decision has been made following the end of the contract with Stratford-upon-Avon College who had been providing the service from Bridgefoot since January 2012.

With the current contract ending the District Council will now take over the running of the Visitor Information Centre, ensuring continuity of service.

17. **County Councillor's Report**
CCllr Williams report is attached to these minutes.
18. **Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas:**
None.
19. **Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:**
Tuesday 20th March 7.30pm Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Combroke Parish Council 16th January 2018
County Councillor's Report

Since your last meeting in November it has been quiet at the County Council. A full Council meeting took place in early December although there was nothing significant on the Agenda it was unusually politically charged.

The final Local Government settlement came out two days before the Christmas break. The amount that Warwickshire will receive is only just in line with the predicted (planned) settlement but no allowance was made for additional pressures which are coming to light as well as the higher than expected staff pay increase. There is an option of an additional 1% on the Council tax – over and above the 1.99% already allowed. If this is taken it will be swallowed up with increased Adult and Children's safeguarding costs. The Budget is due to be set on 6th February and I will be able to give you full details at your next meeting.

We have endured two bouts of extremely snowy and frosty weather over December/January. The County Highways have again been able to keep 46% of the main roads open and each village has had at least one route into and out of it gritted. Grit bins have been well used and I have asked Highways to ensure they are refilled as requested. We would all like to see more minor roads gritted and especially the footways but unfortunately this is neither feasible nor affordable. In the "bad old days" householders used to clear the length of path outside their property. This does not seem to happen so much nowadays!

2018 will again be dominated by financial savings as more and more pressures are placed on local Government without the resources to go with them. Overall council tax will increase with extra Police precept and District precept added to the WCC precept. Brexit will continue to have an influence on local decisions and who knows what Mr Trump will do next.

Coventry City of Culture (desig), will be putting out the begging bowl and I think devolution may well raise its head again. However, I am confident that Combroke will continue to be well run in a year that will see a Royal Wedding and commemorations of the end of WW1 in November to name but a few events to look forward to.

A Happy New Year to you all.

CIlr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton & Red Horse Division - WCC
14.01.2018