

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on 20th November 2017 at 7.30 pm

at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

Present: Councillors M Tufnell, P Segeant, C Martin and A Stoten, District Councillor J Forde and B Koch as RFO

Presiding: Councillor M Tufnell

Clerk: V Hancock

Apologies: Councillor N Wilkes, County Councillor P Hodgkinson and Councillor C Wakefield (later). Councillor E Russell-Browne absent

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th September 2017

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th September 2017 at The Memorial Hall North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

Telephone boxes: The Clerk reported that there were currently 4 volunteers to help with painting the telephone box in North Cerney, but none in Woodmancote

Community Emergency Plan: It was not yet known whether GRCC had received the funding to assist with this.

Extension of 40 mph speed limit: The Clerk and Councillor P Hodgkinson had been in correspondence with Danny Taylor at GCC, but there was no conclusion as yet

Village pump: Enquiries had been made by Councillor Martin and the Clerk, but no reason had been found for the lack of water to the pump in recent months. The pump appeared now to be flowing again.

Lighting: There was no further information regarding the proposed installation of LED lighting in North Cerney.

3. District and County Issues:

3.1 **County Council:** Councillor Hodgkinson had sent a report as follows:

3.1.1 He had been concerned about the state of the roads and it was apparent that Ameys were understaffed. The highways contract would be up for renewal in April 2019. It was intended to divide it into 3 parts: day to day maintenance, large road schemes and design. Some staff would be taken back in house to improve control. The contracts would go out to tender in December and the successful contractors would be announced next year.

3.1.2 He was concerned about the future of Cheltenham Hospital..Until March 2018 all orthopaedic acute and trauma patients requiring admission or surgical intervention will be moved from Cheltenham Hospital to Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. In addition, the A&E service at Cheltenham was being further cut back. He felt that Cheltenham Hospital was valuable to those in this part of the Cotswolds, but its future appeared uncertain.

3.2 **District Council:** Councillor Forde reported as follows:

3.2.1 The full Council would be making a decision on the Chesterton housing development application on 12 December. If it went ahead, the development was likely to take place

over a long period.

3.2.2 She was still involved in the parking project for Cirencester. It was iproposed to build a decked car park in The Waterloo. Alternative parking arrangements would be made available during construction works.

3.2.3 The planning application for affordable housing had been approved.

3.2.4 Bromford Housing were appointing new Social Housing Officers for each area, who would work with tenants in a social way. They were also identifying areas where housing is in poor repair, with a view to redevelopment.

4. Financial Matters:

4.1 **Reconciliation Statement:** The reconciliation statement was presented by the RFO and **it was resolved** that it be approved. The second precept payment of £1,499 had been received

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

V Hancock	Clerk monthly salary and PAYE	380.20
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4.3 **Appointment of Internal Auditor:** **It was resolved** that Sara Telling be appointed Internal Auditor

4.4 **Budget and Precept for 2018-2019:** This was not yet available.

5. Highway Issues:

5.1 The Clerk had received a message from Danny Taylor saying that he had paid for the “gates” from his budget for last year, and he was not seeking reimbursement of the Council's share of the cost. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to him expressing the Council's appreciation, and also to the Police & Crime Commissioner's Fund notifying them that the agreed funding would not be required.

5.2 GCC Highways had indicated that a sign saying “Unsuitable for HGVs” would shortly be installed at the top of Chapel Lane.

5.3 Ameys should be replacing the damaged salt bin in Hillview very soon, and had been asked to site it slightly further up the hill, away from the turning area.

5.4 The Clerk was still pursuing Danny Taylor about the growth on the pavement and in the gutter between Churnside and the crossroads.

5.5 The Council's bench at the bus stop had recently been destroyed by a HGV reversing into it. The police had been involved, but had not been aware of the damage and had taken no details of the vehicle. Although the incident had been seen by residents, the Clerk had not yet been able to obtain any details of the owner of the vehicle. She had notified the insurers of a possible claim, and obtained a quotation for a new bench. There would be an excess of £125. It was agreed the insurance claim should proceed. Councillor Stoten agreed to check whether the existing fixings could be re-used.

6. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

6.1 **Neighbourhood Watch:** Councillor Wilkes (unable to attend through illness) had sent a report. There had been one serious incident in North Cerney, an arson attack at Manor Farm which had destroyed or seriously damaged two vehicles. The Chairman reported that recently there seemed to have been less rural crime.

6.2 **Community Speedwatch:** In November the equipment provided failed to work, but the next date was 7 December.

6.3 **Police:** PC Victoria Stinchcombe has moved from her post as Beat Officer for Cirencester Rural North, and is replaced by PC Mark Weedon, who would also be covering Fairford and Lechlade. PCSO Andrea Shutt is still the PCSO for the area.

7. Affordable Housing Update: The Clerk had received a message from Maureen Margrie of Cirencester Housing, saying that, following changes to the proposed layout required by Council Officers, planning consent was expected to be issued in early December. She expressed appreciation of the help received from Councillor Forde, and the Cotswold District Council Planning Department. Councillor Stoten asked when work was likely to commence. Councillor Forde said she understood the Housing Association wanted to proceed as quickly as possible, once contractors had been appointed.

8. Woodmancote Playground:

8.1 The Clerk reported the Debbie Sergeant had volunteered to carry out the playground inspections, and her first report had been received. There were some minor items needing attention. The “No Dogs” sign still needed to be replaced and Mrs Sergeant had suggested notices disclaiming responsibility for use of equipment. The Clerk would look into the signs available, but questioned whether a disclaimer could apply to children.

8.2 **New Equipment:** Councillor Sergeant had made enquiries locally, and it appeared that some type of climbing equipment was the preferred option. He would look into what was available, and produce a short-list. The cost was likely to be £5,000-6,000. The Clerk agreed to investigate possible sources of funding.

9. Calmsden Poor Downs Allotment Trust: Elmore Crump's term of office as a trustee had ended, but the Chairman reported that he was willing to stand for re-election. **It was resolved** that he be re-elected as a trustee.

10. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders

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

- Application for a V-shaped sign at East Buildings Calmsden – consent granted
- South Barn Calmsden: repair and conversion of barn and lean-to to form B1 office space with parking/turning, and related LBC application
- Land South-east of Calmsden Cottage: variation of condition in existing planning consent to allow B1 use

The Bathurst Arms: erection of open porch, alterations to front fenestration, internal alterations and car park surfacing, and related LBC application – consent granted

10.2 **Decision Notices:** as above, and

Red Sheds, The Whiteway: conversion of agricultural buildings to a dwelling, erection of ancillary outbuilding, change of use to residential and modifications to access.

11. Correspondence:

The Clerk had received, and passed to Councillors, a number of Newsletters, and had also received various brochures for play equipment etc. Notification had also been received from CDC of the hearing sessions regarding the Cotswold District Local plan, and a poster had been displayed on the Parish notice board.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 **Village Hall:** The Clerk had received a call concerning the Village Hall's obligation to have a Parish Councillor on their committee. It appeared they regarded Councillor Wakefield as representing the Churn Valley Entertainers. It was agreed that Councillor Wakefield was the Council's representative on the committee, and the Clerk would ask him to make this clear at the forthcoming Village Hall AGM.

12.2 Councillor Stoten had organised a recent litter-pick. Only three volunteers had been involved, but they had collected some 50kg of litter from the A435 verges.

13. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 5th February 2018 at 7.45 pm at North Cerney Memorial Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed

Date: