

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 29th July 2019 at 7.30 pm at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

Present: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Cathy Martin, Nigel Wilkes, and Clare Cannock, District Councillor Jenny Forde and Barry Koch as RFO

Presiding: Councillor Mark Tufnell

Clerk: Valerie Hancock

Apologies: Councillor Adam Stoten and County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May 2019

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May 2019 at The Memorial Hall North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

- 2.1 Anna Thomson has agreed to be responsible for safeguarding in the Parish
- 2.2 The School bell had been paid for, and the play tower installed
- 2.3 The painting of the telephone kiosk had yet to be arranged
- 2.4 The Chairman reported that the junction of the Calmsden road and A429 was still flooding
- 2.5 Some of the new street lights in North Cerney were on all day. The Clerk would check which ones were faulty, and report this.
- 2.6 A new notice board for Woodmancote had yet to be arranged.
- 2.7 The Clerk had heard from Bathurst Estates that the sycamore tree was regularly inspected, but no action was proposed.

3. District and County Issues:

3.1 **County Council:** Councillor Hodgkinson had sent a written report. He had attended a recent presentation by Highway England. In September and October they would be holding a public statutory consultation on their preferred solution to the “missing link” at Birdlip. He was in favour of their proposal (a dual carriageway looping around the existing road). It was important that as many people as possible gave their views this autumn, and he would give more information about the consultation when he had it. Subject to the Government approving the funding, work would start in late 2021 and the new road would open in Spring 2024.

The A419 Noise Action Group has met again, and 25 people attended at Preston Village Hall. Residents are delighted that so many parishes are now backing the plea to get noise reduced on the A417/419, and it is hoped that Highways England will use the opportunity to introduce noise mitigation measures when work is carried out to the “missing link”. He had raised again the issue of the crossing on the A425 at North Cerney. Highways are adamant that they will not fund improvements because of the lack of accident history, so he had committed £2,000 from his small fund of Highways Local money to update lining, road markings and signage and to clear the footpaths.

4.2 **District Council:** The Chairman congratulated Councillor Forde on her Cabinet appointment.

She said she was responsible for Health, Wellbeing and Public Safety. Her committee was compiling a plan for the next four years. Members of the public were welcome to attend meetings. A “climate emergency” had been declared, and it was intended that clean energy would be in use across all sections of the Council within the next few months. A toolkit for Parish Councils was being prepared, so that they could be involved.

A major refurbishment of the Corinium Museum was being carried out, with the intention of making it one of the best of its kind. The Museum was still fundraising for the balance of the cost.

Possible designs for the new decked car park in the Waterloo had been displayed for the views of the public (and were still available on the Council's website). It was intended to ensure it is as “future-proof” as possible.

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		441.00
North Cerney School	Donation for repair to bell	Cheque 649	168.90
Sovereign playgrounds	Balance cost of play tower	650	1709.14
Les Cairns	CAT Scan and hire of fencing, etc	651	300.00

5. Affordable Housing Update: Maureen Maguire of Cirencester Housing reported that the recent public information meeting had been well-attended, and they were now engaging with applicants.

Construction was proceeding well, but issues has arisen, particularly regarding the supply of electricity to the development. Proposals from the power company were currently awaited. Subject to this, and the weather, completion in February 2020 was still expected. The contractors had been asked to cause as little disruption as possible, and she asked to be notified if there were any complaints.

The question of charging points for cars was raised, and she would look into this.

She mentioned that the new homes would have air-sourced heating, which would be cheaper and was “greener”. As the rear of the buildings would be very close to a high retaining wall, the Housing Association was looking at how to make the space in front into an attractive communal area.

She provided a note regarding the allocation of homes. The intention (and requirement of the s106 Agreement) was that the homes should be forever available to qualifying applicants in the North Cerney and Bagendon Parishes, or, if there were insufficient applicants, to those in nearby parishes. She explained the criteria to be met by applicants. The criteria were fixed, but some “weighting” could be applied, and the views of the Parish Council on this would be welcomed. It was agreed that the Council would consider this and report back to her..

6. Highway Issues:

6.1 Highways: The fallen finger post at the top of Chapel Lane had been replaced promptly, but the re-fixing of the sign to the “gate” on the approach to North Cerney had not yet been dealt with.

The blocked drain at the Woodmancote Road and A435 junction had been cleared. The drain on the bend on the A435 had not been dealt with as yet.

Councillor Hodgkinson was chasing up both of these.

The Chairman apologised for inconvenience caused by closure of the Calmsden road while a roadside wall was being rebuilt on his property.

6.2 **Footpaths:** Councillor Wilkes had been in touch with Geoff Ramshaw regarding improvements to the waymarking of the path through the garden of Hillview Cottage. The stile from that path into the field would also be replaced..

7. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

Councillor Wilkes said there was little to report, except for a police alert about vehicles parking on driveways.

The Clerk asked whether, as there was now no report from Woodmancote Neighbourhood Watch, this item should remain on future agendas. The Council considered it should remain, but it would be useful if the new PCSO could attend meetings.

8. **Woodmancote Playground:** The Clerk reported that the Buzz play tower had been installed. Delays had been experienced, but Les Cairns had been very helpful. She was not receiving any inspection reports. (Later in the meeting, after being co-opted as a Councillor, John Ewbank agreed to deal with this).

9. **Bathurst Estate Issues:** Peter Clegg, the Bathurst Estates Agent and also a North Cerney resident said he was happy to attend Council meetings, but did have some potential conflicts of interest.

Bathurst Estates were currently considering how to use the area behind the Bathurst Arms. They might replace the garages with modern storage/garage units, with the remainder of the area being tidied up and available for parking, but the views of the Council would be welcome. It was agreed that the parking was valuable to the village, and Councillor Martin suggested that school teachers might be asked to park there, to relieve congestion in the village.

Arrangements were in hand to replace the fence between the Broad Close car park and the footpath.

10. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders

10.1 **Planning Applications:** The following applications had been notified to the Council: Approval or variation of conditions in existing consents relating to the affordable housing site and Old Gore Barn.

The Red Sheds: conversion of a barn to ancillary accommodation.

All Saints Church, North Cerney: felling of a sycamore tree

10.2 **Decisions and Notices:** the following had been approved:

South Barn, Calmsden: approval of condition in existing consent.

11. **Co-Option of Councillor:** John Ewbank said he was interested in becoming a Councillor, and gave a brief resume of his past career. It was proposed by the Chairman and unanimously **resolved** that he be co-opted as a Councillor.

12. Representation on the Village Hall Committee:

Councillor Martin volunteered and it was **resolved** that she be the Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

13. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was reported by the Clerk:

13.1 Notification that the mobile library vehicle was to be replaced. The County Council was proposing to purchase a new electric or hybrid vehicle, which would deliver books to local pick up and drop off points (or to homes if residents were unable to access those points). Books would be pre-selected online, or by library staff based on customer preferences. In the meantime, they would be borrowing a vehicle from Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, and would be contacting library users. They might need help in identifying suitable pick up and drop off points.

13.2. Notification from Cotswold District Council that the Community Infrastructure Levy had been introduced.

13.3 A map showing the fly-tipping “hot spots” in the Cotswold District. There were none in the Parish.

13.4 An order form for grit/salt for the winter (passed to the Chairman to deal with)

13.5 Details of free courses for older people to learn more about digital devices.

13.6 Details from Cotswold District Council of a new scheme to improve newt conservation and save developers time and money.

13.7 Notification that Cotswold District Council are currently undertaking a “Call for Sites” for housing (including sites for gypsies and travellers), employment, retail, commercial, community and /or other uses.

13.8 An offer of free “Do Not Knock” signs for individuals and/or older people, to protect them from fraudulent doorstep traders.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 **Defibrillator:** Councillor Cannock had been looking into this, and provided a note. She suggested purchasing a defibrillator for installation in the telephone kiosk at North Cerney from SWASFT. The cost would be £1.650 (plus VAT), but there would be some additional installation costs. A grant of £625 was available from Cotswold District Council. Anna Thomson had offered £150 from Free Cycle, and knew of a private donor who might contribute another £150. The cost to the Council would be £725 plus the cost of installation. Maureen Maguire said that their contractors might be able to help with any electrical installation.

It was **resolved** to proceed with the proposal and the Clerk was asked to lodge the application for the grant from Cotswold District Council.

14.2. **Traffic Calming on the A435:** The clerk was asked to look into the cost of signs notifying motorists of their speed.

15. Dates of next meetings: The next meetings would be on Monday 9th September and Monday 11th November, both at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, North Cerney.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed