

DRAFT

COMBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held via Zoom on Thursday 15th October 2020 at 7.30pm**

Present

Stephanie Connah (SC)
Nathan Griffiths (NG)
Tim Goodhead (TG)
Jo Price (JP)
Brenda Rayson (BR)
Georgina Lowe (Clk), Clerk

DCllr Chris Mills (CM)

Members of the Public: 0

1. Apologies

Cllr Chris Williams (CW)

2. Acceptance of Apologies

N/A – All Parish Councillors were in attendance

3. Declarations of Interest

BR – Agenda Item 9.8; JP – Agenda Item 9.7.

4. Public Representation

None.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 June 2020 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

To note – Combroke Parish Council has been incorrectly referenced in a committee report for a planning application in a neighbouring parish. As the Parish Council has not made any representation, or commented on the application the Clerk will request the planning officer correct the statement prior to the start of the Agenda Item, and Committee Members duly advised of the error.

Clk

b. Clerk No report

7. District Councillor's Report

DCllr Mill's Report is attached these minutes

8. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Williams' Report is attached to these minutes.

9. Planning

The Chairman asked Cllr Goodhead to chair the meeting at item 9.8

9.1. Granted 19 Combroke 20/01321/TREE

T1 - lilac - Reduce by 2-3 metres

G1 - apple x3 - Reduce by 2-3metres removing upright shoots and deadwood; reduce branches overhanging driveway

T2 - damson - Fell T3 - buddleia - Pollard

T4 - damson - Reduce to relieve weight and shape

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9.2. Granted Keepers Cottage, 33 Combroom 20/01245/FUL

Detached oak framed garage with home storage/office above

9.3. Granted Red House 20/01331/FUL

Proposed outdoor swimming pool and pool house with associated landscaping

9.4. Granted Rowan House, Compton Fields 20/01935/FUL

Two-storey rear extension and internal alterations

9.5. Pending Keepers Cottage, 33 Combroom 20/01245/FUL

Erection of an oak framed extension replacing existing garage.

To note that amended plans have been submitted. These present a much-reduced footprint

9.6. Pending Keepers Cottage, 33 School Lane 20/02371/TREE

T1, Ash lift over drive by removing stem as in Picture 6.

T2, T3, T4, Ash remove leaning stems as in Picture 7.

T5, T6, Dead Larch remove to ground see Picture 1.

T7, Maple and T8, Cherry remove as in Picture 8. Due to fire damage.

T9, Dead Oak, remove to ground Picture 9.

T10, Dead Cherry in chicken coop, fell.

T11, Maple, disease present Krets Picture 4, remove to ground.

T12, Larch 50% dead, remove to the ground see Picture 10.

T13 Yew, lift over Lake house to clear roof by 1m see Picture 10

G1 group of fallen trees Larch, Maple, Spruce, remove to ground see Picture 2

9.7. Appeal Allowed The Tree Place, Church Hill APP/J3720/W/20/3245828

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 Appeal Inspector judged the key issue was the impact on the character of the area, which he found acceptable. Based on WCC's comments, he was also satisfied with the proposed access and visibility splay.

9.8. Application Withdrawn The Little House, School Lane 19/00361/FUL

Enlargement of parking area; erection of retaining wall.

To note that no further planning application has come forward yet to address the development which has taken place

10 Chestnut tree update

An initial quotation for tree works had been circulated prior to the meeting; clarification is also being sought from the County Highways team as to whether the trees are, 'highway street trees' and therefore the County's responsibility. It was unanimously agreed further investigation was required; the matter will therefore be brought back to a future meeting.

CLK/
BR

11 Financial Administration

a. **To receive Internal Audit Report.** BR reported Felicity Bostock had been content to sign the AGAR document. A detailed account of the small error that Felicity did uncover, where 28p was recorded as 21p in a cheque that hadn't been cashed, had been noted and the error corrected on the internal accounts. We are grateful to Felicity for spotting the error, and for completing the internal audit.

b. **To receive payments made under delegated powers and consider payments to be made**

Payments made under delegated powers:

Combroom Buildings Ltd - Leys cut and bale removal £462.00

Income received since last meeting £2,266.50 (precept second installment)

Invoices were presented, and payment approved for:

Clerks June/July Salary £217.62 + £10.00 Vodafone top-up voucher

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Clerks August/September Salary £217.82
HMRC £15.80
Royal British Legion £40.00

12. Lanes and Drainage

12.1 County Highways Repair and Improvement

TG reported that works to the footbridge between 39 Combrook and Appletrees had still to be completed. Clk to forward Richard Barnard's contact details to TG so that time scales can be discussed with the rights of way team.

TG/Clk

A blocked gully on Church Hill has been reported; response awaited

12.2 Proposed Gateway at West Entrance to the Village

It is believed WCC funding for the gateway remains allocated; awaiting response from County Officer to confirm.

13. Government Review of Local Government

Briefing document circulated prior to the meeting. BR to attend WALC Zoom conference to hear more on WCC's proposal for devolution and recovery options.

14. Consultation on Changes to Planning Policy & Regulations

These are radical proposals which have been covered extensively in the national press. Briefly it is proposed land be classified into 3 zones, with planning permission awarded automatically if proposals meet certain criteria. After discussion it was agreed BR to submit comments on behalf of the Parish Council.

BR

15. Climate Change

BR attended a 3-tier WALC Zoom conference on climate change in September, an event designed to share ideas and best practice with other Parish and Town Councils.

SC to hold the next meeting of Combroke Climate Change Club via Zoom; newsletter format currently under review.

SC

16. Pollution

Concern was raised about a number of matters, including: dog poo, litter, green waste being dumped in ditches and noise etc. After discussion it was agreed a letter be sent to all local residents; SC to draft and circulate prior to distribution.

SC

17. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas

Concern was raised over the crowds which attended the ALSO Festival during the pandemic. Many newspaper articles reported it had been, 'the only event of its kind to go ahead' which rose questions as to the criteria SDC used to approve it; CM to follow up

18. Dates of Next Parish Council Meetings:

Date to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 8:54pm

Combroke Parish Council Meeting 15th October 2020
District Councillor's Report

COVID-19 – Up to date information can be found on the Stratford-on-Avon District Council <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/coronavirus/> and Government websites <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme - SDC has previously provided a briefing on this, it relates to a £500 payment to those individuals on low income which have been required to self-isolate and would otherwise lose income. The original government estimate was that the Council would be required to make 2 or 3 such payments per day, however this has now been increased to around 12 to 13.

Local Lockdown Grant Scheme – should a local lockdown be imposed on the district or part of the district which requires businesses to close the Council will be responsible for administering a grant to those affected. The grant will amount to £1,500 per business and is designed to cover a 3-week period. This is similar to the original grant scheme which resulted in payments of around £34m from the Council to local businesses, if this scheme is triggered, we will provide further information.

Homeless Strategic Board - Warwickshire County Council and partners including North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Warwick District Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Warwickshire Police, Probation and the NHS, have formed a Homelessness Strategic Board, in a bid to prevent homelessness across the county.

The new collective will work to the principles of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 – which introduced fundamental changes to how Local Authorities assess and assist homeless applicants. The intention of the Act is to give a greater focus on prevention.

In line with the working objectives of the Act, the Homelessness Strategic Board and its partners, will look to incorporate five overarching, strategic priorities, which include:

- To reduce the inequalities and improve the health of people at risk of homelessness, homeless or sleeping rough in Warwickshire.
- To enhance and improve services that prevent homelessness among young people.
- To prevent domestic abuse and the crisis homelessness resulting from it wherever possible.
- To deliver better-focussed housing and related support services for those at risk of homelessness on leaving prison
- To ensure that a wide range of appropriate services are available to support those at risk of homelessness due to financial difficulties.

The Homelessness Strategic Board is aiming to publish the final strategy in Spring 2021.

Cllr Chris Mills

Combroke Parish Council 15th October 2020 County Councillor's Report

The County Council has been extremely busy dealing with COVID-19 issues throughout Warwickshire. It appears that a second wave of Coronavirus is starting to rise. We must all follow the guidance given to us by the government.

Covid-19 Update

This has been a challenging week in terms of our Covid-19 response, not least because of the news last weekend of around 16,000 positive tests that had been missed from the statistics the previous week. An error in the national recording was found, with implications for every local authority, including Warwickshire. What we have seen this week is a day-on-day rapid escalation of our number of positive cases per 100,000 of population, taking account of our portion of the 16,000 cases.

Warwickshire's rate for the previous 7-day period is 72.67 positive cases, per 100,000 population. This number is changing all the time. The rates for our districts and boroughs vary, but there has been rapid escalation this week, with Rugby at its highest point of 89.04 cases at time of writing.

Compared to the wider West Midlands Region, we have a lower rate of positive cases, which is somewhat comforting. But this situation is very, very fluid and open to change in a matter of days.

We are taking this situation extremely seriously and have already begun to plan our response to this new phase of the Pandemic. We are expecting new national guidance on a 'traffic light' system to group local areas into three levels of restriction based upon a range of indicators including the numbers of 7-day positive tests. Our close neighbours in Solihull and Birmingham already have tighter restrictions, and Coventry may next week be in this position due to elevated case numbers. Inevitably this will lead to an increased duty on all of us to take extra care when moving around the Region. As is necessary, we are urging staff to take all possible safeguards against spreading the virus and to both limit their movements and avoid unnecessary journeys.

In terms of transmission within Warwickshire, our contact tracing work has found that household to household transmission is a key feature, where people are mixing with family and friends without adequate protective measures in place. Mixing in hospitality venues is also indicated, and young and working age people form the majority of positive cases.

Our communications messages continue to focus on doing the right thing for Warwickshire, reminding people about 'Hands–Space–Face' along with guidance on how to get a test – but with a stronger line on seeking a test **only** where people have symptoms.

Of course, we continue to work closely with our colleagues across the County, with District and Borough, Police and Health colleagues, to keep our residents as safe as we possibly can.

Working with the Universities is now an important aspect of our work, and we are working closely together to get across key messages to students to stick to the rules.

The Universities have been clear and forceful in their messaging and have stated very clearly, that flouting the rules will not be tolerated. In addition to the fines which can (and have been) issued by the Police, students risk the very real possibility of being excluded from their course of study. As parents and of course, corporate parents, we hope that those harsh consequences can be minimised.

In many ways this feels like the toughest phase of the Pandemic. Not only are we continuing to battle the virus in response mode, we are also striving for recovery and running business as usual. Now, we are also trying to appeal to the social conscience at a time when we, and all residents are fatigued and frustrated. It is only through pulling together that we can carve a way to the light at the end of the tunnel.

Unitary Authority

I mentioned last month that Warwickshire County Council was to hold a full council meeting on 22nd September 2020 to debate the prospect of becoming a Unitary Authority. The meeting lasted a full day and the significant economic benefit was a feature of the debate.

The Options were:

1. An enhanced two-tier model which would preserve the existing county council and five district and borough councils and optimise collaborations in areas of duplicated responsibility;

2. A single unitary council for Warwickshire which would see the creation of a new council, replacing the existing six, which would deliver all local government services; and
3. A two unitary model for Warwickshire which would see the creation of two new unitary councils (a North and a South) each taking responsibility for the delivery of all local authority services within their respective areas.

There was clear political support for Option 2. This decision has been forwarded to the Minister as the preferred Option for proceeding. When we receive confirmation from the Local Government Minister WCC will commence communication with interested parties. It is anticipated that this information will be provided by the government before Christmas.

Proposed Changes to Planning Policy

The current basic Planning Policy was established in 1947 and remained unchanged until a few years ago. The last changes reduced the number of regulations from 200 pages to 80 pages. Currently, the government wishes to increase new housing in the country. However, there are currently 100,000 new houses having planning permission that have yet to be built. The increase in housing will require revamping of most authorities Local Plans and greater emphasis on infrastructure so that extra appropriate housing can be built. Warwickshire consultation is currently taking place to be submitted to central government when completed.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division
11.10.2020