

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on 28th February 2017 at 7.30 pm

at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

Present: Councillors M Tufnell, N Wilkes, B Smith, C Wakefield, P Sergeant and A Stoten, B Koch as RFO and 5 parishioners

Presiding: Councillor M Tufnell

Clerk: V Hancock

Apologies: Councillor E Russell-Brown, County Councillor P Hodgkinson, District Councillor J Forde and PCSO A Shutt

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th November 2016

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th November 2016 at The Memorial Hall North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

Telephone boxes: It was agreed that one or more further quotations should be obtained for painting the telephone boxes. B Koch said he could provide contact details for someone who might be willing to do the work.

3. District and County Issues:

3.1 County Council: Councillor Hodgkinson had sent a written report. The “gates” had been installed and received coverage in “The Standard”. The tree stump partly obscuring one of them needed to be cut down to ground level, and speed checks were now needed. Some other highway issues had been dealt with.

A 75-name petition calling for a lower speed limit at Perrotts Brook had been delivered to the County Council, but the proposal had been rejected out of hand, without consultation. A meeting on site had been called with the Highways Manager and local residents.

3.2 District Council: Councillor Forde had sent a written report on the following:

Affordable Housing: She had spoken to a representative of the Housing Association, and if things progressed according to plan, work could start by the end of this year.

World War I Centenary: She had been allocated a small amount of funding for activities marking 100 years since the end of the War. The school were keen to do something and she suggested the Parish Council might join with the school. Ideas were needed.

Litter Pick: The School were hoping to enter the current competition, and she suggested the Parish Council might like to join with the school, rather than organising a separate litter pick. It was agreed this would be pursued by the Clerk.

4. Financial Matters:

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

4.2 Authorisation of Expenditure: The following expenditure was approved:

V Hancock	Clerk monthly salary and PAYE December-February	441.00
Memorial Hall	Use of hall	19.00

The RFO had received an invoice from Ross Collins for £800, in respect of grass cutting (£600) and removal of the skate board ramp (£200). It was agreed that the usual annual payment for grass cutting would be made, but the charge for removal of the skate board ramp was unexpected, and would be queried by the RFO.

4.3 Expenditure for the rest of the financial year was expected to be in the region of £1.700, which would leave a balance at the end of the year of about £2,000.

4.4 Elmore Crump had said he was no longer able to mow the village green. It was agreed to ask another resident if he could deal with this at similar cost.

5. Governance:

A draft of updated Standing Orders had been circulated to all Councillors by the Clerk. They were asked to let the Clerk know if they thought any amendment or addition necessary. Subject to this, the Agenda for the next meeting would include a resolution for adoption of the Standing Orders. The Clerk would also circulate an updated Code of Conduct for approval at the next meeting.

6. Highway Issues:

6.1 **Highways:** All the gates had now been installed. The 40 mph roundels on the road had been repainted, but the Clerk had been informed that the red areas were no longer repainted. The former “playground” signs had been replaced with signs warning about pedestrians. A new sign had been installed on The Whiteway, warning of the bend, and a “Slow” sign had been painted on the road.

There were a number of outstanding works which had been notified to Ameys, including the blocked surface water drain in North Cerney, potholes, the repainting of warning triangles and white lines at most of the junctions with the A435 and The Whiteway, and clearing of the growth on the verge in Chapel Lane.

As, for the second year running, a grain lorry had become stuck in Chapel Lane, and had to be towed out, causing damage to the road and verges, the Clerk had asked Gloucestershire Highways if a sign could be installed excluding HGVs. This was rejected, as it would require a TRO, and would prevent access with removal vehicles, etc, but she had been told that they would look at improving the existing signage.

Councillor Wakefield expressed concern for the safety of those using the bench by the North Cerney bus stop, if a car went out of control. The Chairman suggested the installation of a litter bin might provide some protection.

6.2 **Parking in North Cerney:** Tenants in Broad Close had met with objection on attempting to park in The Orchard as agreed with Bromford Housing, but were now using the parking area outside Broad Close

6.3 **Footpaths:** The Clerk had received a complaint that the bridleway from North Cerney to Perrotts Brook was impassable because of leaching of the ground by horses, and it seemed the horses were also still a potential danger. Geoff Ramshaw had said that he had met with Councillor Hodgkinson and members of the Churn Cycle group, and was due to meet with them again in February. Councillor Stoten reported that a fence had now been erected, to separate horses and users of the bridleway.

7. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

7.1 **Neighbourhood Watch:** Councillor Wilkes reported that there was still little support for Neighbourhood Watch in North Cerney, and it was agreed a note would be inserted in the “Churn News”. Councillor Wakefield reported on Neighbourhood Watch activity in Woodmancote, where there was coverage of about one third of the households. He said that the house owners at each entrance to the village were willing to install cameras that

would record suspicious vehicles in the village.

7.2 Crime: Two Land Rovers had recently been stolen from Woodmancote, a vehicle had been “keyed” in North Cerney, and a load of batteries had been stolen from Fosse Cross. There were reports from the Police of suspicious vehicles in local villages.

7.3 Community Speedwatch: Councillor Wilkes confirmed that he would arrange for regular speed checks to be carried out on the A435.

8. Affordable Housing Update:

The Clerk had been informed that exchange of contracts for the purchase of the land was imminent, and that a planning application would be submitted once this was achieved. Members of the public expressed concern about residents of the new houses crossing the A435. Two residents of Churnside asked that the 40-mph speed limit be extended to start at Churnside, and said that, since the gates had been installed, they felt they were outside the village. It was explained that the gates had to be installed at the start of the 40-mph speed limit. The Chairman said that the Council fully supported the need to extend the 40-mph speed limit. They had asked for this to be done, but the proposal had been rejected by Gloucestershire Highways. He suggested the residents might write to the County Councillor. It was to be hoped that the extension could be achieved when the affordable housing was built. If this was done the gates could be moved.

8. Woodmancote Playground:

8.1 Report: The most recent report mentioned the missing latch on the gate and the need to replace some links in the chains on the swings. The “No Dogs” sign was very faded. Councillor Wakefield said he would speak to Ross Collins. The Clerk would try to find a new sign. It was also reported there was algae on the north-west corner of the paved area, which was making it slippery. The RoSPA inspection would be carried out in April.

8.2 New Equipment: The Clerk explained that, in order to apply for a grant under the Tesco “Bags of Help” scheme, estimates and other details were needed. It was necessary to decide what equipment to install, and then to approach one or more suppliers. Councillors Wakefield and Sergeant said they would assist with this. The Clerk mentioned that the maximum grant available under the Tesco scheme had recently reduced to £4,000. There were other possible sources of funding.

9. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders

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

Single storey front porch (amended plans) at 7 Woodland View, Woodmancote

Loft conversion with roof light and gable window at 4 Hillview, North Cerney

Conversion of agricultural buildings to provide a wedding venue with access and parking at Old Gore Barn Fosse Cross

Alterations and conversion to provide a wedding venue at Old Gore Barn

Tree Works at Downs Cottage, North Cerney Downs.

A member of the public asked that the Council publicise applications of which it was notified, on the Council's website or in the Churn News. The Chairman explained that the Council is not the planning authority, but was merely notified by Cotswold District Council. All applications could be inspected on the Cotswold District Council website, and they were publicised in “The Standard”. Any member of the public could register on the CDC's Public Access site, and would be notified of any applications in the area.

9.2 Decision Notices: The following had been approved:

- Rear extension at Calmsden Manor
- Extension at Cherry Trees, 4 Robinson Lane, Woodmancote
- Public Path Diversion Order at Cotswold Farm

10. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was reported by the Clerk:

- 10.1. Regarding flood prevention – passed to the Chairman
- 10.2 From Cotswold District Council regarding changes to the draft Local Plan.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Councillor Smith had made enquiries of Dr Davies at Rendcomb Surgery, who was in favour of defibrillators, but thought one would be sufficient for North Cerney and Woodmancote, possibly installed outside “The Bathurst Arms”. The Chairman proposed that, as this had been Councillor Russell-Brown’s initiative, further discussion should wait until a meeting at which he was present.

12.2 Councillor Wilkes reported that meetings of the Village Hall Committee had been changed from 7.30 pm to 6.15 pm, and he was unable to attend at the earlier time. It was agreed that Councillor Wakefield would represent the Council on the Committee.

12.3 Councillor Smith reported that she had discussed with Dobbies the possibility that they might provide plant troughs to be attached to the “gates” on the A435. It was agreed that this could make the gates more obvious and attractive. She would pursue this.

12.4 Councillor Stoten reported that although the school would like the use of their field to continue to be available to children outside school hours, the Governors might have to decide that this was not possible, owing to the risk and potential liability.

12.5 Councillor Smith said that she was expecting to move away from the area shortly, and therefore had to resign as a Councillor. The Chairman thanked her for her work as a Councillor.

12.6 The Clerk would look into a request from the residents of Churnside that they be provided with a shelter at the bus stop opposite Churnside.

13. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting

These meetings were arranged for Tuesday 9 May 2017, the Annual Parish Meeting to commence at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed