

COMBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13 January 2020 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, Combroke

Present

Nathan Griffiths (NG)

DCllr Chris Mills (CM)

Tim Goodhead (TG)

Jo Price (JP)

Brenda Rayson (BR)

Georgina Lowe (Clk), Clerk

Members of the Public 0

1. Apologies

Cllr Stephanie Connah (SC); CCllr Chris Williams (CW)

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Cllr Connah; it was proposed JP, seconded NG and

RESOLVED: That the apologies be accepted

3. Declarations of Interest

BR – Agenda Item 9.2; JP – Agenda Item 9.3; NG – Agenda Item 9.1

4. Public Representation

None.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th November 2019 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. Since the Agenda was published SDC has issued a consultation on Supplementary Planning Documents Part V Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption
- ii. To note WALC training opportunities which might be of interest:
 - Planning and Protection of Historic Buildings 4th February, Wellesbourne
 - Understanding and Responding to Planning Applications 7th March, Marston Green
 - Public Rights of Way 24th April, Chadwick End
 - Understanding Finance 25th April, Ryton on Dunsmore

b. Clerk

No report

7. District Councillor's Report

- i. Councillor Peter Barnes - It is with deep regret that Stratford-on-Avon District Council has been informed of the sad passing of Councillor Peter Barnes, on Friday 3 January 2020. Councillor Peter Barnes was the longest serving District Councillor with over 29 years continuous service.
- ii. Stratford-on-Avon District Council budget proposals – There are services SDC has to provide e.g. emptying the recycling and general waste bins, looking after the homeless – and there are other services it chooses to provide i.e. leisure centres.

Only 40% of SDC's income comes from the Council Tax. Most of the rest comes from Central Government.

Central Government is increasingly shifting the financial burden to district councils. SDC is already budgeting to use £1.5m of its reserves to balance the budget in 2020/21. If SDC does not generate more money locally over the next 3 years it will need to reduce the level of discretionary services it is currently able to provide.

This is why the intention is to increase the amount of the SDC element of the Council Tax for 2020/21 by £5 per household as well as introducing a charge of £40 per year for the collection of green bin waste.

8.

County Councillor's Report

CCllr Williams' Report is attached to these minutes.

9.

Planning Updates

The Chairman asked TG to lead on 9.2

9.1. Pending 39 Combrook 19/02282/FUL

Demolition of work shed, new garage and workroom

To note the Applicant submitted amended proposals reducing the length of the proposed building. Conservation Officer issued further response indicating that whilst the reduction in size will help reduce the impact, concern remains about the proposed location and materials. Revised target date for determination 17/01/20

9.2. Pending The Little House, School Lane 19/00361/FUL

Enlargement of parking area; erection of retaining wall.

Since the last PC meeting, the Case Officer has confirmed an independent Civil Engineer has been appointed to review the structure of the retaining wall. Officers are now awaiting additional information, due by the end of January, to progress the application.

Clk

Upon further discussion it was unanimously agreed a copy of the Civil Engineer's report be requested.

9.3. Refused 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

To note the reasons for refusal, namely the proposal is significantly larger than the existing dwelling and therefore considered to cause inappropriate harm to the open countryside location. The letter of refusal also included a note that the Parish Council has raised concerns about access to the site with respect to highways safety and access for fire appliances.

9.4. Granted Village Hall, School Lane 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

Many thanks to TG for managing the arrangements to fix the cabinet to the wall.

10. **Financial Administration**

10.1 Half Yearly Financial Report

TG as Member for Finance reported that he checked the half yearly finance report for the period ending 30th September 2019. He confirmed that there were no matters arising from the report

10.2 To consider payments to be made

Since the November meeting a cheque for £346.83 (Zurich) has been issued for Village Hall Insurance (Contents & Liability) and £217.62 for Clerk's Salary from 11/11/19 item 11.

Invoices were presented, approved and cheques signed for:
CPRE £36.00
Coventry Diocesan Board of Education - Village Hall Rental £385

Clerks December / January Salary £227.88 (Includes £10 Vodafone Top Up Voucher)
HMRC Employee / Employer Contributions £5.40

10.3 2020/21 Precept

The draft document was circulated prior to the meeting and the rationale behind increasing the precept based on budgetary projections discussed. After further scrutiny it was unanimously agreed to increase the precept by 2% to £4,533.00

Lanes and Drainage

BR /
TG

11.1 County Highways Repair and Improvement

11. TG advised that two blocked drains had been reported to the County Highways team. NG raised concern over a build-up of debris in the stream including a fallen tree which is starting to form a dam. It was also noted the handrail support on the footbridge between 39 Combrook and Appletrees requires attention as the wooden supports are rotten.

11.2 Proposed Gateway at West Entrance to the Village

CW advised the Combroke gateway installation would be erected in the near future, although he was unable to provide the exact date.

11.3 Parking Concerns

Previously (December 2017) a letter had been written to residents by the County Highways team advising residents that gritting vehicles were experiencing difficulty getting through the centre of the village. BR has contacted WCC to enquire if either the gritter or School Bus Service have raised similar concerns with a view to suggesting such a letter be re-issued. It was noted the PC are currently awaiting a response, however, in one particular area there has been a change of property ownership; the newer residents would therefore not have received the earlier communication.

BR /
Clk

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

No report.

13. **Defibrillator Proposal**

Refer to Chairman's report – the defibrillator is now up and running

14. **Climate Change**

Following October's inaugural meeting SC published the first edition of, 'The Combrook ECHO' in December. The next meeting will be advertised shortly and will look at Alternative Energy.

SC

15. **Mobile Library**

The WCC Mobile Library Service arrived in Combrook in December. It will continue to visit the village at regular three weekly intervals from the 23rd of January between the hours of 14:35 and 15:05.

16. **Nuisance Barking and Dog Notice**

Advice from WALC is that the power to act on such matters as nuisance barking lies with the District Council. Within the, 'Code of Recommended Practice on Publicity' the Parish Council's authority to issue newsletters / publicity on these matters therefore relates to the District Council as 'Local Service Provider'. Amendments to the proposed document will therefore be required before publication.

BR

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

TG / NG proposed review of website / communication channels

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

Monday 23 March & 11 May 2020 at 7.30pm in Village Hall

Clk

The meeting closed at 9:14pm

Combroke Parish Council 13th January 2020
County Councillor's Report

1. General

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing the Parish Council a Happy New Year and apologise for not being with you tonight. All being well, I will be with you at your next meeting on 23rd March 2020. For my part, I trust that my health will be much improved than over the last two months some of which was spent in Intensive Care in Warwick Hospital. As far as activities within the county are concerned my illness coincided with a period of purdah cause by the General Election. No major decisions were taken during this period and hopefully the new year will bring better benefits to everyone.

2. Finance

The County will set the budget for the coming year on 18th February 2020. As you can imagine the various departments are all submitting their fiscal requirements and although our finances and reserves are healthy there are issues including Adult Social Care which will have to be tackled. Originally, the government was going to issue a Green Paper on this matter but due to Brexit pressures this has not yet materialised. Although yet to be decided, I suspect that the budget will incorporate a 2% allowance for social care costs in addition to a budget increase of 2% will be proposed keeping it in line with last year.

3. Highways

Warwickshire County Council has been named as the UK's Top Performing Council for Highway Maintenance in National Highways for the second year in a row. Warwickshire was among 111 Highway Authorities, including 28 County Councils, which took part in an independent survey which looks at satisfaction with Highway services. Warwickshire came out top for Public Satisfaction amongst County Councils for Highway Maintenance dealing with potholes and undertaking cold weather gritting. The Council also ranked amongst the best in other areas including condition of pavements, speed of repair to damaged roads, keeping drains clear and speed of repair to streetlights. We are grateful to Patch Byrne for looking after us so well.

4. Grants

Funding opportunities: WCC has made funds available to community and voluntary sector groups under the countywide health and wellbeing grants programme. South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group has also provided additional funds for projects in South Warwickshire. Groups can bid for funding from £5,000 to a maximum of £10,000 per initiative. Projects must be delivered in Warwickshire and need to address various health and wellbeing criteria. The online application closes at 12 noon on Monday 3rd February 2020. Please get in touch with me for further information.

5. Administration

We are currently being plagued by itinerant travellers so if you are troubled by unauthorised camping please contact Warwickshire Police in the first instance and then advise the Gypsy and Travellers' Team on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/travellerunauthorisedsites. In case you have not been aware there have been around ten caravans parked in the layby on the A423 at the county boundary near Farnborough having previously been moved on from Gaydon.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division
12.01.2020