

## North Cerney Parish Council

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on 5 February 2018 at 7.45 pm

at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

**Present:** Councillors M Tufnell, C Wakefield, N Wilkes, C Martin and A Stoten, District Councillor J Forde and B Koch as RFO and 5 residents

**Presiding:** Councillor M Tufnell

**Clerk:** V Hancock

**Apologies:** County Councillor P Hodgkinson and Lisa Smith (Bromford Housing)

#### 1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at The Memorial Hall North Cerney be approved and signed.

#### 2. Matters Arising:

2.1 The Clerk had invited Lisa Smith of Bromford Housing to attend the meeting but she had been unavailable. She hoped to come to the next meeting.

2.2 The bench at the bus stop had now been replaced, and payment received from the insurers.

#### 3. Affordable Housing Update

Maureen Margie of Cirencester Housing confirmed that planning consent had now been issued, subject to a large number of conditions. Cirencester Housing was currently in touch with a number of possible contractors, and a contractor would be selected in April. The contractor would then deal with the final design work for approval by the Planning Authority, and with the conditions in the planning consent. This was likely to take 8-14 weeks. It was hoped that work on site would commence in August, and construction was likely to take 10-12 months. They would like to see the homes ready for occupation by April 2019, and she would keep residents informed of progress through the Churn News. Cirencester Housing had started a list of applicants for the homes. They wanted to engage with the community, so that the homes were let or sold to people with a connection to North Cerney or Bagendon Parishes. If there were insufficient applicants with that local connection, the homes would be offered to applicants in neighbouring parishes, then to the wider Cotswold area. She said they were trying to improve their systems for finding local tenants, but she urged anyone who was interested to ensure they registered with Cirencester Housing.

A resident who owned the property adjoining the site said he had been assured by the architect that the level of the land would be reduced, so his property was not overlooked, and he had expressed his concern to the planning authority. Ms Margie confirmed that the final design would be dealt with by the contractor's architect, and it was suggested this was a matter to pursue with the planning authority.

The issue was also raised of the extension of the 40 mph speed limit on the A435 to include the new development and Churnside. The Chairman said this had been raised with Gloucestershire Highways on a number of occasions. The Clerk would contact Councillor

Hodgkinson about this.

The Chairman thanked Ms Margie for attending the meeting.

#### 4. District and County Issues:

4.1 **County Council:** Councillor Hodgkinson had sent a report as follows:

4.1.1 Formal consultation on options for solving the A417 Missing Link would start shortly, and he urged residents to call in at one of the local drop-in sessions.

4.1.2 He was concerned about the number of potholes in the roads, and was reporting all that he noticed. He asked that residents also report these.

4.1.3 The County Council would be setting its budget for next year at a meeting on 14 February. The proposed increase was 4.49% (2% adult social care levy and 2.49% for all other services). The increase was due to inflation, and a cut in the Government grant.

4.2 **District Council:** Councillor Forde reported as follows:

4.2.1 Planning consent had been granted for the Chesterton Development. The consent was in outline only, but included provision for a new primary school, doctors' surgery, business units and other facilities. It was expected that 1800 houses would be completed by 2030. She had voted against the application, but thought it might produce some opportunities. The development would be carried out by a single developer.

4.2.2 A decked car park is to be built in the Waterloo, and the Council were also looking at other possible sites for car parking.

4.2.3 There would be a further litter-picking competition in March, and she suggested the Parish Council might again join with the school in this.

#### 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:

V Hancock	Clerk salary and PAYE (Feb/March)	294.00
Ctiizens Advice	Donation	250.00
Ross Collins	Mowing of Woodmancote playground	750.00
Roy Savory	Mowing of Village Green	160.00
Barry Koch	RFO annual salary	600.00
V Hancock	Administrative expenses (half year)	116.00
Earth Anchors	Bus stop bench (insurance excess)	125.00

5.3 **Budget and Precept for 2018-2019:** The RFO had circulated a draft budget for 2018/19 to all Councillors. It was proposed that the precept for next year would be £6,000 (as last year). It **was resolved** that the precept for 2018/19 be set at £6,000. The Clerk mentioned that this would result in a very small increase in the Parish Council's part of residents' Council Tax, as Cotswold District Council would no longer be passing on to small parishes any part of the Council Support Grant. She also mentioned that the Government was considering "capping" town and parish council increases, although this appeared to have been deferred for the time being.

5.4 **Appointment of Bank Signatory:** It **was resolved** that Councillor Wilkes be appointed a signatory to the Council's Bank account in place of Councillor Russell-Browne.

#### 6. Council Vacancy:

Eric Russell-Browne had resigned as a Councillor. The Clerk had notified the Elections Officer, and a notice was currently being displayed asking residents to write to him if they required and election. If no request for an election was made, the Council would be

obliged to co-opt a Councillor to fill the vacancy.

### **7. Highway Issues:**

7.1 The Clerk reported that Ameys had been notified of the potholes in the upper part of Chapel Lane and by Bankside, and it was expected that the grit bins in the Parish would be refilled very shortly.

7.2 There had been some problems with the recent snow and ice, as the snow ploughs had not been out. The Clerk had received a complaint about ice on the road and pavement outside the school. It was agreed that the conditions had been exceptional, and, other than residents clearing the snow shortly after it fell, there was little the Council or others could have done.

7.3 The Clerk had received a complaint about the extremely muddy state of the footpath from North Cerney to Rendcomb. It was agreed she should contact Geoff Ramshaw.

### **8. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:**

8.1 **Neighbourhood Watch:** Councillor Wilkes reported that there had been comparatively few reports of crime or suspicious activity. Councillor Wakefield said the position was similar in Woodmancote, and the Chairman said that rural crime also seemed to have reduced over the winter.

8.2 **Community Speedwatch:** The proposed session in December had been abandoned because of faulty equipment. Councillor Wilkes said that Speedwatch would start again in March, but more people were needed to help. The Clerk was asked to arrange for a request for volunteers in Churn News

### **9. Woodmancote Playground:**

9.1 **Report:** The Clerk had not received inspection reports recently, but understood that Debbie Sergeant was suffering from a broken leg. The Clerk would pursue the Reports.

9.2 **New Equipment:** In the absence of Councillor Sergeant, there was no further information.

### **10. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders**

10.1 **Planning Applications:** The Council had been notified of the following:

Old Gore Barn, Fosse Cross: Conversion to wedding venue – revised scheme (and Listed Building application)

The Bathurst Arms – application to amend the licence due to alterations

10.2 **Decision Notices:**

Land adjacent to Broadridge Cottage: erection of 12 units (affordable housing)

South Barn, Calmsden: Repair and conversion to form B1 office space

Land South-east of Calmsden Cottage: Variation of condition to allow B1 use

Unit 1 Fosse Cross: Warehouse extension and store (revised scheme)

### **11. Correspondence:**

The Clerk had received the following:

11.1 Minutes of the last meeting of the Gloucestershire Charter Parish Group. The next meeting would be on 8 March 2018

11.2 Notification from GAPTC that next year's subscription would be £32.38

11.3 Email from Councillor Forde regarding funding available from Cotswold District Council for defibrillators. She said the Council were hoping to see, and map, a full network

of defibrillators, with one in every parish. Councillor Martin offered to liaise with her on this..

**12. Any Other Business**

12.1 Councillor Forde said that Cotswold District Council were organising training sessions for Parish Council and others on the planning enforcement function of the Council. If there was sufficient interest, sessions would be arranged in Cirencester and Moreton-in-Marsh.

12.2 Councillor Stoten reported that one of the benches on the village green was beyond repair. The Clerk would look into the cost of replacing it.

12.3 Councillor Stoten said that the school was hoping to raise funds to repair the bell, at a possible cost of £2-3,000 and asked if the Parish Council might contribute. The Council agreed in principle to make a contribution, the amount to be agreed later when the cost was known.

**13. Date of the next Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Council Meeting would be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018, commencing at 7.30 pm at North Cerney Memorial Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed .....