

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 19th August 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: District Councillor Jenny Forde

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July 2020

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July 2020 by Zoom be approved and signed.

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

The Clerk reported that a litter pick had been carried out in March

3. District and County Issues:

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

3.1.1 The County Council was responsible for Public Health and had been very busy during the Covid 19 outbreak. There had been only some 2,000 cases in the County, with about 600 recorded deaths. The Cotswold District had had comparatively few cases.

3.1.2 Traffic on local highways had dropped to 30% of normal levels during lockdown, but had now increased to 90%. Cycling had increased to 150% of normal levels.

3.1.3 It was disappointing that the timing of the construction of the A417 “missing link” had slipped. Construction was now scheduled to start in 2023 with completion in 2025. The delay was due to a number of factors, including objections regarding the proposed “green bridge”.

3.1.4 Surface dressing had been carried out on the Welsh Way from Perrotts Brook to The Whiteway, and the flooding on the other road from Perrotts Brook would be dealt with.

3.1.5 All libraries were now open, but some for collection only.

Councillor Tufnell mentioned that the sign at the junction of the Fosse Way and the road to Calmsden had been damaged.

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

4. Affordable Housing Update:

Maureen Margrie reported that the project was now completed (apart from snagging) and the handover had gone well. The Housing Association was pleased with the quality of the new homes. All except two of the flats had been let and one shared ownership house had been sold. A viable offer had been received for the second shared ownership house. The remaining flats would be advertised again, but she was confident that two more tenants would be found with a primary connection to North Cerney or Bagendon parishes.

The garden contractor had cleared vegetation at the entrance to improve visibility, but the

overhanging growth on the adjoining hedgerows needed to be cut back.

She was looking into bringing high speed broadband to the new homes and was making enquiries of providers.

Councillors were invited to a "meet and greet" gathering on the afternoon of 10 September. The Chairman thanked Ms Margrie for her report, and for her work in providing affordable housing for the parish.

Councillor Stoten asked whether the Housing Association would support the Parish Council's attempts to have the 40 mph speed limit extended to Churnside. She suggested waiting until September when the school would have re-opened, and it was expected that all the homes would be occupied, but confirmed she would then send a letter of support.

5. 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: There was no expenditure requiring authorisation.

6. Defibrillator: Councillor Stoten had circulated details of the proposed defibrillator. The cost would be £1,370 (plus VAT) and £25 for delivery. 8 years running costs and some training would cost £300. There would be some installation cost which was expected to be small, and some ongoing costs (battery replacement etc). The Clerk confirmed that the grant of £625 from Cotswold District Council had been received.

The telephone kiosk had yet to be decorated. As a previous estimate had been obtained of about £1,000, it was agreed that Councillor Stoten would try to organise some volunteers to deal with this.

Enquiries would be made of local electricians who might be able deal with the installation. It was **resolved** to proceed with the purchase of the defibrillator.

7. Highway Issues: The Clerk reported as follows on issues since February 2020

7.1 Highways:

7.1.1 The Local Highway Manager for this area is now Shaun Morris (replacing Danny Taylor)

7.1.2. Potholes have been repaired in the upper part of Chapel Lane and near Bankside North Cerney, and Dark Lane has been re-surfaced.

7.1.3 A request was received from GCC to update the winter ice and snow details, and to order salt. This was passed to Councillor Tufnell to deal with.

7.1.4. Since the meeting in February, Councillor Paul Hodgkinson has reported on the following:

7.1.4.1 In order to improve safety on the A435 at North Cerney, he has used some of his "Highways Local" money to improve the signage. The pavement has also been cleared.

7.1.4.2 Following an accident at the junction with the A435 at Rendcomb, there will be changes to road markings and arrangements to improve visibility.

7.1.4.3 Works have been carried out to alleviate flooding at The Whiteway near the junction to Rendcomb, at the junctions of the Woodmancote roads and the A435 at North Cerney and Rendcomb, and at the A429 Fosse Way junction to Perrotts Brook.

7.1.5 The displaced kerb stones round North Cerney village green have been replaced.

7.1.6. A complaint was received by the Clerk from the owner of 16 North Cerney about a street light shining into his windows. This was dealt with by an adjustment to the angle of the light

7.1.7 Councillor Hodgkinson had asked if there were any highway issues that needed to be dealt with using his "Highways Local" money. Councillor Butler had suggested that there should be a pavement fronting the proposed new dwellings at Woodmancote. Councillor Hodgkinson referred this to Councillor Forde. She replied that this had been looked into, but it would have meant the loss of hedgerow and some young oaks, giving a very urban appearance. There was safe access to the playground, and she had agreed that the views of the Planning Officer and the Tree Officer should be respected.

7.2 Footpaths

7.2.1. Geoff Ramshaw had cleared some overgrown footpaths near The Whiteway, and had replaced a finger sign which had disappeared from its post near the cricket ground

7.2.2. Geoff Ramshaw had also been engaged in improvements to the public footpath from Woodmancote to the A435 near Hammerton House. A finger post was needed on the A435, but this was dependent on approval from GCC Highways.

Near the exit from this path on to the A435, there is a Rendcomb College driveway, which leads over a bridge to join the public footpath from Rendcomb to North Cerney. The section of driveway is used by local walkers, but is not a public footpath. He would be happy to make enquiries to see if this could be made a Permissive Path, but was concerned this might lead to a refusal and locking of the gate. He had asked for the views of the Parish Council.

This was discussed, and the Clerk was asked to request Geoff Ramshaw to take no action regarding use of the driveway.

7.2.3 A large beech tree had recently fallen across The Monarch's Way in Conigree Wood and Geoff Ramshaw had been notified.

8. Woodmancote Playground:

8.1 **RoSPA Report:** Councillor Ewbank reported that the play equipment had been repainted. It was agreed he would obtain a quotation from Les Cairns for replacement of the rotted fence posts. No action would be taken at present regarding the rubber matting. He reported that the baseball post was not only rusted, but its protective base had rotted. As it appeared no to be used, it was agreed it would be removed.

8.2 **Grass Cutting:** Councillor Ewbank said he had some concerns about the frequency of the grass cutting, and that it appeared that the cut grass was not being removed. He thought the Council might wish to review the arrangements in the future. It was proposed that this be considered again at the end of the season.

9. Resolution to Support the Local Electricity Bill:

It was **resolved** that the Council supported the Bill, and the Clerk was asked to register that support

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

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

68 Calmsden: demolition of a small section of wall to insert a door – Approved

Churn Lodge, 53 Dark Lane North Cerney: single storey rear extension – Approved

Land at Calmsden Estate: change of use of agricultural buildings to flexible office and storage use, construction of new office hub building and new agricultural buildings - Pending

Mill House North Cerney: felling of ash tree with ash die-back and silver birch in poor condition – Approved

10.2 **Planning Consents** – as above, and

Broadbridge North Cerney: erection of single storey pole barn

Broadbridge North Cerney: replacement of 5" x 6" (sic) aluminium greenhouse with a 6" x 12" (sic) cedarwood greenhouse

2 Churnside North Cerney: rear extension to lounge

Downs Cottage North Cerney Downs: erection of a summerhouse

Perrotts Brook House: erection of a new dwelling

Land South-East of Woodmancote playground: outline consent for up to 3 dwellings with all matters except access reserved

Long Paddock House 4 Hayes Lane Woodmancote: erection of detached garden room to replace garage

Moor Farm Buildings Woodmancote: Pitched roof grain store (notification only, not requiring consent)

11. Correspondence:

The following correspondence (received since February 2020, but excluding Newsletters, Councillor briefings, Covid reports etc) was reported by the Clerk:

11.1 From GAPTC; membership renewal, notice of AGM and details of their services

11.2 From Cotswold District Council; re their campaign against fly tipping. Also copy note sent by Councillor Ewbank to GCC regarding tipping of green waste by the Woodmancote to Rendcomb road

11.3 Correspondence with Maureen Margrie regarding confirmation of local connection for applicants for the affordable housing scheme. In the event, no help was needed from the Council.

11.4 From North Cerney School: they had received complaints about dog fouling on the village green and the pavements near the school

11.5 From Cotswold Citizens Advice: thanking the Council for its donation

11.6 From Gloucestershire County Council: notification of adoption of the Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire (2018-2023).

11.7 Copy correspondence between Councillor Ewbank and Councillor Forde regarding Corner Cottage Woodmancote. It appeared that the owner was now intending to sell the property at auction.

11.8 Copy correspondence regarding parking for Burcombe and the use of the car park. Councillor Butler reported that she had been in communication with Bromford Housing's Neighbourhood Coach for Woodmancote. She and PCSO Andy Biddle had been trying to identify the owners of the vehicles in the car park, some of which were clearly abandoned. Bromford Housing had confirmed that they owned the car park. The Clerk was asked to write to Bromford Housing notifying them that the Council would like to see the car park tidied up and the abandoned vehicles removed.

11.9 From NALC: regarding three current planning consultations, and encouraging councils to respond.

12. Any Other Business

12.1. Councillor Wilkes reported that there had been little criminal activity in North Cerney in the past few months, with only one report of criminal damage to a vehicle having been received. Scams appeared to have increased during the coronavirus pandemic.

He had been notified that reported Community SpeedWatch information will receive more attention, with enforcement if an increase of speeding is shown. PCSO Andy Biddle was in North Cerney recently watching speeds and reported that no vehicles exceeded the limit. Councillor Wilkes was arranging Community SpeedWatch checks in the near future outside the Bathurst Arms and near Churnbridge Row.

12.2 The Clerk had received Annual Accounts from the Calmsden Poor Downs Trust,

which would normally be approved at the Annual Parish Meeting. She was asked to circulate these to Councillors.

12.3 Councillor Ewbank reported that he had attended the “Being a Better Councillor” course, which he recommended to all Councillors.

12.4 The Clerk reported that she had asked Paul Sergeant if he was content to continue maintaining the Council's website. He had replied that he was, but would be happy to hand it over to a “web-savvy” Councillor if the Council wished. The Clerk was asked to thank him for his continued help. Councillor Butler said she would like to discuss the website with him.

12.5 The Council expressed its thanks to the Woodmancote resident who had planted and maintained the troughs at the entrances to the village.

13. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting would be held in late September/October (date to be arranged)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Signed