

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 3rd April at 7.00 pm at All Saints Church, North Cerney

Present: Councillors: Clare Cannock, Cathy Martin, Neil Brown, David Barrell, Jonathan Dryland, Barry Koch as RFO, and County and District Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, and 2 members of the public.

Presiding: Adam Stoten – Vice-Chair

Clerk: Sarah Treadwell-Jones

Apologies: Councillor Mark Tufnell – pre-booked holiday

1. Minutes:

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2025 at the Memorial Hall, North Cerney are approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Local Government Reorganisation

Adam Stoten attended the GAPTC webinar on LGR and provided the following update:

There are proposals to move to Mayoral Combined Authorities and to create Unitary Councils

The process remains at a very early stage regarding the fundamental elements, including the definition of “neighbourhoods” which will sit underneath Unitary Councils but will have no separate governance.

Timelines: March 25 – joint response to ministers from the 7 existing councils, 3 current options regarding potential areas to be covered by new Unitary Councils.

Nov 25 - deadline for submission of proposals and devolution arrangements.

Consultation over the summer with Parish Councils, govt decision mid-2026 – new council 2027/8.

2.2 Other matters

Bus stop and signage cleaned and river tidied up – Thanks to Cathy and John.

DB confirmed second defibrillator matter is now resolved and an additional device is not required for Churnside.

3. District and County Issues: Councillor Hodgkinson reported as follows:

3.1 County Council:

Flooding - Site Observations - Mill House, Rendcomb, Gloucestershire, GL7 7EY.

CDC officers are of the opinion that the flooding issues are due to a combination of issues and not only the operation of the sluice gate. Overall management of the whole river and implementation of natural flood measures is under discussion with the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) – together with an alert system to be implemented.

PH to advise re: membership and to put AS in direct contact with FWAG and Rendcomb Parish Council such that North Cerney Parish Council can collaborate with other relevant stakeholders.

3.2 District Council:

Health – COVID booster vaccine available for specific ages.

Flu levels 3.5 higher than previous year - anticipate the same this year.

Ambulance response times – not improved since last update.

South West ambulance community first responders recruitment drive underway (voluntary role + vehicle).

A417 to Gloucester “Missing Link” progress – new road now carved out, project is on track and it is hoped that the first stretch of new road will be open in late 2026.

4. Woodmancote Playpark Project:**4.1 Update on Phase 1B**

£7k worth of materials have been received free of charge from Bromford/Travis Perkins and utilised in the Phase 1B programme of work.

Groundwork to remove and reconfigure 1/3 of the tarmac complete.

Community Volunteer Programme - complete.

A&B have completed the installation of new post and rail fencing on the roadside perimeter.

Next annual ROSPA annual inspection is scheduled for April 2025. The adult fitness equipment will require a separate annual safety inspection.

Pathway – slabs and cement – too big a job for volunteers – tbc.

Fencing at the back – a later project – JD.

Expenditure for this phase is in line with the agreed budget of £9K.

£300 - £350 remaining balance to be spent on new trees and soft planting.

All ESP invoices paid, and VAT reclaim received.

End of May close off as a project – back as business as usual for NCPC to manage.

4.2 Consideration of parishioners' requests to run fitness, sport and children's clubs

CC to liaise with Kate (Fitness, health and wellbeing) at the Cotswold District Council regarding structure, legalities and support. PH to connect.

4.3 Playpark grand opening

Opening event 5th April, completion of final project reports to key sponsors and payment of all outstanding invoices and VAT reclaim by the end of April.

5. Community speed watch and crime prevention**5.1 Community speed watch**

CC confirmed she has the speed gun and will be scheduling sessions once the weather gets warmer. Will look to train volunteers.

5.2 Crime prevention

PCSO did not attend,

PH is CDC cabinet member for crime safety partnership – Hare coursing remains an issue in the area - PH to feedback.

6. Highway Issues**6.1 Woodmancote snow warden**

MT to advise if he can provide the necessary machinery to undertake snow ploughing in Woodmancote & North Cerney as well as Calmsden, subject to an appropriate agreed rate.

NCPC to consider subsidising if deemed necessary to make up the CDC rate to an appropriate commercial rate.

Woodmancote & North Cerney voluntary snow wardens – need to define responsibilities and place adverts in the Churn News .

NB/JD to confirm 4 positions of new grit bins on a map.

Clerk to log on the snow map.

6.2 Neighbourhood watch co-ordinator

NB to define responsibilities of the role and place a volunteer call out in The Churn News.

6.3 Footpaths

PH update on footpath access issues between North Cerney and Rendcomb. SW public rights of way officers advised it is landowner responsibility but the low-lying aspect means it is challenging to do anything with it. Attending member of the public has been in touch with CDC and believes he is making progress – will keep NCPC updated.

6.4 Village 20 mph speed limits

Regarding the proposal to explore applying “20 is plenty” in Woodmancote and Calmsden, it was agreed that focus for now should be on the lowered speed limit at Churnside and to monitor community sentiment towards lowering speed limits in the villages.

6.5 Churnside at 40 mph

Extending 40 mph to the edge of Churnside. GDC preparatory work taking place in this financial year – design of new signage, location, progression to public consultation.

6.6 Road closures

Noted various road closures in the coming weeks for resurfacing purposes.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 2024/25 Annual accounts and AGAR external audit

NCPC balance £4188 carried forward – precept due.

Woodmancote Playground project– end of March 25 balance £2780 – paid out in next few days leaving £300 unspent.

Bookkeeping complete.

BK awaiting forms to pass onto the auditors.

£6900 balance.

This year – opening balance + £6k spent £9700 – donation of £1500 to the Village Hall Committee and £1500 to the Woodmancote project.

£2k legal fees for signing of the lease – expenses incurred by the Robinsons.

Regular expenses £4678 in line with usual expenditure.

Closing balance £4k.

Authorisation on payments at the beginning of the year to GAPTC and playpark/safety – list to go into the minutes.

NB/BK to sort out additional cheque signatory with the bank.

7.2 Authorisation of expenditure - resolved

Insurance.

Clerk training.

GAPTC membership renewal 2025-26 £174.49.

Community Easter Egg Hunt 19th April £42.

Playpark – additional inspection £200 + VAT.

Inspection of the fitness kit – additional cost £80 +VAT

Woodmancote village planters (x5) £120 – approved as long as they are well looked after.

8. Correspondence: The following had been received by the Clerk:

Restructuring of GAPTC and Reconvened Extraordinary General Meeting – 10 April.

9. Agenda points for the next meeting

GAPTC summit on LGR on 4th June – MT to attend.

Planning – Scrubditch and adherence to existing planning permissions.

Village Hall Committee to present a proposal for funding of a centenary rose fence.

Library in the telephone box – with the defibrillator – test it and see if fit for purpose – CC/CM.

Installation of dog waste bins in Woodmancote /playpark.

11. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Thursday 1st May 2025 at 7pm at All Saints Church, North Cerney.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.48pm.

Signed:

Date: