

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on 22nd March 2016 at 7.30 pm

at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

Present: Councillors E Russell-Brown, N Wilkes, P Sergeant, B Smith, C Wakefield, A Stoten, and S Telling as RFO, County Councillor P Hodgkinson and PCSO A Shutt.

Presiding: Councillor E Russell-Brown (Vice Chairman)

Clerk: V Hancock

Apologies: Councillor M Tuffnell

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 7th December 2015

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th December 2015 at The Mission Hall, Woodmancote be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

2.1 Defibrillators: Councillor Russell-Brown reported that he had now trained as a part-time Community First Responder, and would be on call in the Parish at limited times. He had been supplied with a defibrillator, and indicated how this was operated. The cost of providing these so they were available at all times was £2,000 each, and they would be maintained by South West Ambulance Services. The Clerk reported that she had received no expressions of interest or otherwise in response to her note in Churn News. Funds would need to be raised from the community or elsewhere. It was understood that another local Parish was applying to Southern Electricity for funds.

2.2 Parking in North Cerney: Councillor Smith said that none of the residents of Broad Close or Bankside appeared to have received the letter from James Trotter notifying them that they could park in The Orchard. Those who had tried to park there had received complaints from residents in The Orchard. PCSO Shutt said she had been assured that the letter had been sent. She would email details of the new contact at Bromford Housing to the Clerk, so she could follow this up.

3. District and County Issues:

3.1 County Council: Councillor Hodgkinson reported on the following:

3.1.1 Council Tax: The County Council had increased their part of the Council Tax for the first time in 5 years, mainly to provide funds for social care.

3.1.2 Local Government: Cotswold District Council were considering leaving Gloucestershire and forming a unitary authority with West Oxfordshire Council. In his view this was not practical, since all public services, including police, fire and ambulance services, were organised on a County basis.

3.1.3 A429: There had been a recent meeting to discuss road safety on the A429 between Cirencester and Northleach, following a number of serious accidents. Improvements were being worked on.

3.1.4 Cutham Lane: The potholes should be dealt with shortly. He asked that residents

reported potholes to Ameys as quickly as possible.

3.2 **District Council:** In the absence of Councillor Forde there was no report.

4. **Crime and Public Safety:**

4.1 **PCSO Shutt** reported that, in the period from 1 October 2015 to date, there had been 6 incidents of theft in the Parish, against 11 in the same period last year. There had been 2 burglaries from houses (1 last year). She had available a number of time switches for use when houses were unoccupied. Some youths had been caught with cannabis in the car park behind The Bathurst Arms. She asked that, if people were seen parked in remote country lanes, etc, this should be reported so the police could investigate.

4.2 **Traffic Calming on the A435:** The recent use of a Speedboard by Councillor Wilkes had shown that the majority of vehicles were exceeding the 40 mph limit. PCSO Shutt suggested that the Speed Watch group might now get more active, so the police could send warning letters to speeding drivers. She had arranged for a Speed Data Recorder to be installed for a week, and the results from that would be available shortly. Incidents of speeding, or bad driving, should be reported to the police. They could not prosecute, but would speak to the driver as a deterrent.

The possible installation of “gates” at either side of the village was discussed. The Clerk reported that Richard Gray had suggested gates similar to those at Preston. The difficulty was that the gates were normally at the start of the speed limit. Approaching from Cirencester, the North Cerney sign was at Churnside, but the 40 mph speed limit did not start until some way past the sign. The view was expressed that the 40 mph speed limit should start at Churnside, but Councillor Hodgkinson said this was not feasible, due to the cost. He said that 2 gates would cost £3,000. £1,000 would be contributed by Gloucestershire County Council, and he could contribute £1,000 from funds he had available. The balance would need to be found by the Council from some other source. Councillor Hodgkinson suggested the Clerk might arrange a meeting with him and Richard Gray, together with others from the local community, regarding the A435 and The Whiteway.

5. **Financial Matters**

5.1 **Reconciliation Statement:** The reconciliation statement was presented by the RFO and it was **resolved** that it be approved.

5.2 **Authorisation of Expenditure:** The following expenditure was approved:

11/12/15	onl/038	HMRC	PAYE for November 2015	29.40
14/12/15	Onl/039	V Hancock	Clerk monthly salary	117.60
15/12/15	596	The Mission Hall	Use of hall for December meeting	15.00
11/01/16	onl/040	HMRC	PAYE for December 2015	29.40
13/01/16	onl/041	V Hancock	Clerk monthly salary	117.60
11/02/16	onl/42	HMRC	PAYE for January 2016	29.40
15/02/16	onl/043	V Hancock	Clerk monthly salary	117.60
11/03/16	onl/044	HMRC	PAYE for February 2016	29.40
14/03/06	onl/045	V Hancock	Clerk monthly salary	117.60

6. **Affordable Housing Update:**

The Clerk had been notified that the Housing Association had reached agreement with the land owner, and Martin Hutchings would be arranging another public meeting shortly.

7. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders

7.1 Planning Applications: The following applications had been notified to the Council:

New field access at Fosse Cross

Extension and re-modelling of garage to provide ancillary accommodation at Mole End Woodmancote

Extension at Foxglove Cottage Hayes Lane Woodmancote

To fell a tree in North Cerney Churchyard – subsequently withdrawn

7.2 Decisions and Notices: Consent had been granted for the following:

Alterations at Pennings North Cerney (amended details)

Formation of a parking area at 39 Dark Lane

Two-storey rear and side extension at 39 Dark Lane

Rear extension at Calmsden Manor

Conversion of North Cerney Methodist Chapel to a residential dwelling

8. Woodmancote Playground:

The Clerk reported that the annual RoSPA inspection would be carried out in April. Councillor Wakefield said that the repairs to the chains on the swings was expected to be dealt with in the next few days.

Rupert Farrow had reported that the paintwork on the swings needed attention, and that the half-pipe was again in need of repair, with screws lifting. Councillor Wakefield said that it would cost about £1,500 to dismantle and remove the half pipe, which did not appear to be much used. The Clerk suggested that, if a decision was made about what to replace it with, any grant funding obtained might assist with the cost of removal.

9. The Bathurst Arms: This had now re-opened under new owners.

10. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was reported by the Clerk:

10.1 From Sara Telling regarding the state of the ceiling in the bus shelter. Councillor Russell-Brown would inspect this.

10.2 From the Memorial Hall – all their funding was now in place, and work on the roof would commence in mid-April.

10.3 Councillor Stoten had reported to Ameys the heavily leaning tree just past the bend on the A435, approaching North Cerney. He said he had received no response as yet.

10.4 With Gloucestershire County Council street lights department regarding the light near the village green. Over the past two months they stated that they had made two attempts to repair it. Further action was awaited.

10.5 From BT South West Regional Partnership regarding community projects to bring fibre broadband to properties not covered by the existing rollout plans.

10.6 Notification from CPRE Gloucestershire of their AGM on 4 May 2016 at Stowell Park.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 The Clerk was asked to make enquiries of Cotswold District Council as to whether any progress had been made in connection with Corner Cottage Woodmancote

11.2 The possibility was proposed of having a "Clean for the Queen" litter pick. The Clerk would look into this.

11.3 Sara Telling said that she would like to retire as RFO by the end of this year, but would be willing to assist a new RFO. It was agreed that a notice should be put into the Churn News.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: