

## **North Cerney Parish Council**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**on 7th December 2015 at 7.30 pm**

**at The Mission Hall, Woodmancote**

**Present:** Councillors M Tufnell, P Sergeant, B Smith, C Wakefield, A Stoten, and S Telling as RFO

**Presiding:** Councillor M Tufnell (Chairman)

**Clerk:** V Hancock

**Apologies:** Councillors E Russell-Brown and N Wilkes, County Councillor P Hodgkinson and District Councillor J Forde

#### **1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 14th September 2015**

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th September 2015 at The Mission Hall, Woodmancote be approved and signed.

#### **2. Matters Arising:**

**2.1 Website:** Councillor Sergeant confirmed that draft Minutes would appear on the website within a month after each meeting to comply with the Transparency Code.

**2.2 Dog waste bin(s):** Councillor Smith reported that the dog waste bins had now been installed in the positions agreed. The Clerk was asked to arrange for a note in the Churn News encouraging residents to use them. Further signs were to be placed on gates.

**2.3 Highways:** The Clerk reported that the sign post at the top of Dark Lane had been re-erected. Repairs had been carried out to the damaged kerbs adjoining the village green. A meeting had been held with Richard Gray of GCC, Councillor Wilkes and County Councillor P Hodgkinson to discuss the dangers of horses and pedestrians crossing the A435. It was suggested that "gates" might be installed at both end of the village, to make drivers more aware that they were passing through a village, and of the speed limit. It appeared that the County Council might pay 50% of the cost, and Councillor Hodgkinson had indicated that he might be able to provide the balance from funds available to him. It was **resolved** that this course of action be taken if funding was available.

The Clerk also reported on a subsequent meeting with Richard Gray to discuss speeding on The Whiteway and, in particular, the bridle path crossing at the top of the dip and bend. Richard Gray was looking into providing better warning signs about the dip and bend.

**2.4 Lighting at Hillview:** This had now been dealt with by GCC.

**2.5 Recycling:** Councillor Smith mentioned that the textile recycling facility at the school had now been discontinued.

#### **3. District and County Issues:**

**3.1 County Council:** Councillor Hodgkinson had sent a note regarding the following:

- 3.1.1 Ambulance Response times:** His call for urgent improvement in response times had been debated and supported unanimously by the County Council. A recent report had shown that the South West Ambulance Service was failing to meet its

75% target in responding to the most urgent calls within 8 minutes, and the position was getting worse. In September 2015 the 8-minute target for responding to the most urgent incidents (immediately life-threatening conditions) was achieved in only 38.46% of cases in the Cotswolds (against 53.3% in September 2014).

3.1.2 He had funds available for new play equipment at Woodmancote, but an application would have to be submitted by March

3.2 **District Council:** In the absence of Councillor Forde there was no report. (In a message sent before, but received after, the meeting) she reported that North Cerney School had held a successful Christmas Fair which had raised over £2,500. The school is now an Academy (part of the Gloucester Diocese Academy Trust group - of which the school is the smallest).

#### **4. Proposed Fund Raising for Defibrillators:**

The owners of The Bathurst Arms were keen to assist in fund raising, and had started this on behalf of the Parish Council. They were notified that the Council had made no decision as yet, and their fund raising activities were currently on hold.

It was agreed that, if defibrillators were to be installed, they should be available in both North Cerney and Woodmancote (and possibly Calmsden). Some concerns were expressed regarding the practical aspects of using them, and as to whether they would ever be used. In the absence of Councillor Russell-Brown (and the local para-medic who had hoped to attend the meeting to provide more information) it was **resolved** that no decision could be made. The Clerk was asked to arrange for a note in the Churn News to gauge local interest, and to seek the views of the local doctors' surgery.

#### **5. Registration of Assets of Community Value:**

It was agreed that The Bathurst Arms and the Village Hall were of community value. The Clerk reported that she had been advised that the freehold of the Memorial Hall was held by the village hall trustees, and no action appeared necessary. It was **resolved** the the Council would take steps to register The Bathurst Arms as an asset of community value.

#### **6. Woodmancote Playground:**

Rupert Farrow had again expressed concern about wear on the chains on one of the swings. It was **resolved** to ask Ross Collins to deal with this. Ross Collins had repaired the ground under the swings, and Councillor Wakefield said that he looked after the playground very well. The Council expressed its thanks to him.

Councillor Wakefield had met with a specialist in playground equipment, and had been told it would not be possible to renovate the half-pipe. The costs of replacing it, and complying with current requirements, would be in the region of £16,000. The Clerk was asked to notify Councillor Hodgkinson, but it was agreed that it was unlikely he would be able to provide funds of that amount.

#### **7. Affordable Housing Update:**

The Clerk reported that a meeting scheduled for last week had been postponed until January, as the Housing Association was in negotiation with the land owner. It appeared that the Housing Association was still intending to proceed, subject to agreeing terms for the purchase of the land.

#### **8. Financial Matters**

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

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

14/09/15	onl/033	V Hancock	Clerk monthly salary	117.60
21/09/15	593	Allium Accountancy	Services of RFO (April-Sept 2015)	300.00
22/09/15	591	The Mission Hall	Use of hall for September meeting	15.00
12/10/15	onl/034	HMRC	PAYE for September 2015	29.40
13/10/15	onl/035	V Hancock	Clerk monthly salary	117.60
19/10/15	594	P Sergeant	Website domain	8.38
06/11/15	588	R Farrow	Playground safety inspections	50.00
09/11/15	589	R Collins	Mowing contract for playground	550.00
10/11/55	592	V Hancock	Clerk office expenditure Apr-Sept 15	60.00
10/11/15	590	E Crump	Mowing North Cerney village green	165.00
11/11/15	onl/036	HMRC	PAYE for October 2015	29.40
12/11/15	595	GCC	Repair of pillar in playground	86.23
12/11/15	587	CAB	Annual donation	250.00
13/11/15	onl/037	V Hancock	Clerk monthly salary	117.60

**8.3 Budget and Precept for 2016-17:** The RFO had circulated a draft Budget for 2016-17. It was **resolved** that the budget be approved, with the inclusion of a donation of £800 towards the cost of the roof works to the Memorial Hall. It was estimated that at the end of the current financial year the Council would have £2,178 in hand. It was **resolved** that the precept for 2016-17 would be £5,500.

**9. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders**

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

Proposed outbuilding at Broadbridge, North Cerney

Annexe and porch at Hammertons, North Cerney

**9.2 Decisions and Notices:** Consent had been granted for a change of use of an agricultural field to care farm at Scrubditch Farm, North Cerney.

**10. Correspondence:**

The following correspondence was reported by the Clerk::

10.1 From Tristan Chippendale of Bathurst Estates expressing concern at the felling of two ash trees at 49 Dark Lane.

10.2 From Cotswold District Council - notification of the current stage of consultation on the draft Local Plan.

10.3 A letter about parking in the village had been distributed with the help of PCSO Andrea Shutt. Councillor Smith and the Clerk had also met with PCSO Shutt and James Trotter of Bromford Housing. He has recently sent a letter to their tenants in the village, notifying them that they could park in The Orchard.

10.4 Notice of a Consultation event regarding funded public transport.

10.5 A request from GRCC for feedback on social and rural isolation

**12. Any Other Business**

12.1 Councillor Wilkes had sent a note to the meeting regarding

12.1.1 Neighbourhood Watch: He had recruited a further 4 homes in North Cerney, and was continuing his efforts to recruit more. He asked that residents be alerted to the need to ensure that, when leaving their homes, all doors and windows and outbuildings are secured. If they were going away, it was advisable to put timers on lights so their house looked occupied.

- 12.1.2 Community Speed Watch: There were now 3 residents trained in the use of speed detectors. They would be checking the speed of vehicles on the A435 in January.
- 12.2 The next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday 22 March 2016 and the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 10th May 2016, both in the Memorial Hall, North Cerney

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....