

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 14th September 2015 at 7.30 pm at The Mission Hall, Woodmancote

Present: Councillors M Tufnell, E Russell-Brown, N Wilkes, P Sergeant, B Smith, County Councillor P Hodgkinson, District Councillor J Forde, PCSO Andrea Shutt and S Telling as RFO

Presiding: Councillor M Tufnell (Chairman)

Clerk: V Hancock

Apologies: Councillor A Stoten

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 6th July 2015

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July 2015 at The Mission Hall, Woodmancote be approved and signed

2. Matters Arising:

2.1 **Website:** Councillor Sergeant had now set up the Council's website, and the Chairman thanked him for dealing with this.

2.2 **Dog waste bin(s):** Councillor Smith had met with Tristan Chippendale of Bathurst Estates, who had agreed the proposed siting of the two bins, provided the Council accepted responsibility for them, and they were regularly emptied by UBICO. He has asked that the Council make sure that the residents of Broad Close had no objection to the proposed bin outside their properties. A letter had been delivered to them explaining what was proposed, and asking them to let the Clerk know by 17th September if they had any objection. No objection had been received as yet. Subject to this, it was **resolved** to move the bin from Chapel Lane to the entrance to the footpath by Broad Close. An additional bin, to be installed further down the village, would cost in the region of £190, plus fixing costs.

3. District and County Issues:

3.1 **County Council:** Councillor Hodgkinson reported that

3.1.1 Faster broadband: Phase 1 should have made the service available to properties in North Cerney and Woodmancote. There were some properties which did not have access. This could be due to their broadband suppliers having not been notified by BT/Openreach. Further funds could be coming to connect those who should now have the service but did not.

The Phase 2 roll-out to the rural areas had now started. The work had been contracted to Gigaclear, who would contact the property owners. The service would be provided by underground cable using new technology, and might be faster than the BT/Openreach service.

3.1.2 Many road signs in the area had become obscured by foliage. Ameys were now dealing with this.

3.1.3 He had been advised that the re-erection of the sign post at the top of Dark Lane and

the clearing of the A435 pavement from the bus stop to Churnside were scheduled for September. The Clerk reported that a TV inspection of the surface water drain passing Bankside had been carried out. There appeared to be no defect in the drain, and she was told that the water coming up through the road was probably due to a spring, about which little could be done.

3.1.3 The water lying on the Woodmancote to Rendcomb road had been reported, and was being investigated. Sara Telling mentioned that after recent heavy rain there had also been a lot of water lying on the A435 around Colesbourne.

3.1.4 The question was raised as to whether re-fixing of the dislodged kerb stones at North Cerney village green was the responsibility of GCC. Councillor Hodgkinson said he would report this.

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

3.2.1 She had funds available for clearing litter etc, and would be able to fund the cost of the additional dog waste bin.

3.2.2 A review of recycling sites was being carried out. It was likely that the glass recycling bins would be removed, and that instead bins would be provided for recycling of textiles and Tetrapak items. She mentioned that there was already a recycling facility for textiles in the school playground, which raised some funds for the school.

3.2.3 The school playing field had always been open for use outside school hours. Its use had been abused on a few occasions during the summer. She asked that any incidents of this type be reported, to avoid the need to lock the playing field.

3.2.4 There had been a problem with skittish horses on the footpath and cycleway behind the Bathurst Arms. Councillor Hodgkinson said this had been reported to the Public Rights of Way Officer, who was going to deal with it. There would be a Cycle Group meeting with him later this month.

4. **Crime and Public Safety:**

4.1 **Neighbourhood Watch:** Councillor Wilkes said that he still had only 3 residents signed up, and had put a note in the Churn News. PCSO Shutt suggested that the notifications she sent to him might be put on the Council's website. Councillor Wakefield reported that the Neighbourhood Watch was more active in Woodmancote, where about 36 households were involved.

4.2 **Safety of Horses and pedestrians crossing the A435:** Councillor Wilkes said that traffic speeding through the village made it dangerous for horse riders crossing the road and asked if warning signs could be installed. He mentioned that there was also a risk from cars travelling at speed on the Whiteway. The Clerk suggested that pedestrians crossing the A435 might also be considered. PCSO Shutt said that she did carry out speed checks on the A435, but suggested that the local Speedwatch team might be re-activated, Councillor Wilkes volunteered to be trained for the Speedwatch team. She said that GRCC had a toolkit available with ideas for traffic calming in rural areas, and she would send this to the Clerk. Councillor Hodgkinson said he would try to arrange a meeting with Richard Gray of GCC Highways to consider the issues.

4.3 **Crime:** PCSO Shutt reported that during the year up to this month there had been an increase in reported crimes, compared with the previous year. Non-dwelling burglaries had increased from 4 to 6, and dwelling burglaries from 0 to 2. Amongst other offences, there had been criminal damage at Calmsden, some assaults without injury, theft of a car from North Cerney and a horse box, and the theft of the post box on The Whiteway. She had

met with a representative of Bromford Housing who was keen to tidy up the Burcombe area in Woodmancote. If the area was better maintained it was thought more likely that it would be looked after by residents. There was concern about young children on the road in Woodmancote, and she asked to be notified of this.

She mentioned that the next NCG Meeting would be at Winstone on 29th October 2015

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:

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| 13/07/15 | onl/028 | V Hancock | Clerk monthly salary | 117.60 |
| 13/07/15 | onl/029 | HMRC | PAYE for June | 29.40 |
| 23/07/15 | 583 | NC Memorial Hall | Use of Hall for May meetings | 12.75 |
| 26/07/15 | 584 | The Mission Hall | Use of Hall for July meeting | 15.00 |
| 02/08/15 | 585 | Earth Anchors | New bench at bus stop | 430.80 |
| 05/08/15 | 586 | E Russell-Brown | Reimbursement of bench fitting charge | 50.00 |
| 11/08/15 | onl/030 | HMRC | PAYE for July | 29.40 |
| 13/08/15 | onl/031 | V Hancock | Clerk monthly salary | 117.60 |
| 11/09/15 | onl32 | HMRC | PAYE for August | 29.40 |

5.3 New Financial Regulations: A final draft had been circulated to the Councillors. It was **resolved** that the Regulations be adopted by the Council in that form.

6. Affordable housing update: In the absence of Councillor Stoten, the Clerk reported that there had been a further meeting at which plans of the proposed development had been produced. A decision was awaited from Cirencester Housing Association as to whether they wished to proceed, after a meeting of their Board this month. The Clerk had written to Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP regarding the proposal to extend the right to buy to Housing Association tenants, and she read out the reply she had received. A copy would be sent to Councillors.

7. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders

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

- Change of use of a field at Scrubditch Care Farm
- Extension at 8 Woodland View, Woodmancote
- Extension at 39 Dark Lane, North Cerney
- Alterations at Pennings, North Cerney
- Extension at Halfway Cottage, Burcombe Lane, Woodmancote
- Tree works at 39 Dark Lane, North Cerney

7.2 Decisions and Notices: Consent had been granted for all the above, except the change of use at Scrubditch Care Farm and the tree works at 39 Dark Lane, which were not yet decided.

8. Woodmancote Playground:

8.1 Repairs: The junction box had been re-fixed. Rupert Farrow had reported that the chains on the swings were beginning to show signs of wear, and that the bench was rocking slightly. As neither appeared to be a risk at present it was **resolved** to keep the issues under review.

8.2 Replacement of the Half-pipe: Councillor Wakefield said that the feeling in the village was that they would like to retain the half pipe. It was unlikely to be capable of repair and it

was agreed that he would look into the cost of replacing it. Councillor Hodgkinson had sent details of available grants to the Clerk. He said an application would need to be lodged by March.

9. Calmsden Poor Downs Allotment Charity - Appointment of Trustee: Councillor Tufnell explained that his 4-year term of office as a Trustee was ending, and the Parish Council had the power of appointment of trustees under the Charity Commission Order. He was willing to stand for re-election. It was **resolved** that he be re-elected a Trustee of the Charity.

- 10. **Correspondence:** In addition to items mentioned above the Clerk had received:
 - 10.1 Details of changes to local bus services, none of which affected the parish
 - 10.2 Notification that, as a result of reorganisation, PC Victoria Stinchcombe is no longer the Community Beat Officer, and her role is now carried out by PC Beth Coles, Community Beat Manager.
 - 10.3 A letter from the County Archivist requesting a donation from the Council towards the cost of a major project to provide new/improved facilities for document storage and visiting researchers.
 - 10.4 Notice of a Flood Meeting at CDC offices on 27th November 2015, to be chaired by Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP. Cirencester and all parishes north would be discussed from 10.30 - 11.00 am.
 - 10.5 Details of Gloucestershire County Council's autumn "Big Community Switch" offering savings on energy bills. Details would be posted on the parish notice boards.

11. Proposal re Defibrillator(s): Councillor Russell-Brown proposed the installation of a defibrillator in North Cerney. He said that South-West Ambulance Service would not contribute to the cost (of approximately £2,000), but would maintain it and replace consumables. It would be necessary to raise the funds, but the owner of The Bathurst Arms had offered a contribution of £500, and to run a black tie fund-raising event. It was suggested that the provision of a defibrillator for Woodmancote should also be considered, and that the telephone boxes might be used to house the equipment. It was **resolved** to consider the proposal further. The Clerk would check whether any grant funding might be available.

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1 Councillor Wilkes asked if there had been any developments regarding the street light at Hill View. The Clerk agreed to pursue the GCC street lights officer.
- 12.2 It was agreed the Clerk would put a note in Churn News inviting one or more volunteers to paint the telephone boxes in North Cerney and Woodmancote.
- 12.3 Councillor Sergeant raised the possibility of a community wood at Woodmancote. It was agreed this would be considered at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed:

Date: