

# **COMBROKE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20 March 2017 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Combroke**

### **Present**

Stephanie Connah (SC)

DCllr Chris Mills (CM)

Tim Goodhead (TG)

CCllr Chris Williams (CW)

Jo Price (JP)

Brenda Rayson (BR), Chairman

Georgina Lowe (Clk), Clerk

Members of the Public 3

The Chairman began the meeting by welcoming Matthew Neal, Policy Officer, Stratford District Council. An informal presentation and discussion then followed on Neighbourhood Planning.

1. **Apologies**

None.

2. **Acceptance of Apologies from Parish Councillors**

None.

3. **Declaration of Interests**

SC - Agenda item 7.2

4. **Public Representation**

None.

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 had been circulated. Proposed JP, seconded TG and

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

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016 had been circulated. Proposed TG, seconded SC 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**

i. **Chairman:**

No report.

ii. **Clerk:**

No report.

### **Planning**

7. **7.1 Consultation for Tamara 17/00761/TREE**

T1 – Horse Chestnut – Fell

It was agreed the Council will support the Tree Officer's decision.

**7.2 Pending 14 Combroke 16/03108/FUL**

Temporary use of ancillary outbuilding as a separate dwelling for a period of 12 months.

In addition to this application BR provided an enforcement update on landscaping and drainage issues. After discussion it was agreed CM will seek further clarification from SDC on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **7.3 Pending Lorien 17/00532/TREE**

T1 and T2 – Larch - Fell; T3, T4 and T5 – Lawson's Cypress – Fell; T6 Norway Spruce – Fell  
It was agreed the Council will support the Tree Officer's decision.

### **7.4 Granted New Enclosure Farm 17/00055/FUL**

Two front entrance gates accessing Plots 1 and 2

BR reported this application was due for response on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. The Clerk had submitted a response in line with previous comments made on this site. Specifically there would be no objection to the design of the gates however the issue of the access splay required for the site was currently obstructed by one of the existing gateposts, fencing and planting.

It was noted that this application had been approved on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March and the Officer's Report declared there had been no response from the Parish Council. The report also refers to brick pillars for the gates for which there was no mention in the application. An email has been sent to the officer to query these issues.

### **7.5 Granted 9 Combroke 17/00074/VARY**

Removal of condition 7 of planning approval 14/01669/FUL

### **7.6 Granted 5 Combroke 16/04053/TREE**

T1 – Apple Tree - Fell

### **7.7 C E Gilbert Site Update**

The Chairman reported that the surface water drainage which accumulates at the drain in plot 3 had still not been addressed - and therefore plot 3 and the adjacent garden at Deepdene remain liable to substantial flooding in extreme rains as happened on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2016.

The Chairman also reported that on the sewage matter there had been no further progress. Severn Trent has yet to confirm whether a retrospective application has been made for the indirect sewage connection to the public sewer via the foul drain belonging to Deepdene.

The Chairman referred to a record of emails between the owners of Deepdene and Building Control which call into question whether Building Control have effectively inspected the drainage services in connection with this site. After discussion it was agreed the question should be raised with the Head of Building Control in the first instance.

### **7.8 October House**

The Chairman reported that a tree application will be submitted for October House to fell overgrown Leylandi trees which are overshadowing the house and causing some dampness. It was felt that the proposal would also improve light and views on the footpath which runs parallel with the trees. After discussion it was agreed the Parish Council would defer to the recommendation of the Tree Officer.

## **8. To consider the development of a Neighbourhood Plan**

Due to time constraints it was agreed to bring the item back for discussion next meeting.

## **9. Financial Administration**

### **To consider payments to be made:**

Current Account: £1,080.08                      Deposit Account: £5,064.97

Unpresented Cheques:

CPRE annual donation £36.00

Combroke Church grant towards cutting / strimming the grass £600.00

Combroke Village Hall Committee annual grant £608.00

Invoices were presented , approved and cheques signed for :

Clerk's Feb / Mar Salary £191.38

10 **District Councillor's Report**

- i. Write Offs – Every year the Council makes provision for uncollectable debts. At the end of January £234,277.71 had been written off in Business Rates and £179,897.66 in Council Tax.
- ii. Venture House Celebrates Its First Birthday – The business centre is particularly aimed at new and existing SMEs, entrepreneurs and home based businesses wanting to make the first transition into a commercial environment. Since opening last April, many businesses have taken full advantage of the facilities offered including hot-desking, meeting room/chill zone, serviced offices and free on-site business support from the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Hub. To find out more about Venture House, visit: [www.venturehousestratford.co.uk](http://www.venturehousestratford.co.uk) or contact 01789 207500
- iii. Licensing Panel – Bamboodle in Stratford-upon-Avon has had its license revoked following noise and numerous complaints. The premises review followed a visit by Environmental Health and Licensing officers working together from the District Council who found a number of licensing conditions being breached. There had been a history of non co-operation by the owner and manager and numerous reports of public order offences.
- iv. Red Horse District Ward By-Election Result – John Feilding (Conservative) 476 Elected
- v. Council Tax Level for Stratford District – The amount residents will be asked to pay will rise by 2% a year for a band D property. This is the second time in 7 years that the District Council has agreed to increase the Council's share of the council tax to help cover the continuing fall in Government funding.
- vi. New Cabinet Member – The Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Cllr Chris Saint has appointed Cllr Richards (Snitterfield) as Housing and Infrastructure Portfolio on Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet. Cllr Richards' appointment follows the resignation of Cllr Robert Vaudry.

11 **County Councillor's Report**

CCllr Williams report is attached to these minutes.

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

None.

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

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7:30pm

**The meeting closed at 9.50pm**

**Combroke Parish Council – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017**  
**County Councillor's Report**

1. **Budget**– As I indicated in January, Warwickshire County Councillors met on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 21017 to set the Annual Budget and with no political group in overall control, a joint budget was agreed between the Conservatives and Labour parties.

The outline of the Conservative Budget was published last December where we were going to absorb the £67million reduction in government funding for the next three years.

- (i) The budget invests in Warwickshire and protects the most vulnerable.
- (ii) The County Council will create an investment fund to improve the County Council's infrastructure and it will be providing additional support to help regenerate our town centres.
- (iii) The County Council will build on the success of the Apprenticeship Hub that has led to the County Council being listed within the top 100 UK employers.
- (iv) The continued support through economic growth development will provide support for our most vulnerable residents. The County Council will be providing further investment in Extra Care Housing which will support people in their own homes giving them the independence they so richly deserve.
- (v) £1 million more will be invested to improve the safety of routes to schools.
- (vi) The Homes to School Transport Budget will be protected.
- (vii) A further £1 million will be invested in LED lighting which will support the ambition to bring our street lighting up to date.

In addition, 40 new staff will be employed to help as Social Workers to help with the growing problem of looking after the 750 children that are currently in care in Warwickshire. It is anticipated that these additional staff will help to reduce the number of children requiring the work of Social Services.

To achieve a balanced budget the Council Tax this year will increase again by the same amount as last year, i.e. 1.99% to cover general increases in costs with a further 2% ring fenced for Adult Social Care. By achieving a prudent budget over the past 7 years, Warwickshire has been able to retain the Council Tax charges unlike some other counties who requested a 15% increase to achieve the same end that Warwickshire is already achieving.

To reiterate, Warwickshire continues to protect the most vulnerable residents in the County.

With the approval of the Budget by the two main political parties after five months planning, the Council can now go forward on a sound financial footing for the future.

2. **County Council Affairs** – Having settled the County Council Budget and precept setting process as above, the Council has moved into a pre-election period and is in the process of tidying up as much unfinished and routine County Council business as possible. As a technicality, the election period commences on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March and continues to election day on 4<sup>th</sup> May. I will, of course, advise the Parish Council of any issues that might arise, in the meantime, that would have an impact upon Combroke.