

COMBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20 March 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Combroke

Present

Tim Goodhead (TG)

Jo Price (JP)

Stephanie Connah (SC)

Brenda Rayson (BR), Chairman

Georgina Lowe (Clk), Clerk

DCllr Chris Mills (CM)

Cllr Williams (CW)

Members of the Public 0

1. Apologies

None.

2. Acceptance of Apologies from Parish Councillors

None.

3. Declaration of Interests

TG – Agenda Item 8.2

4. Public Representation

None.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th January 2018 had been circulated. Proposed JP, seconded TG 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 a brief review of snow and ice issues arising from recent weather conditions be given under item 7
- 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
- iii. The Community Forum originally planned for Wednesday 15th March has been postponed until June when the Police and Crime Commissioner will be attending

b. Clerk:

No report.

7. Snow, Ice and Grit Bins

7.1 It was noted there did not seem to be a mechanism for getting grit bins re-filled as soon as they are empty, currently the County team re-fill grit bins around the District as and when they are able to do so. CW suggested the Parish Council carry spare grit; the matter will be looked into again before the onset of winter.

Clk

7.2 At the last meeting it was agreed to wait for the installation of the new fibre cabinet before confirming the revised location of the grit bin currently in the Leys field entrance. Now in place TG suggested it be moved next to the fibre cabinet, back against the hedge, 2m South (downhill) so that any salt spilt when dissolved would run away from the base of the cabinet and not risk corroding the wiring. TG circulated a map with the proposed location marked on it. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to proceed and to notify immediate neighbours prior to co-ordinating with the County Highways team.

*BR /
Clk*

8. **Planning Update**

8.1 Pending 14 Combrook 17/03236/FUL

Installation of two air source heat pumps

To note the Planning Committee in February deferred the decision pending further research and investigation on the noise information submitted by the applicant. Following a report and subsequent email from the Environmental Health Officer the application has been scheduled for decision at Committee on 21 March with a recommendation to grant.

*TG /
BR*

To note and approve a further letter, dated 12 March, submitted to SDC on behalf of the Parish Council, identifying the current issues still to be resolved and the Parish Council's recommendation that a sound pressure level of 25 dB would be a reasonable value to set as a conditional requirement on the sound pressure level produced by the heat pumps alone at the assessment positions of the neighbouring properties. The Parish Council remains opposed to the grant of approval for a heat pump to serve the outbuilding which remains in breach of Listed Building and Planning Consent

8.2 Pending Appletrees, Spring Lane 18/00585/TREE

T1 – Willow – Fell

8.3 Granted Combrook House, Spring Lane 18/00317/TREE

T1- T5 – Lombardy Populars – Fell

8.4 CE Gilbert Site Update

To note that there remains an outstanding legal agreement to be completed to clarify maintenance arrangements for the surface water sewer to the stream and also the water supply pipes.

BR

The Clerk reported the Planning Enforcement Officer with whom she had been corresponding about the splay had now left the authority. No further update had been received prior to his departure. The Clerk had again written to Roger Thatcher requesting assistance.

Clk

8.5 14 Combrook Outbuilding Update

The Enforcement Senior Planning Officer has advised they are still waiting confirmation from the owner about how he wishes to proceed with the concerns raised about the building.

BR

9. **Development Requirements Supplementary Planning Document Consultation (SDC)**

This is one of a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that accompanies the Core Strategy, and it provides detailed advice and guidance to applicants when submitting planning applications. When finished (adopted), it will be used by Stratford-upon-Avon Council to help reach decisions on whether to approve or refuse planning applications. BR to review

BR

10. **Consultation on Revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework**

The consultation will run until the 10th of May and will be of particular interest to those communities in the various stages of Neighbourhood Planning. BR to review

BR

11. **Parish Champion Stratford District**

Two years ago the District Council agreed to nominate a Parish Champion under the Warwickshire Local Councils Charter. The purpose of the Charter, to encourage a mutually beneficial working relationship between the tiers of authority in Warwickshire by improving communication, consulting each other, giving support and help etc. The County Officer for WALC had advised the nomination for the Stratford District had not been forthcoming, and was asking local Parish Council's to lobby the District Council. CM to follow up

CM

12. **The Leys Project Update**

12.1 A letter to residents inviting them to join a new committee whose single purpose would be to advise the council on the management of the Leys had been circulated prior to the meeting. Four positive responses had so far been received and it was proposed an initial meeting be convened after the Easter break. BR was nominated as the Parish Council's representative and will report to the council on matters that arise

*BR /
Clk*

12.2 Restoration of estate railing at Leys gateway entrance

To note BR and TG met the blacksmith on-site in February. The proposed location and detail for the fencing, field gate and new pedestrian gate were discussed / agreed. Funding has been

secured and will be paid for by the individual / Trust direct.

13. **Village Hall Gate Pillar Update**

To note a loss adjuster had now inspected the gate pillar on behalf of Biffa. It was thought a surveyor may also be required but that Biffa would confirm within the next few weeks.

Since last meeting damage has also been caused to the grass verge by the stone well adjacent to the grounds of Chestnut House. It is reported the Biffa vehicle was forced to mount the verge due to parked cars and dislodged two kerb stones. Chris Dodson from Streetscene had been accompanying the vehicle at the time but ruled out the use of a smaller vehicle for environmental reasons. Biffa have agreed to reset the kerbing, contact details with the Clerk.

14. **Lanes and Drainage**

14.1 County Highways Repair and Improvement

TG reported that Patch had still to review, but that the proposed new gully and repair works were in hand

14.2 Leys Drainage Flood Grant

An informal detailed report was emailed to all Members following positive outcomes from the site meeting in January between the Clerk, Chairman and County Flood Management Officer. An additional rodding chamber /drain manhole in the field had been added to the previous specification to facilitate the clearance of blockages. Notification that the Grant application had been successful had been received and the grant agreement completed and returned on behalf of the Parish Council. The contractor had been contacted and asked to schedule in the work.

15. **Village Broadband**

To note the installation of the new fibre cabinet had proceeded as planned during the first weeks of March. The cabinet is expected to go live in the coming weeks.

16. **Financial Administration**

To consider payments to be made:

Current Account: £178.99 Deposit Account: £5,167.63

Invoices were presented , approved and cheques signed for :

PR Alcock 'make safe' costs – removal of Village Hall gate £72.00

Also prior approval agreed for Clerk's Feb / Mar Salary (Including £39.99 Internet Security and £0.65 Postage); HMRC payment

17. **District Councillor's Report**

- i. Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme – Stratford-on-Avon District Council welcomed its first two Syrian refugee families in late November 2016 with a third family arriving in November 2017. All the families have settled in well and are integrating into the local community. A fourth family will be welcomed this month. The District Council pledging to welcome a further eight families over the next two years into the town of Stratford-upon-Avon.
- ii. Nuisance empty home to be put back into use – Stratford-on-Avon District Council has been awarded the first Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO) in Warwickshire. The EDMO means that a property in a poor state of disrepair which has long been the subject of complaints from unhappy neighbours will be brought back into use under the management of the District Council. Extensive work was undertaken to try and engage the owners but this ruling now gives SDC the power to take over the management of the property for a period of up to seven years.
- iii. New Cabinet Member – The Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Cllr Chris Saint has appointed Cllr Simon Lawton (Wootton Wawen) as Planning and Administrative Portfolio Holder. Cllr Lawton replaces Cllr Daren Pemberton on The Cabinet.
- iv. New appointment to Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) Board – Cllr Dave Riches, Enterprise and Revenue Portfolio Holder has been appointed as the District Council's representative on the CWLEP Board. Cllr Riches replaces Cllr Chris Saint on the CWLEP Board.
- v. Stratford-on-Avon District Council successfully defend appeal – A Stratford-on-Avon

District taxi driver has lost an appeal against having his dual driver's license suspended for a period of three months. The decision to suspend Mr Rakesh Singh's license had been made on the basis of his fitness and propriety to hold the license. The licensing panel considered breaches of license conditions including the use of a home-produced driver's badge, incomplete operator records, incorrect display of a licensed vehicle badge and obstruction of the Council's officers carrying out their duties. The justices concluded *'the District Council had acted appropriately and that the period of suspension was not excessive'*

18. **County Councillor's Report**

CCllr Williams report is attached to these minutes.

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

The General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") will take effect in the UK from 25 May 2018. It replaces the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998) and gives individuals more rights and protection regarding how their personal data is used by councils. Local councils and parish meetings must comply with its requirements, just like any other organisation. A full update will be provided at the next meeting

BR /
Clk

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

Tuesday 8th May at the conclusion of the Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm

**Combroke Parish Council 20th March 2018
County Councillor's Report**

COUNCIL BUDGET – After a lengthy debate on 6nd February, the decision was finally taken to increase the Council Tax to 4.99% this year. The County Council's finances are in a sound state (unlike our neighbours - Northamptonshire) having been well managed over the past 10 years. Mandatory services have been maintained despite a 30% reduction in staffing and an equivalent reduction in Budget. Generally, Warwickshire is performing well. Unemployment is 2.9% compared with a national average of 4.5%, productivity is 10% higher than the West Midland average, business base has grown by 5% in the last 12 months and there are now 25,585 businesses registered in Warwickshire. Warwickshire is a popular county in which to live. As well as wealth creation, the expanding population and hence housing numbers brings its problems to the infrastructure especially traffic on our roads. The budget set out to maintain the growth in Industrial base and at the same time invest in the Health and Well-Being of the residents.

Warwickshire's total budget is £342,532,013 (£469,728,105 if you add in the schools) £132,594,995 is spent on Adult Care and £56,698,493 is spent on Children's Welfare i.e Fostering, Adoption and Safeguarding. There will be further investments in Infrastructure Planning, Mental Health and Broadband improvement.

To continue the strong financial position of the County Council as well as maintaining growth and the well-being of the less well off an increase in revenue of £45 million is required over 2 years. Departments will save £25million; increase in housing numbers will produce £9million; and the 4.99% increase in Council Tax this year, a further £10 million. Any shortfall will be taken from reserves (this will be predominately for one off items). **This year there will be no reduction in any of our front line services.**

Highways - This last month has seen some unprecedented bad weather and once again credit must go to the Gritting team for their round the clock operations. Communities have rallied to the emergency and in particular 4x4 drivers and farmers have responded to calls for help. One of the consequences will be the deterioration in some of the roads and an increase in potholes. Please continue to report the bad ones but expect a delay in their repair as the teams prioritise work across the whole of Warwickshire.

Health & Well-Being – So far this year has not been a good year for Health and Well-Being. There has been much Flu type sickness which has stretched all the medical facilities and the cold weather has affected many of our older residents. Loneliness is a major concern. One Parish Council I cover is considering a village, "Visiting the lonely initiative" which you might like to consider as a whole village project. Warwickshire Health and Well-Being Board meet regularly and integrated working within the County is top of their agenda.

Clr Chris Williams

Kineton & Red Horse Division – WCC

18.03.18.