

**North Cerney Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30 pm  
at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney**

**Present:** Councillors Mark Tufnell, Adam Stoten, Nigel Wilkes, Cathy Martin, John Ewbank and Linda de Carles, County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, District Councillor Jenny Forde, RFO Barry Koch and PCSO Andrew Biddell

**Presiding:** Councillor Mark Tufnell

**Clerk:** Valerie Hancock

**Apologies:** Maureen Magrie (Cirencester Housing Association)

**1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at The Memorial Hall North Cerney be approved and signed.

**2. Matters Arising:**

**Woodmancote notice board:** A new board had been installed. Councillor Tufnell had asked that the back board be improved, to make it easier to fix notices

**North Cerney telephone kiosk:** Work had started on stripping off the old paint, but progress had been prevented by weather conditions.

**3. District and County Issues:**

**3.1 County Council:** Councillor Hodgkinson reported on the following:

3.1.1 He had again reported flooding at four local road junctions. Two of these had been dealt with before, but the work done had clearly not been successful.

3.1.2 He had also reported the deficiencies in the road from Woodmancote to Rendcomb.

3.1.3 The public consultation on the proposals for the A417“missing link” had now ended. It appeared there had been very little feedback, and that that received focussed on the negative aspects, rather than the positive. Work was still expected to start in 2021, subject to Government approval. He had raised again the issue of the noise level created by the concrete surface on parts of the existing road.

3.1.4 The gully on the A435 had now been cleared. The pavement would be cleared, and the new signs and road makings would be installed, in the near future.

3.1.5 Councillor Martin asked what action could be taken regarding redundant road works signs left by the roadsides. Councillor Hodgkinson asked that these be reported to him.

**3.2 District Council:** Councillor Forde reported on the following:

3.2.1 In view of concerns expressed about the proliferation of banners on the A435 at North Cerney, she had spoken to the owners of the properties concerned. She suggested it was up to the Parish Council to make guidelines regarding the size and siting, etc. The Clerk questioned whether the Council had power to do this. She felt it important that the local businesses and the school be able to advertise. Councillor Stoten said the school was intending to install an improved permanent sign, subject to appropriate consents. It was agreed that no action would be taken by the Council, except to speak to the owners of the properties concerned. Councillor Ewbank suggested they might be asked to reduce the

number or size of the banners.

3.2.2 There had been complaints about the noise from planes using Rendcomb Airfield. Cotswold District Council officers were looking into all aspects of this, and checking to ensure that the planning conditions were being complied with.

3.2.3 Having declared a “climate change emergency”, the Council was currently recruiting a Climate Change Manager

3.2.4 Work was proceeding on the affordable housing site, but owing to delays associated with the installation of power, the contractors were now projecting a handover date of 30 March 2020. Those who had applied for homes would be notified.

Maureen Magrie had expressed her thanks to the Parish Councillors who had considered the local connection prioritisation. The policy now proposed did not include the specific weighting provisions suggested by the Parish Council, as it was felt this was potentially subject to change based on future practical experience.

The power installation might cause some disruption, but as yet no details had been received from SSE.

Councillor Forde said that cost of the the project was now over budget, and the Housing Association were looking for a volunteer willing to design the small garden at the front of the properties.

3.2.5 Cotswold District Council had recently created an Empty Properties Strategy. As at August 2019 there were 648 properties in the District that had been empty for more than 6 months. The aim of the strategy was to identify empty properties, find their owners, and provide help and support to bring the homes back into use to ease pressure on the housing market and provide quality affordable homes to those in need. If necessary, the Council will move onto formal enforcement measures against the owner, which could ultimately include compulsory purchase or an enforced sale.

Councillor Ewbank raised the issue of Corner Cottage in Woodmancote, which had been standing empty for some years and was now in a very dilapidated, and possibly, dangerous, condition. Councillor Forde said she would follow this up, but she was aware that the council had made contact with the owner and that, in view of the arrears of Council Tax, the issue had been referred to the Council's Legal Department.

#### 4. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

Councillor Wilkes said he had little to report, but he had asked in the Churn News for more residents to join Neighbourhood Watch, and for more volunteers for Community SpeedWatch.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Biddell for attending the meeting. He confirmed that he was now the PCSO for the area which included the Parish. He explained that PCSOs had some, but not all, the powers of police officers. His duties involved working closely with the local community, dealing with more minor issues. He could be contacted by email, which often proved quicker than using the 101 telephone number.

It was agreed that the Clerk would put a note in Churn News with his contact details.

#### 5. Financial Matters:

5.1 **Reconciliation Statement:** The RFO presented the reconciliation statement and it was **resolved** that it be approved. The second payment of the precept, amounting to £1,500 had been received.

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

Memorial Hall	Use of Hall – May	653	28.50
V Hancock	Clerk salary and PAYE – October		147.00
Memorial Hall	Use of Hall – September	654	14.25

R Savory	Mowing village green 2019	655	160.00
Cotswold Diggers	Playground repairs		130.00

### 5.3 Budget and Precept for 2020/21

The Budget presented by the RFO was approved. As it was anticipated that the Council would be contributing this year to the cost of a defibrillator it was **resolved** that the precept remain at £6,000, as last year.

### 6. Highway Issues:

6.1 The Clerk had been notified of a large number of road works to be carried out over the next few months. This included repair of the road into North Cerney from the A435.

6.2 GRCC were organising a "Road Safety and Speeding" event on 14 November to discuss methods of tackling this issue.

6.3 Geoff Ramshaw had arranged for a new waymarker and stile at Hillview Cottage. Bathurst Estates had contributed £40 towards the cost of materials.

**7 Affordable Housing Update:** Dealt with in the District Councillor's report above.

### 8. Woodmancote Playground:

Councillor Ewbank reported that, apart from the gate and fence which had now been repaired, the paintwork on the swings and some other items of equipment was in need of work, and the surface round the roundabout was becoming overgrown. He suggested a working party might deal with this in the Spring.

### 9. Co-option of Councillor:

The Chairman reported that, following the resignation of Clare Cannock, the appropriate notice had been displayed inviting residents to ask for an election. There had been no request for an election, and the Council was now free to co-opt a Councillor. The Clerk had not received any applications as yet..

### 10. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders

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

Land to the South East of Woodmancote playground: Outline application for the erection of up to three dwellings. An objection comment had been lodged on behalf of the Council, and there had been other objections from local residents.

6 North Cerney: Reductions to copper beech tree

10.2 **Decision Notices:**

South Barn Calmsden: Approval of revised application for repair and conversion to form new B1 offices

Perrotts Brook House: Refusal of application for a new dwelling in the garden

Affordable housing site: Approval of non-material amendment (re-siting of cycle store and lowering of ridge line Plots 1-6)

The Clerk had also been notified that Cotswold District Council had consented to the change of use of The Waggon and Horses public house in Cirencester to five flats.

11. **Defibrillator:** The Clerk had been notified that the grant application had been approved, and Cotswold District Council would provide £625 towards the cost. She would ask Clare Cannock to pass on any information she had regarding the defibrillator. A resident said that she expected to be able to obtain a discount on the cost. She asked whether a defibrillator would be provided for Woodmancote. It was agreed that one would be installed in North Cerney initially.

**12. Correspondence:**

The following correspondence was reported by the Clerk:

12.1.Cotswold District Council had launched a public consultation to review polling stations and districts. It was agreed the Council were happy with the present arrangements for the Parish.

12.2 Age UK Gloucestershire had been commissioned to develop and implement a "Homesharing" service for the County. The Clerk was asked to mention this in the Churn News

12.3 From Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown's campaign team asking for details of any local social events that he might be able to attend.

12.4 From GAPTC with details of courses available

12.5 From GAPTC with notification of a small increase in their subscription fee for next year

12.6 From GAPTC with advice for councils considering installing ANPR cameras

12.7 From GAPTC regarding a consultation on possible amendment of the permitted development rights for operators deploying 5G and extended mobile coverage.

12.8 From Geoff Ramshaw regarding ash die-back and a scheme for providing replacement trees. It was subsequently made clear that there were likely to be only some 4 trees per Parish available.

12.9 From Sovereign offering their services to carry out the annual playground inspection. The cost was substantially higher than the present providers, but included any minor maintenance. It was agreed to remain with the present provider.

12.10 From Local Answer asking for details of the Council to be included in their new online directory. It was agreed this service was not required.

12.11 From Cotswold Neighbourhood Policing Team with notification that the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner would be holding an open public event at the Bingham Hall Cirencester on 13 November.

12.13 From Cotswold District Council with details of grants of between £100 and £1,000 available to (inter alia) Parish Councils.

12.11 From Cotswold District Council seeking views on Council Tax support changes

12.12 From Cotswold District Council regarding unsafe driving putting refuse and recycling crews at risk

12.13 From Cotswold District Council with notification that trenching works had commenced at Waterloo car park as part of the archaeological evaluation.

**13. Any Other Business**

There was none.

**14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 10 February 2020 at 7.00 pm, and the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 11 May 2020 at 7.00 pm, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed .....