

# **COMBROKE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11 November 2019 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, Combroke**

### **Present**

Stephanie Connah (SC)  
Nathan Griffiths (NG)  
Tim Goodhead (TG)  
Jo Price (JP)  
Brenda Rayson (BR)

DCllr Chris Mills (CM)

### **Chairman's Announcements:**

The Clerk was unable to attend at short notice, it was agreed the Chairman will take notes of decisions after each item.

With the National Election, Members were reminded it was important to be aware that the Council observe the requirements of the pre-election period (Purdah) including in relation to publicity/newsheets etc

1. **Apologies**  
DCllr Chris Williams (CW); Georgina Lowe (Clk)
2. **Acceptance of Apologies**  
N/A – All Parish Councillors were in attendance
3. **Declarations of Interest**  
Ng - Agenda Item 9.2;  
TG - Agenda Item 9.2;
4. JP – Agenda Item 9.3;  
BR – Agenda Items 9.5
5. **Public Representation**  
There was none
6. **Minutes**  
The minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 had been circulated. Proposed JP, seconded TG and

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

### **Chairman's Report and Other Reports for Information Only**

Chairman:

- i. *Regret was unable to attend the WALC training course at Ettington on 28 September as planned. Will seek further opportunity to explore role of Internal Auditor under the new regulations and report back to the Council at a later date.*
- ii. *Attended WALC Stratford Area Liaison meeting 9 Oct for Parish & Town Council clerks and Cllrs*

BR

Clerk: none to report

7. **District Councillor's Report**  
D Cllr Mills reported that, following SDC's declaration in July of a Climate Emergency, a new Climate Emergency 'Task & Finish Group' has been sent up by the District Council's

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC). A key focus will be understanding how the District Council can build on its current work to tackle Climate Change. Recent environmental initiatives have included Installing Electric Vehicle charging points at car parks; and joining a nationwide water bottle refill scheme to cut plastic waste. The District Council's has maintained its position as one of the top 10 performing local authorities in household waste reuse, recycling and composting

The Council has provided a garden waste service since 2003. This is a discretionary service, not a statutory service, and therefore in the context of financial constraints, the Council is now considering and consulting on the introduction of a chargeable garden waste service. [*refer item 10*]

To improve the quality of the recycling service and help reduce long term costs the Council has agreed to invest in a Regional Midlands Recycling Facility in Coventry together with a number of other Local Authorities.

D Cllr Mills provided a detailed overview of the recent background leading to the review of the District Council's Management Structure reverting back to a Chief Executive post. David Buckland has now been appointed as the new Chief Executive and Tony Perks as Deputy.

The Cabinet has approved a new Council Plan detailing priorities and aspirations 2019-23 including responding to the Climate Emergency; nurturing a thriving, innovative and inclusive local economy; and putting residents and communities centre stage.

D Cllr Mills also reported on the District Council's strategies to reduce homelessness; the Council's support for a Prostrate Screening event; Grants available to help revive empty properties; and the Business Rate Relief scheme.

## 8. **County Councillor's Report**

No report

## 9 **Planning Updates**

The Chairman asked TG to chair the meeting on item 9.5.

### **9.1. Granted 25 Combrook 19/02793/TREE & 26 Combrook 19/02794/TREE**

G1 – crack willow – Pollard to height of approx. 6.5 metres

Permission was approved on 9/11 and the decision was noted.

### **9.2 Pending 39 Combrook 19/02282/FUL**

Demolition of work shed, erection of new garage and workroom.

This application was made valid 23 September, BR led on a response. In October the proposed representation to support this application was circulated to Members of the Council, inviting any comments and approval by email prior to submission. The submitted proposal was not felt to be contentious and removes an existing building in the lower garden which presents a flood risk. Following review it was

### **Resolved to formally approve the Representation as submitted.**

It was reported that the District Council's Conservation Officer has raised concerns about the proposed design and location within the site. Following further discussion DCllr Mills agreed to look into the matter. BR to email CM photograph demonstrating the Parish Council's view that the proposal will not be visible nor impact on the 'prominent' view of the listed building -on the descent into the village and, in particular from the top of the grass triangle.

BR

### **9.3. Pending The Tree Place, Church Hill 19/02056/FUL**

Replacement of existing mixed-use building (part residential and part agricultural) to a single dwelling incorporating the existing steel frame on the site.

This was discussed at the meeting in September. BR / TG drafted a representation, circulated for comment prior to submission. An Addendum to the Representation was submitted following further research including the pro bono advice from a chartered civil engineer. This raised concern about the extent of earthworks required at the lane to widen an access suitable for a fire service vehicle and establish adequate visibility splays. Following review, it was

**Resolved to formally approve the Representation as submitted.**

### **9.4 Pending Village Hall, Combrook 19/02496/LBC**

To attach a public access defibrillator cabinet, with power supply, to the external NE facing side of the entrance porch at the Village Hall.

This application was made on behalf of the Parish Council and was discussed and approved at the September Meeting. At the beginning of November the SDC Conservation Officer contacted the Chairman suggesting amendments regarding the size of the cabinet and the proposed signage planned for the front of the porch at the Village Hall. Further drawings have been submitted and an accompanying email explaining reasons for: the choice of cabinet and its size; accepting the advice about moving the signage to the noticeboard; and requesting an extension of the application until the 15 November.

### **9.5. Pending The Little House, Combrook 19/00361/FUL**

Enlargement of parking area; erection of retaining wall.

The application was considered for approval at SDC Planning Committee on October 2nd. TG attended to speak on behalf of the Parish Council's Representation objecting to the application, focusing particularly on concerns about the stability of the retaining wall and potential concern about the drainage proposals. The Parish Council was also well supported by Cllr Chris Mills who spoke in support of the Parish Council's concerns.

After discussing the concerns raised about the stability of the wall, the Planning Committee decided to delegate the application for decision by Officers subject to a satisfactory Report about the stability of the wall from an independent Structural Engineer, who was to be appointed by the Planning Authority. Officers were instructed to refuse if such Report is unsatisfactory.

### **9.6. Appeal Dismissed The Loft, Green Farm APP/J3720/W/19/3226581**

Two storey extension to first floor flat over detached garage block, change of land use designation from 'agricultural' to 'residential', erection of raised decking adjacent to extension.

The decision was noted.

## **10. Green Waste Consultation**

Stratford on Avon District Council is proposing to introduce chargeable garden waste service from 1 June 2020. If this charge is not introduced the Council may have to consider discontinuing the existing garden waste service. Consultation period ends Tuesday 19 November.

- The annual charge for the service will be £40.00 per wheeled bin or equivalent sacks.
- Residents will be required to 'opt-in' to the service on an annual basis.
- Residents not wishing to buy into the service, but who wish to receive a food waste collection will be provided with a food waste caddy, on request, free of charge and which can be presented for emptying on the scheduled garden waste collection day.

Following discussion it was noted that the current recycle; garden and food waste; and general refuse collections were a highly regarded service. It was regretted that the District Council's reduced funding was placing the garden and food waste service at risk.

BR

It was felt a single food waste caddy would likely be insufficient for many households. It was felt there would be a risk that the progress made across the district in encouraging residents to collect and manage green waste separately from general refuse (and land fill) would potentially regress. Also incidents of casual "tipping" may increase.

11. **Financial Administration - To Consider Payments to be made**

Reporting the Accounts and 6 month Summary of Accounts was postponed to the next meeting in January. It was noted that the precept will need to be set at the January meeting.

Since the September meeting, an invoice for the Leys summer grass cut was received and payment due in October, accordingly a cheque was issued for £385.00 + VAT ( Combrook Buildings Ltd £462.00)

Invoices were presented, approved and cheques signed for:

Tim Goodhead purchase (online from Heatershop) of Electric Heaters £265.50 (inc VAT) for Village Hall and to note this item is to be grant funded from VH committee.

To note Clerk's salary and expenses Oct/November detail to be confirmed.

BR

12. **Lanes and Drainage**

**12.1 County Highways Repair and Improvement**

No current works to report.

**12.2 Proposed Gateway at West Entrance to the Village**

WCC officers have confirmed that the funds are safeguarded and this Gateway is still expected to be implemented - hopefully soon now.

**12.3 Parking Concerns**

Residents have reported access to / from driveways can be blocked by vehicles parking on the road too close or opposite the street accesses, also parking adjacent the 'pinch point' at Quince Corner becomes difficult to navigate, especially for larger vehicles. Given the winter gritting season it was suggested renewing the request from County Highways to manage parking to keep access on the main street 'passable' would be helpful.

BR

13. **Google Mapping and re-location of postcode**

BR raised this at WALC Stratford Area meeting. No one at the meeting reported anything similar elsewhere in the district. However there is news of another village on Somerset/Devon borders with a similar issue.

14. **Defibrillator Proposal**

Refer planning application at item 9.4

15. **Climate Change**

A very successful and well attended village meeting was held on Sunday 13 October led by SC with refreshments kindly prepared and managed by the Connah Family supporting the event.

There has been very positive informal feedback from many residents and the Chairman formally thanked Stephanie for preparing and delivering a brilliant launch event for the Combroke Climate Change Club.

16. **Mobile Library**

The Mobile library service are pleased to confirm Combrook will be incorporated into their regular 3 weekly arrangements -probably Thursday afternoon. The start date and time slot still to be confirmed.

**17. Nuisance Barking and Dog Notice**

Having researched the purdah requirements during the national election period, including the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, BR raised a concern that there might be a need to check further whether the Parish Council is acting within the Code with regard publication of such a 'newsletter' across the community. BR to seek advice. BR

There followed further discussion about the issue of nuisance barking.

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

none

**19. Dates of Next Parish Council Meetings:**

Monday 13 January 2020 at 7.30pm in Village Hall

Monday 23 March

**The meeting closed at 9.50 pm**