

COMBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18 January 2016 at 8.00pm at the Village Hall

Present

Jo Price (JP)

DCllr Chris Mills (CM)

Tim Goodhead (TG)

Brenda Rayson (BR), Chairman

Georgina Lowe (Clk), Clerk

Members of the Public 2

1. Apologies

CCllr Chris Williams (CW)

The Chairman opened the meeting by announcing that in discussion with the Clerk regarding the Councillor vacancy there was a need to include an additional procedural item on the Agenda following item 4.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Goodhead Red Holm planning application - personal.

3. Dispensation Requests

None.

4. Public Representation

A resident came to leave some documents for the Council to consider, including some photographs, he was unable to stay at the time to describe the purpose. It was agreed to give initial consideration to them under item 16.

5. Parish Councillor Vacancy

A proposed notice was tabled and agreed to invite interested residents to consider co-option to the Council. To be posted on the notice board and website.

BR

6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th November 2015 had been circulated. Proposed JP, seconded TG and

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

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes

'Transparency Fund' – BR advised the revised bid had been successful and a grant for £967.90 had been awarded to the Parish Council. BR will now proceed to pursue arrangements with the District Council for the implementation of the project.

BR

8. Planning

A. For Consultation

8.1 Red Holm 15/04364/FUL Erection of front, side and rear extensions; demolition of garage, rear stores and conservatory. The key features of the proposed scheme were briefly described with copies of plans tabled at the meeting. There followed a discussion.

Whilst the property is within the Conservation Area, at this particular location the nearest listed properties are across the stream with large garden land and tree cover between. It was noted that the property is not directly visible on public rights of way from the rear. Therefore it was considered that it would not be necessary to ask for a Conservation Officer Report.

The proposal was felt to be a relatively modest and carefully thought through enlargement of the original building in keeping with the style of the property. It was agreed that the Parish Council

BR /

had no objection to the proposal.

Clk

B. Update

8.2 Pending 14 Combroom 15/04101/LBC

The previously circulated and agreed Representation for this application was formally approved. It was noted that the Case Officer has now suggested that LBC was not in fact required and the application is withdrawn. The reasons for this are unclear when the application is described as curtilage listed.

It was also noted that the applicant has now implemented a building with the interior remodelled including the upper floor in the loft and now the whole garage as living accommodation. This is a breach of the approved permission for a garage and workshop. It is understood the Enforcement Officer is investigating the matter following the Parish Council's submitted Representation.

8.3 Granted Village Hall 15/02148/FUL – To widen gateway at notice board to 2m

8.4 CE Gilbert Site Update – splays; road naming

At the last meeting it was agreed to write to the Estate Agents regarding the splay still to be implemented in accordance with conditions set. The Chairman reported that soon after the meeting work started on the front verge, so the letter was delayed until the New Year. It was thought it would be sensible to combine with a note about the proposed naming of the development which would help to solve the current incorrect use of Spring Lane in the address.

To consider the proposed access way name of "Compton Fields"; after discussion it was agreed the Parish Council would not be objecting to the proposal. It was reaffirmed that all reference to Spring Lane be removed and the development be allocated a new postal code. However the Parish Council would wish to ensure that the District Council does not require a name plate on this access, this will be in keeping with the Village Plan which notes that (at Page 7), *none of the village roads are named with name plates* and action point 08.7 *no other signs are needed/wanted*.

BR /
Clk

9. Ongoing Reports

a. Village Hall and Green

The Clerk reported that the insurance arrangements for the Village Hall had now been re-arranged under the Parish Council with the Diocesan Board having a named interest. It was noted overall there had been a significant saving of over £500.

b. The Leys Project Update

BR reported the Owl Trust had submitted a report for the year regarding their inspection of the owl box. It was hoped that work on the estate railing and top gate would be started in the early spring.

BR

10. Lanes and Drainage:

10.1 County Highways Repair and Improvement

BR had reported to County Highways the loose kerb stone and verge post at October House. TG mentioned a similar post by the Triangle; BR to add it to the list.

BR

JP raised concern about the huge amount of mud on the lane out of the village to Kineton. Reference was made to an access way being created without planning by bumping over the verge from the field opposite the wood at the southern end; and also the significant activity bringing manure waste to the field at the north end. It was agreed legal background should first be sought with County Highways.

Mention was also made about the lane towards the Fosse and the difficulty with the lower verge levels when passing other vehicles. It was again agreed to discuss with County Highways to see if anything can be done.

Clk

10.2 Leys Drainage Flood Grant

Grant submission ongoing. Jim Blenkinsop was publically thanked for his work clearing ditches on the Leys.

11. Village Lanes and Postcodes

After discussion it was agreed further research was required regarding how to resolve the

remaining concerns about existing lane names; the incorrect names created by google maps; and delivery vehicles navigation issues. *All*

Postcodes as per Minuted item 8.4 above.

12. **'Gateway Feature' Update**

The Clerk reported that WCC has now stated that police advice is that the traditional "wooden gate" gateway features can be an unnecessary hazard in the event of an accident and therefore were no longer recommended. It was therefore agreed to simply ask for the existing Combroke signs to be repainted. *Cik*

13. **Finance and Accounts for Payment**

13.1 Financial Update

Current Account: £1,695.33 Deposit Account: £2,162.30

Totals reflect a £1,500.00 transfer from the deposit account into the current account, un-presented cheques issued and signed since the last meeting were noted and approved:

Zurich (Buildings Insurance – pro rata payment) £200.28

Zurich (Contents Insurance) £309.94

Batsford Timber Ltd £563.88

Invoices were presented, approved and cheques signed for:

CPRE £36.00

Combroke Village Hall Committee £1,386.10

Clerk's December / January Salary £224.16 (total includes internet security renewal and Vodafone top up voucher)

13.2 Precept 2016/17

A copy of the proposed budget / precept for 2016/17 had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion it was agreed to go with a 2% increase on the precept raising it to £4,058.00 *Cik*

14. **District Councillor's Report**

- i. Stratford District Council has agreed a 3.9% rise in Council Tax for the coming year.
- ii. Recycling – Stratford-on-Avon District Council has maintained its position in the top ten Councils for recycling and composting.
- iii. Write Offs – Every year the Council makes provision for uncollectable debts. At the end of December £341,481.64 had been written off in Business Rates and £292,024.79 in Council Tax.
- iv. West Midlands Combined Authority – Stratford District Council are due to debate the matter again and vote on becoming a non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- v. HSBC Kineton Branch to close early March.
- vi. Kineton Post Office consultation currently underway on proposed services.

15. **County Councillor's Report**

CClIr Williams report is attached to these minutes.

16. **Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas:**

JP raised concern over the difficulty of using the single pavement through the village given the overhanging vegetation in some places. It was agreed to investigate and if appropriate write to relevant householders. *Cik*

With reference to item 4 TG provided the Council with an overview of the documentation left by the resident, it was agreed to make contact with the resident to clarify the ways in which the Parish Council could assist. *BR*

17. **Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:**

Monday 14th March 8.00pm Apple Trees, Combroke

The meeting closed at 9.49 pm

Combroke Parish Council Meeting – 18th January 2016
County Councillor's Report

This is a relatively quiet time for the County Council. The main concentration has been preparation of next year's budget.

- 1. County Council Budget 2016-17** – The County Council is currently formulating its budget proposals for next year. Central government has advised that there will be significant reductions in the settlement allowed which helps run the authority in addition to the money raised by the Council Tax etc. In the normal course of events authorities such as the County Council are restricted in the amount they are allowed to increase the Council Tax. This figure is normally 2% unless they hold a referendum. This year the Chancellor has announced that local authorities will be allowed to increase their annual precept by 2% to cover the cost of Adult Social Care in addition to any other increase charged by authorities. Therefore, I expect, in simple terms, that the new precept increase will be in the region of 3.95%, thereby not breaching government guidelines.

The County Council is in the middle of a four year plan to reduce costs by some £92 million. None of the front line services such as Public Health, Education or Adult Social Care will be subjected to the savings regime. There will be no significant capital projects announced in the budget and the plan is to reduce are current level of borrowing to be reduced to less than £20million.

- 2. Gateway Project** – I am pleased to update the Parish Council inasmuch as a scheme to provide the Gateway Project incorporating alternative spellings for the village name has been supported by me and I am facilitating total funding for this project. Debbie Poynton, Road Safety Officer Highways, will be progressing this project and final designs respecting the locations of the gateways will be submitted to the Parish Council for approval allowing completion within this financial year.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton Division – WCC
17.01.2016