

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 26th October 2020 at 7.00 pm by “Zoom”

Present: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Adam Stoten, Cathy Martin, Nigel Wilkes, John Ewbank, Linda de Carles, Libby Butler, RFO Barry Koch and County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

Presiding: Councillor Mark Tufnell

Clerk: Valerie Hancock

Apologies: PCSO Andy Biddell and District Councillor Jenny Forde

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th August 2020

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th August 2020 by Zoom be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising from meetings on 10th February 2020 and 6th July 2020:

The Clerk would write again to Bromford Housing about the Burcombe car park. Councillor Butler said it appeared to be used for storage by two local residents

3. District and County Issues:

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

3.1.1 Public Health: The Covid 19 infection rate was rising in Gloucestershire, but was lower than the north of the country, with currently 80-90 new cases each day. The total number of cases in the Cotswold District was 486. It was important that everyone kept themselves and others safe.

3.1.2 . The County Council had now announced that they would fund free school meals for those entitled to them during the half-term break

3.1.3 The final consultation on the A417 “missing link” would end on 5th November

3.1.4 The road past Perrotts Brook Farm had recently been patched and re-surfaced

3.1.5 The A429 Fosse Way would be closed until 3rd November for tree felling.

3.1.6 He had spoken to the Local Highways Manager about extending the 40 mph speed limit on the A435 to Churnside, and reminded him that they had promised to carry out a speed survey once the Churnbridge Row houses were occupied. The Clerk confirmed that she and Cirencester Housing had written to Highways about the speed limit extension
Councillor Martin asked whether rumble strips might be requested.

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

4. Financial Matters:

4.1 **Reconciliation Statement:** The reconciliation statement was presented by the RFO and it was **resolved** that it be approved. There was currently some £4.840 in the bank and he anticipated that the balance at the end of the year would be £2,974.

4.2 **Authorisation of Expenditure:** The following expenditure was authorised:

BHIP	667	Balance of Annual Insurance	8.37
Passion First Aid Ltd	668	Defibrillator	1974.00

Ross Collins	669	Playground mowing	850.00
Roy Savory	724	Village green mowing	160.00
V Hancock		Clerks salary and PAYE	147.00

5. Defibrillator: Councillor Stoten said he was awaiting delivery, which was expected very soon. The suppliers had a contact who would be able to install it in the telephone kiosk. Nick de Carles and Bob Corser had volunteered to deal with the painting of the telephone kiosk.

The Clerk reported that a contribution of £162 was available from Anna Thomson's "recycle" sales

6.1. Highway Issues: In addition to those mentioned by Councillor Hodgkinson (above) the Clerk reported that she had received copy correspondence between a Calmsden resident and the Local Highways Manager concerning overgrown vegetation in Dark Lane. Councillor Hodgkinson said he was aware of this, and it may already have been dealt with.

6.2 Footpaths

6.2.1. Geoff Ramshaw had arranged for the clearance of the beech tree that had fallen across Monarch's Way.

6.2.2 For family reasons, Geoff Ramshaw had had to cease his activities as Voluntary Warden for the immediate future. If any urgent issues were referred to him, he would pass them on to one of his volunteers.

7. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

Councillor Wilkes said that a recent planned Community Speedwatch had had to be cancelled, as the equipment could not be found.

A report from PCSO Biddell regarding crime in the North Cerney area had been circulated. The Clerk mentioned a recent burglary from a garden shed in North Cerney.

Councillor Tufnell said there was a low incidence of rural crime, but there had been recent deer poaching, and an individual with an air rifle. The police response was good, but it was difficult to catch offenders.

Councillor Stoten asked if action could be taken to prevent fly-tipping on the vacant area of land at the junction of the road to Woodmancote and the A435 at North Cerney. It was thought the land belonged to The Old Rectory and Councillor Tufnell agreed to speak to the owners.

8. Woodmancote Playground:

Councillor Ewbank reported that the fence was a major issue. 8 posts needed to be replaced. A quotation had been received from Les Cairns. Tim Adams had been asked to contact him to provide another quotation.

Since the last meeting he had established that the basketball goal post was still used. The hoop needed to be de-rusted.

He was awaiting a quotation for cutting back the overgrown hedge, and Councillor Stoten suggested that he might also ask Tim Adams for a separate quotation for that work.

He still considered that the grass was not cut sufficiently frequently, and the cuttings were not collected. The advantage of a contractor was that they would be accountable. He was asked by the Chairman to obtain up to date quotations

The Clerk said that the present lease of the playground would expire in September 2024. The lease had been granted by Cirencester Rural District Council, who at the time had a lease from Henry Robinson of the whole Burcombe development (including the playground). It was agreed that the Chairman would speak informally to Henry Robinson.

9. Parish Council Website

Councillor Butler said she had received little response to the email with suggestions for improving the website. She had spoken to Paul Sergeant, and would be meeting with him with a view to taking over the administration of the site.

The Clerk mentioned that there had recently been new regulations about accessibility. This was highly technical, but Paul Sergeant had confirmed that he had run a test, and the website complied with the requirements.

10. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders (since February 2020)

10.1 Planning Applications: Apart from applications for approval of conditions in existing planning consents, the council had been notified of the following:

Barn at Scrubditch Farm: Certificate of Lawful Use or Development, that the conversion to a dwelling was lawfully commenced and that a planning consent granted in 2013 is still extant

New House at Perrotts Brook House: amended siting and layout

10.2 Planning Consents – none notified

10.3 The Clerk had received a copy email from the Planning Enforcement Officer to Councillor Forde concerning the current investigation into whether the conditions in the planning consent for Rendcomb Airfield were being complied with.

11. Correspondence:

The following correspondence (excluding Newsletters, Councillor briefings, Covid reports etc) was reported by the Clerk:

11.1 Notification from CDC that three Councils (Cheltenham, Stroud and Cotswold) have started to explore a possible two-Council devolution deal for Gloucestershire

11.2 A letter from Gloucestershire Constabulary concerning changes to local policing

11.3 From CDC calling for sites for potential housing, renewable energy or commercial or community use, or land suitable for accommodating gypsies and travellers.

11.4 A message from the website suggesting it would be good to have a shop in the (unspecified) village

11.5 A message from the website in which a resident complained that plants planted on the bank by Broad Close had been killed, and also concerning a high reading of electromagnetic radiation from a nearby cable

12. Any Other Business

Councillor Ewbank mentioned there had been an email exchange with Simon Pow, editor of the Churn News, who had initially asked that the Council act as Treasurer for the Churn News. This had been resolved by the Clerk.

13. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting would be held in January 2021 (date to be arranged)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed