

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 16th January 2025 at 7.00 pm at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

Present: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Adam Stoten, Cathy Martin, Neil Brown, David Barrell, Jonathan Dryland, Clare Cannock, County and District Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, and Barry Koch as RFO and 5 members of the public.

Presiding: Councillor Mark Tufnell

Clerk: Sarah Treadwell-Jones

Apologies: n/a

1. Minutes:

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 31st October 2024 at the Memorial Hall, North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

2.1 The Clerk reported the repairs to the wall at Bankside have been completed and the issue resolved.

2.2 Councillor Cannock reported that the trees had not been cleared in the Churn to reduce the flooding risk.

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

3.1 County Council:

There is to be a local government reorganisation which will have a big impact on local councils over the next four years.

East and West Gloucestershire county functions may split and local elections in May could be cancelled. District Councillor Hodgkinson will provide further updates.

Gloucestershire County council tax will rise in February 2025 by 4.99%. Cotswold District Council would increase by the maximum of £5 per household.

Issues with highways, storms and flooding should be reported on FixMyStreet Gloucestershire.

The budget for potholes should be available soon and bad patches will be removed.

Councillor Stoten asked if the fallen trees/storm damage can be cut back further than level with the road. District Councillor Hodgkinson confirmed that he would speak with highways about the A435/Whiteway to see if they can be cut further back.

3.2 District Council:

It was reported that maternity services in Gloucestershire have been awarded an inadequate rating and that ambulance response times are 1 hour for category 2, and 15 minutes for category 1.

4. Woodmancote Playpark Project:

Councillor Dryland had circulated an update to Councillors before the meeting.

4.1 approval of phase 1b proposal and budget

Councillor Dryland requested approval for phase 1b of the project (end date March 2025) – work and budget (£7,880.00 + VAT), together with community space (remove 1/3rd tarmac and turn into turfed area, seating, pergola and access to main gate), and playpark maintenance for 2025 and inclusion in the forthcoming North Cerney Parish Council annual budget £9,000 with £400 contingency – to be met, with an anticipated HRMC VAT rebate of £1,000. Proposed by Councillor Stoten, seconded by Councillors Martin and Cannock.

Invoices payments for this phase are due in early March 2025.

Community skills volunteers to support the plan and installation.

Official opening early April with the help of Denise for media push at the end of March.

District Councillor Hodgkinson will attend – and it was agreed to find a suitable date for him.

Councillor Dryland to provide an update on the next project phase for the next issue of the Woodmancote newsletter.

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

Councillor Cannock to speak to Cirencester Park town council and research other parks to ascertain the process for allowing clubs/organisations to operate on a parish council playpark. To include managing requirements, safeguarding, public liability insurance, etc. Proposed by Councillor Tufnell, unanimously agreed by all councillors.

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

Councillor Cannock confirmed she has the speed gun and will be scheduling sessions once the weather gets warmer.

5.2 Crime prevention

PCSO did not attend. It was mentioned by the Clerk that a quad bike had been stolen recently from Cerney House and reported to the police.

Councillor Mark Tufnell also mentioned two counts of illegal hare coursing on his property which had been reported to the police.

District Councillor Hodgkinson confirmed that he would raise these matters when the next meeting with the police as a County Council matter.

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

Councillor Brown mentioned that Les Cairns used to clear the roads and no longer does as he doesn't get paid a sufficiently high enough rate.

Councillor Tufnell agreed to clear the minor roads through Calmsden to the A429 and the Whiteway when it snowed. He also recommended that Councillors Brown and Dryland liaise with Perrott's Brook and Bagendon and map out where additional grit bins should be placed and share with the Clerk to submit on the snow site. The Parish Council agreed to cover these costs.

District Councillor Hodgkinson to ask the County Council re: a snow plough/gritting for A roads.

6.2 Neighbourhood watch co-ordinator

Councillor Brown mentioned there was a need for this role to a number of parishioners who had expressed interest. However, all of them including himself, do not know what the job entails hence a job description was required before anyone could accept.

6.3 Footpaths: A member of the public said that the footpaths to Rendcomb are impassable by the river in North Cerney, due to deep mud. Councillor Hodgkinson will raise this with the Footpaths Officer.

6.4 Village 20 mph speed limits: It was agreed that this might be relevant to Calmsden and the main road through Woodmancote. District Councillor Hodgkinson said he would check to see if anything else can be done as the “20 is plenty” initiative is no longer in force.

6.5 Churnside at 40mph

District Councillor Hodgkinson advised the change from 50mph to 40mph redesignation was in progress as part of a £10k road safety package for the financial year.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 Reconciliation statement: The reconciliation statement was presented by the RFO 16th January 2025 and was approved.

At the end of September, there was £6,805.69 in the general account, with Woodmancote funds at £19,883.54.

Councillor Tufnell proposed the precept should be increased to £7,550, seconded by Councillors Dryland. The precept was agreed.

The Clerk would submit the precept by 31 January 2025 to the Cotswold District Council. Councillor Cannock proposed an increase to the donation to the Citizen’s Advice to £300 for the coming year, seconded by Councillor Tufnell.

Councillor Tufnell proposed a second signatory for the cheque book alongside Councillor Martin. Councillor Brown agreed to take this on, with the Councillors agreeing.

Councillor Dryland advised £10k is due back on VAT rebate for Woodmancote and that the RFO will be applying for this and advise on timings.

7.2 Authorisation of new expenditure: The following expenditure was approved:

Woodmancote Playpark	phase1b proposal and budget	£9,000
Parish Clerk	Annual salary	£2,500
Tom McDonald	Hedge cutting & mowing	£1,990
Donations	Citizens Advice	£300

8. Planning applications and Tree Preservation Orders: The Clerk had been notified of the following:

8.1 Planning applications:

Tally Cottage – attic conversion

Calf Barn – variations of conditions

8.2 Consents:

Chappell Farm – residential

Calmsden Manor – conservatory

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

9.1 Award certificate from CPRE collected by Councillor Martin. It was agreed that a news item would be drafted up by her and submitted to the Churn News with a photo of the certificate for inclusion in the next issue. The Clerk to take copies of the certificate and place on the North Cerney and Woodmancote notice boards.

9.2 Additional defibrillators at Churnside

Councillor Barrell to ascertain the council requirements of having an additional defibrillator in the village at Churnside.

9.3 CDC various press releases

9.4 Cotswold national landscape management plan consultation

10. Any Other Business

10.1 River Churn potential flooding

Councillor Cannock raised the issue of potential flooding at the three houses at Broadbridge due to the upstream sluice gate not being correctly operated at Rendcomb. It was proposed that District Councillor Hodgkinson to speak to the Gloucestershire Highways customer services team/flooding officer to enable a memorandum of understanding for controlled release between Mr Coleman in Rendcomb who owns that part of the river/sluice gate and the owners at Broadbridge – Councillors Stoten and Cannock, alongside Carol and Matt to agree a way forward.

Councillor Tufnell proposed that landowners come together to operate a flood alert/text system. Seconded by Councillor Stoten and Cannock.

The Clerk to obtain contact details for Karen and Matt to pass onto District Councillor Hodgkinson.

Councillor Cannock raised the issue about the trees in the Churn need clearing. District Councillor Hodgkinson to ask Highways.

10.2 Bus shelter - Councillor Martin agreed to clean the bus shelter shortly.

10.3 Clothes bank - Councillor Martin confirmed the one in the car park has now been emptied.

11. Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd April 2025 at 7pm at the Memorial Hall, North Cerney.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.58 pm.

Signed:

Date: