

COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in Meadow Rooms
Cobham on Monday 12 January 2012 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT:	
COUNCILLORS	MRS R DYMOND (VICE CHAIRMAN) MR B GLENISTER MR S DYER MRS K SMITH DR N D HAIG MRS S KEEP DR J GILES MRS L ELLIS MRS J BEETY (Clerk)
IN ATTENDANCE:	CLLR MIKE SNELLING (KCC) CLLR ALEX MOORE PCSO PETER HYLANDS
PARISHIONERS	1

The Vice-Chairman Cllr Mrs Rosemary Dymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence. Chairman Cllr Alan Rowe.

2 Minutes: The minutes of the CPC meeting held on Monday 14th November and Minutes for the Budget meeting on 5th December 2011 were confirmed by the councillors and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

3 Declaration of Interests None were declared.

4 Parishioners Comments

Mr Kingman remarked on the drains and gullies in The Street which had grass growing from them and the continued hazard of motorists driving on the footway. PCSO Hylands said that he would continue to monitor the situation. Cllr Mrs Smith said that an empty police car was seen parked outside the telephone kiosk and PCSO Hylands said that since there was insufficient room to pass with a buggy this constituted obstruction of the footway.

At this point Cllr Mrs Dymond allowed Cllr Alex Moore to give his report.

GBC MATTERS.

- The Local Development framework was ongoing
- GBC needs to decide how many houses they want to build. The area under consideration is the end of Wrotham Road near Morrisons.
- He has spoken to Kevin Burbidge about the long awaited resolution to the car parking problem in Scratton Fields. A report will be put before "cabinet" soon and Cllr Moore reassured Cobham Parish Council that no decision would be made without consulting its members
- The building of the house near the New College has been suspended because of some planning issues. Cllr Mrs Ellis asked whether it would be lowered in height if that was found to be a problem. In response to Cllr Mrs Keep's queries about retrospective planning, Cllr Moore said that working without planning permission was unwise and whenever retrospective planning was pursued, the decision would be no different from an application made in advance of construction work. Refused retrospective planning would need to be undone.
- Cllrs Dyer and Glenister criticised the time taken over the parking at Scratton Fields and Cllr Glenister suggested that should if nothing had changed before February's meeting that CPC should write a strongly worded letter.

- The retrospective planning application for the building works at “Leighton” was discussed and Cllr Glenister said that the application resulted from a visit by the Planning Enforcement Officer.

5 Matters Arising:

Playing Fields/Parks Committee Report

The Clerk would go ahead with getting estimates for fitting self closers on gates when she had received the names of prospective companies. The annual report from GBC mentioned the damaged French drain near the pavilion. Cllr Dyer said that he would speak to the Chairman of the Sports Association, Mr John Jackson.

Footpaths Committee Report

Cllr Mrs Ellis said that she had lost her way on FP NS187 because signs were missing from the iron bridge and through the orchard. FP NS190 had no sign at the Gold Street end.

Transport Committee Report

The clerk was still waiting to hear from Customer Services at South Eastern Rail, having sent them copies of the letters sent to the Assistant Station Master at Gillingham requesting a site meeting at Sole Street Station.

Planning Committee Report

Cllr Glenister, Chairman of the Planning Committee gave the following report:-

20110886 – Eden Cottage, Round Street –Construction of additional dormer window in the side roof slope.**Permitted**

20110894 - 5 Battle Street – Construction of dormer windows in north west side roof slope and conversion of roof space into a bedroom and wc. **Withdrawn**

20110833 Land adjacent to Copt Hall - Demolition of existing stables and erection of new stable block. **Refused**

CPC responses

20110844 Rear of “Critholm” Sole Street Cobham.

Erection of detached one and a half storey, five bedroom dwelling with basement, together with the formation of a new vehicular access and alterations to road junction. Cobham Parish Council objects to the proposed development for the following reasons.

- The access drive to the site would cross and merge with frequently used footpath FP192. Vehicles crossing the public footpath would endanger school children and elderly residents using the public footpath en-route to the bus stop.
- The proposal, if permitted, would encourage proposals for further undesirable urbanising backland development, which would be difficult to resist.
- The proposal would increase traffic entering and exiting the driveway at a point where the road is narrow with poor sightlines, particularly to the south.
- The proposed changes to the layout of the Gold Street junction will not improve the poor sightlines for vehicles exiting the driveway.
- It is noted that the proposed changes to the carriageway include road centre white lining. The white lining was removed from Sole Street within the village co-incident with the road surface colour change, which, it was claimed by KCC/GBC, at the time, would reduce traffic speed in this narrow village street.
- The mature Plane tree situated at the junction of the driveway with Sole Street, which is subject to a TPO (T4), may suffer serious damage to its root structure if works shown on the plans were carried out..
- The proposed "safe area" at the front of Critholme would improve the safety of pedestrians exiting FP192 onto Sole Street.
- The proposed widening of the Gold Street junction would be helpful to all road users in the vicinity.

20110883 – Pilgrims The Street – Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement attached garage; continuation of pitched roof over with bedroom, ensuite/wc in proposed roof space above; erection of front infill extension to form a porch and enlarged utility room; construction of additional dormer window in front slope with new pitched roofs over existing dormer windows in front and rear roof slopes; replacement of windows and folding shutter doors to the rear. **CPC has no objection**

20110966 – St Margaret’s Church, Ifield - Installation of cobble trench around perimeter of church. **CPC has no objection**

20110884 – Pilgrims, The street, Cobham DA12 3BW – Erection of replacement front gates and section of front wall. **CPC has no objection**

20110999 Leighton Sole Street Cobham SA13 0XZ Retention of the orangery at the rear/side and retention of the swimming pool in the garden at the side. **Cobham Parish Council objects to this further development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Metropolitan Green Belt. The property is already much larger and imposing than the property which it replaced. The property and the recent extension are visible across open countryside to the east from public footpath NS191. It is noted that this is the second occasion on which development has been undertaken on this site without planning permission.**

20110998 - Cobham Hall, Watling Street DA12 3BL – Installation of solar panels on south roof slopes of sixth form accommodation block (Brook House) **CPC has no objection.**

Cllr Glenister said that the site meeting at “Critholme“ had been very well attended.

Cllr Glenister explained the option for the Parish Council to produce a “Neighbourhood Plan”. After discussion it was agreed that a decision on whether to produce a “Neighbourhood Plan” would be deferred to next meeting.

Meadow Room Committee Report

The hall had been redecorated. The committee plan to review the fees being charged for lettings.

Neighbourhood Forum report

Cllr Mrs Smith reported that the emphasis is on youth work and libraries. Cllr Mrs Ellis said that she had read that some library buildings were also being used by registrars to maximise their function.

St Mary’s Church Room

It was reported that Mr Harry Seaford, who was dealing with the business on behalf of the church, had applied for a grant of about £2,000. Another meeting was to be arranged involving Cobham Parish Council.

Safety on Henhurst Road

Water pipes were being renewed and there were diversions in place while the road was out of service. Cllr Mrs Ellis remarked that the safety issues discussed at a meeting in April 2009 had still not been addressed. *Clerk will ask for this matter to go on the agenda for the Chairman’s meeting.*

Scratton Fields Parking

See page 1 GBC Matters

Sweeps Hole Pond

There was a reminder that the pond warden Ann Storey would be attending the meeting in February. *Clerk will ask her in advance to check for goldfish in the pond.*

Village Shop

Cllr Mrs Keep said that the legal paperwork had been dealt with and a grant application had been submitted.

The next public meeting would take place on Thursday, January 19th at the Meadow Room.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Events were advertised in the Parish Magazine and in the local pubs. The committee would hold their next meeting on January 11th. The placing of beacons was discussed and it was decided to raise the matter at the Chairmen's meeting. *Action: Clerk*

Jeskyns Farm Cllr Mrs Smith observed that the long grass on the banks obscured sight lines.

Clerk will report to warden

National Trust There will be another opportunity for a meeting at "Owletts" before it opens to the public. There had been no change to the NT position regarding "Yeomans".

6 GBC Matters see page 1

7 KCC MATTERS report given by Michael Snelling

FINANCE

KCC has announced its proposed Budget for 2012/2013.

There is a freeze in Council Tax for the second year running, savings of £97 million have been made, frontline services have been protected just as much as possible there is continued investment in special schools, transport, and superfast broadband, and there is also continued investment in apprenticeships.

Inevitably some hard decisions have had to be made- particularly around staffing, transforming service delivery, and increasing income.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

-As widely covered in the media- the Chief Executive has gone so that a new form of governance arrangement can be put in place whereby the Council Leader has a much more prominent role- emphasising that Kent is very much a "Member-led" Authority.

There has been much speculation about the cost of this- although details of the severance payment (as is normal) are confidential- it is a fact that the " pay back" in terms of salary and on-costs will be very rapid.

YOUTH AND LIBRARY SERVICES

-The consultation and debate on the future shape of these services continues- as part of this process the next meeting of the Rural Forum (on 8th March, venue yet to be determined) will be concerned with providing information and seeking views on these two very important services- especially the way in which they are provided in the Rural areas.

Please attend and encourage others to do so.

GRAVESHAM'S LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF)

There has been much angst and anger in the rural villages/areas concerning the "options" put forward for consultation for various sites in the Green Belt for possible housing development.

KCC- is a formal consultee on the LDF and as such its view is of some note In a consultation Response just published it makes clear that it does not support the claimed need to build on any Green Belt land and questions some of the assumptions made.

The full KCC Report can be found on their website- we now await Gravesham Council's decision on the way forward.

Cllr Dr Haig asked Cllr Snelling how broadband was to be improved. Cllr Snelling said that KCC intended to expand broadband throughout Kent. In answer to Cllr Mrs Ellis, Cllr Snelling said that services were now better coordinated.

8 KALC Matters Nothing to report at this stage.

9 Correspondence None

10 Matters Raised by Parish Councillors

Cllr Glenister reported that the gully on the east side of Sole Street road near the Railway Inn was blocked and that there was rubbish in White Post Lane in Meopham Parish He also

informed the meeting that an upgrade of equipment at Meopham exchange in August may result in a small improvement to broadband speeds in the Parish.

Cllr Dr Giles reminded everyone that the damaged "Manor Road" sign had not been dealt with. Cllr Mrs Smith commented on the parked commuters' cars on the grass verge opposite Cobham Hall School entrance. The site is on CTRL property. *Clerk: Action.*

Vice-Chairman Cllr Mrs Dymond said that Alan Court had given an estimate of £300 for testing the soil at the end of Lawrence Drive and for planting new trees should the soil test prove negative. It was proposed by Cllr Glenister and seconded by Cllr Dr Haig that the Parish Council accept the estimate and go ahead with the planting. All agreed.

Cllr Mrs Dymond said that the Chairman wanted the Sole Street Footway to be on the agenda for the Chairmen's meeting. *Action: Clerk*

11 Any Other Business None

12 Finance

On the proposal of Cllr Steve Dyer, seconded by Cllr Lynn Ellis and agreed unanimously the following cheques were ratified

23.11.11	Cobham Church Room hire	20.00
	MRMC Room hire	60.00
	J Howard play area maintenance	40.00
28.11.11	R Hogarth maintenance (Nov. 4 w)	104.00
	J Beety (Salary Nov)	208.00
05.12.11	Southern Water	327.70
09.12.11	EDF electricity	1467.49
12.12.11	Shaw & Sons (new ledger)	67.78
	Navigus Planning (subs)	50.00
30.12.11	R Hogarth maintenance (Dec)	104.00
	J Beety Salary (Dec)	<u>208.00</u>
Total		£2,656.97

As there was no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Next meeting – 7.30pm, Monday February 6th 2012 at the Meadow Room

COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2011/12 (NO 07)
Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in St Mary's Church Room,
Sole Street on Monday 14th November 2011 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS

MR A H G ROWE (CHAIRMAN)
MRS R DYMOND (VICE CHAIRMAN)
MR B GLENISTER
MR S DYER
MRS K SMITH
DR N D HAIG
MRS S KEEP
DR J GILES
MRS J BEETY (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE:

CLLR MIKE SNELLING (KCC)
CLLR ALEX MOORE
MR TONY CHADWICK (GBC)
MS ANDREA WRIGHT (GBC)
COMMUNITY WARDENS JACQUI FULLER
& COLLEAGUE
13 PARISHIONERS

The Chairman Cllr Alan Rowe welcomed everyone to the meeting.
He welcomed Tony Chadwick a, Andrea Wright and Community Wardens on behalf of those present.

1 Apologies for absence Cllr Mrs Lynn Ellis

2 Minutes: The minutes of the CPC meeting held on Monday 10th October 2011 were confirmed by the councillors and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declaration of Interests Sally Keep declared an interest re Planning Application on her property.

4 Parishioners Comments

Concerns were raised by parishioners over the following:-

- The overlapping of the footway by the hedge at "Yeomans" The Chairman also expressed concern that the house was hidden from view. This matter will be raised with National Trust Warden at the January meeting.
- Hidden bus stop at Railway Inn, Sole Street. Clerk to arrange site meeting with the Station Manager.
- The still unresolved issue of parking at Scratton Fields. Still waiting for a response from Gravesham Borough Council.
- Cars in The Street mounting the footway. The police have been asked to take action.
- Encroachment on footpath should "Critholme" plans go ahead. A parishioner commented that an increase in the width of the opening at Gold Street was unnecessary as it was already wide. CPC have objected to this proposed development.

5 Matters Arising:

Gravesham Growth Scenario Notes were made by Andrea Wright and supplied to the Clerk.

Tony Chadwick gave the presentation and answered questions.

The main points made are set out below.

- If there is major development in Meopham or Istead Rise, this will lead to more traffic in Cobham and the PC would therefore oppose it. Cobham is used as a rat run to the Medway Towns. TC said that we will be getting KCC's views on the highways implications of the proposals.

- If the South East Plan figure (9,300) is used, how likely is it that greenfield/green belt sites would be developed in the next 5-10 years? TC said that we are reliant on developers to build. If we were to keep this figure, we would need approximately 5,000 new homes in the green belt. However, we are not looking at this figure. We have a 5 year housing land supply but would probably need greenfield/green belt sites beyond then. Brownfield land cannot come forward very quickly and the recession is having structural economic effects. Example of Springhead was given, i.e. this should be a good site but it is only delivering 25 units per annum as this is the rate that the house builder can sell new homes so it is unlikely that other sites would be delivered rapidly. First time buyers cannot get mortgages. Future demand is driven by single person households, e.g. elderly.

- Meopham has the most sites targeted for development – is it because the sites could be removed from the green belt and the boundary would remain strong or does GBC wish to concentrate development in Meopham? TC said that GBC were looking at sites capable of accommodating more than 50 dwellings, with close access to services and with defensible boundaries. A sifting exercise has been carried out on this basis. There was no intentional bias towards Meopham.

- Has the Norwood Lane site been discounted? TC – No though the site does not perform well when using our proposed methodology. AW emphasised that we are consulting on the methodology and other sites and methodologies are likely to be put forward for developers.

- Changes to the green belt boundary on the edge of Cobham village were referred to. Cllr Bernard Glenister said that a letter had recently been received by some residents but the Parish Council have not been consulted. AW/TC said that these proposals were related to the January 2010 consultation and would send the relevant document though. These detailed changes would not now be progressed until the site allocations document was prepared. They also said they would check whether a letter had recently been sent out.

Postscript: AW has not been able to find out who has sent the letter referred to and has emailed the Parish Clerk to request a copy of this.

- Question about no overall loss of green belt and the proposals to move this around Gravesend. TC said that green belt is a policy area rather than a reflection of the character of an area. Openness is the key issue. The previous boundary was on the southern side of the A2 and it is proposed to move this north along the urban edge. There are issues in relation to nature conservation issues and the Thames flood defences at North East Gravesend (TE2100 project). It is recognised that there is a difference in the quality of ground in these locations than land around Meopham, for example.

- TC gave an update on the following sites: Northfleet Cement Works, Canal Basin, Northfleet Embankment East.

- TC emphasised that when looking at the viability of the brownfield sites, we are taking a reasonable worst case.

- Land West of Wrotham Road, Gravesend – what is happening? TC said that it had a contentious history and we were looking at it for potentially 350 units. Councillor Snelling gave a more detailed history of the site and considered that it should have been put into the pot to start with, i.e. it is greenfield and not green belt.

- Councillor Snelling said that the key things are:
- How many homes should be built? He thinks 4,600
- Where should we put them?
- He supports the proposals for Northfleet Embankment East for employment
- The problem for GBC is that most land is greenfield/green belt, whereas Dartford has a lot of brownfield land.

- TC said that the 5,200 figure was intended to meet the Borough's own housing needs and that there was scope for arguing that different numbers would meet that requirement, which was part of the consultation.

- Can you move the green belt boundary? Councillor Snelling said that you can grant planning permission for development in the green belt and that the only time to move it is when the Local Plan is being reviewed. He is worried about creating a precedent. TC said that we should only move the green belt once in a generation but the boundaries are moveable. One criterion to consider is the defensibility of the boundaries. Most easy sites have already been developed. Most of the green belt sites have some problems with them. What about food production? TC said that GBC would look at lower quality land in preference to higher quality land but there is no national plan on this. Planning has to consider a range of issues, e.g. biodiversity, air quality, and is a compromise.

- Are developers banking land, choosing not to develop and holding us to ransom? TC said that we have asked the land owners/developers for up to date information. The draft National Planning Policy Framework removes the presumption in favour of brownfield sites. We must have a 5 year housing land supply and allocations for at least 15 years from the date of the plan.

- Consultation is difficult to respond to online, especially seeing the plans.
- What size of housing is proposed? TC said that we have not specified the size or mix of housing. There is a need for single persons' accommodation.

KCC Matters

Cllr Mike Snelling (KCC) gave the following report:

Finance

We are still working on, but close to resolving savings of about £50 million for the financial year 2012/2013, but also concentrating on the year 2013/2014 where there is a gap of currently £80 million.

KCC will accept the national government allocation of a one-off payment of £14.4 million to keep the Council Tax increase at zero for next year- albeit it is not generally appreciated that this exacerbates the problem for the following year (I will explain at the meeting).

There is good news re the Icelandic Bank deposits (£50 million) in that KCC was confirmed as a preferred creditor by the Courts , so all of the cash should be returned to us, plus possible a small return by way of interest.

Regional Growth Fund

KCC is to receive £40 million for East Kent from the Regional Growth Fund to support/expand local businesses. This is in addition to the granting of Enterprise Zone status in that area.

I have hopes that North Kent will be a successful contender in the next round.

Youth Services and Libraries - discussions are continuing with all the 12 Districts/Boroughs on how these services might be reshaped. No decisions at all have yet been taken- the emphasis is on improving the way that services are delivered, but at less cost.

I will ensure that Parish Councils are fully consulted.

Children's Services.

An unannounced OFSTED Inspection gave a pleasing Report on progress being made. I can enlarge upon this at the meeting.

Lower Thames Crossing & Dartford tolls

I spoke on Radio Kent recently- again confirming my opposition to any route which disadvantaged Higham/surrounding rural areas in particular but Gravesham in general.

Significantly Paul Carter explained that he was not now “wedded to any particular route”- it is still my personal belief that the lack of government cash will result in more capacity being provided at Dartford –with the first step being removal of the toll barriers in favour of a cashless system.

There is good news in that the increase in the toll has been abandoned (or at least deferred).

Leadership Challenge

As expected- Paul Carter won the vote very easily and is still the Leader of KCC.

Playing Fields/Parks Committee Report

Self closing gates are required at the Children’s Play Area. Clerk reported that the existing gates were unsuited to having self-closers fitted. *Clerk to investigate cost of new gates*

Footpaths Committee Report

Cllr Mrs Dymond reported that there had been a meeting of the Public Rights of Way Committee..

Disabled access to the Mausoleum had been discussed and it was probable that it may be opened a couple of days per year.

Cyclopark was being well used. The final part of the Darnley Trail was under construction.

Transport Committee Report

At the last meeting Cllr Glenister asked for a site meeting with the Station Manager. He asked if a response been received? If not, could we ask again? If a response is not received in 2 weeks a letter to the Public Relations Manager at South-Eastern Railway Co. head office should follow.

Planning Committee Report

Cllr Glenister gave the following report:-

GBC Decisions

20110614 – S’Huesli, Sole Street, Cobham – Erection of a detached garage with storage space and with study/storage/studio/hobby room in the roof space. **No objection.**

Permitted

CPC responses

Planning Application 20110844 Rear of “Critholme” Sole Street

Cobham.

Erection of detached one and a half storey, five bedroom dwelling with basement, together with the formation of a new vehicular access and alterations to road junction.

Cobham Parish Council objects to the proposed development for the following reasons.

- The access drive to the site would cross and merge with frequently used footpath FP192. Vehicles crossing the public footpath would endanger school children and elderly residents using the public footpath en-route to the bus stop.
- The proposal, if permitted, would encourage proposals for further undesirable urbanising backland development, which would be difficult to resist.
- The proposal would increase traffic entering and exiting the driveway at a point where the road is narrow with poor sightlines, particularly to the south.
- The proposed changes to the layout of the Gold Street junction will not improve the poor sightlines for vehicles exiting the driveway.
- It is noted that the proposed changes to the carriageway include road centre white lining. The white lining was removed from Sole Street within the village co-incident with the road surface colour change, which,

it was claimed by KCC/GBC, at the time, would reduce traffic speed in this narrow village street.

- The mature Plane tree situated at the junction of the driveway with Sole Street, which is subject to a TPO (T4), may suffer serious damage to its root structure if works shown on the plans were carried out..
- The proposed "safe area" at the front of Critholme would improve the safety of pedestrians exiting FP192 onto Sole Street.
- The proposed widening of the Gold Street junction would be helpful to all road users in the vicinity.
- The proposed "safe area" at the front of Critholme would improve the safety of pedestrians exiting FP192 onto Sole Street.
- The proposed widening of the Gold Street junction would be helpful to all road users in the vicinity.

20110883 – Pilgrims The Street – Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement attached garage; continuation of pitched roof over with bedroom, ensuite/wc in proposed roof space above; erection of front infill extension to form a porch and enlarged utility room; construction of additional dormer window in front slope with new pitched roofs over existing dormer windows in front and rear roof slopes; replacement of windows and folding shutter doors to the rear. **CPC has no objection**

20110894 - 5 Battle Street – Construction of dormer windows in north west side roof slope and conversion of roof space into a bedroom and wc. **CPC has no objection**

20110886 – Eden Cottage, Round Street –Construction of additional dormer window in the side roof slope. . **CPC has no objection**

20110966 – St Margaret’s Church, Ifield - Installation of cobble trench around perimeter of church. . **CPC has no objection**

Meadow Room Committee Report

Cllr Dr Giles reported that the Chairman had changed the meeting schedule. Cllr Dr Giles said that he found difficulty in attending Tuesday meetings.

Maintenance of the Meadow Room floor would be done during the Christmas break. Other maintenance would be carried out bit by bit. A non-lead alternative on the roof was being considered because of thefts. Farmers’ markets and craft fairs were under consideration. Siting a portacabin at the Meadow Room to work as a shop had been considered with a more permanent building in future. Cllr Glenister expressed his opposition to this. The meeting was reminded that the Leather Bottle was planning to have Farmers’ Markets in their car park.

Neighbourhood Forum report

There was to be a Planning meeting on November 15th.

St Mary’s Church Room

It was reported that Revd Angela Walker wished to have an increase in services held at St Mary’s Church Room. The Chairman said that the Parish Council wanted to see improvements made to the building and would like to help find sources of funding. Applications for funding would need to be made by the church.

Safety on Henhurst Road

There had been a meeting with Sami Cribbens, who is the new Parish Liaison Officer from Kent Highways.

Scrutton Fields Parking CPC was waiting to hear from GBC about progress in this matter.

Sole Street Parking /Traffic Calming There had been no developments in this matter.

Sweeps Hole Pond

The Chairman reported that advice had been sought about pond maintenance and that a pond warden had been appointed (voluntary) Her name is Ann Storey and she will attend the

February meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Dymond asked that the risk assessment should contain provision for the safety of the pond. Cllr Rowe said that gold fish has appeared in the pond, had proliferated and were a threat to the bio-diversity of pond inhabitants. A parishioner volunteered to clear them from the pond.

Village Shop Cllr Mrs Keep gave a report

There was now a legally formed committee of which Cllr Mrs Keep was a member.

The proposed “Localism” bill could mean that the parish council could acquire a loan for the shop.

The Chairman, Cllr Rowe made the following points:-

1. Loan could continue to be a drain on CPC’s finances, if the shop folded.
2. It would mean an increased precept which would require a costly referendum amongst parishioners the majority of whom live in Sole Street..
3. Cobham Parish Council could work closely with village shop committee to seek grant aid.

Cllr Glenister said that he agreed with the third point. But objected to a proposal to place a port-a-cabin at the Meadow Room in the conservation area.

Cllr Moore pointed out that the “Localism” bill had not yet been passed. He also asked whether there had been any interest from prospective tenants.

Cllr Mrs Keep said that there was someone interested in running the shop. Cllr Moore said that the tenancy of the shop should be advertised.

Cllr Mrs Keep replied in the affirmative when asked by the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mrs Dymond whether there was a business plan.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The programme was completed and would appear in the parish magazine of which the Christmas and Easter editions would be delivered free to all residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdown. Bookings would be taken in April.

Jeskyns Farm

The future of Jeskyns Farm was under review and a report would appear by Spring 2012.

6 GBC Matters

Cllr Moore reported that at a recent Cabinet meeting it was noted that there was a shortfall of £1million in the budget and that proposals were being put forward for the coming financial year. Redundancies would be made in some departments. The council was seeking to raise money by increasing car parking charges (e.g. 50p to 80p) Free parking on Saturdays would be abolished.

7 KCC MATTERS see page 3

8 KALC Matters Nothing to report

9 Correspondence Nothing to report

10 Matters Raised by Parish Councillors

Cllr Glenister asked for GBC to be reminded to restore the Manor Road sign. **Action: Clerk.**

He also asked that Kent Highways be requested to repair the damaged footway fronting 18 Manor Road. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Dyer asked again that it should be reported that irresponsible dog owners on Jeskyns were making life unpleasant for other users of the park. **Action: Clerk to report to park warden and GBC**

Cllr Mrs Keep reported that there were advertising boards at the entrance to Jeskyns and Ashenbank which had not been given planning permission. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Dr Haig wanted it noted that he made no comment on the matter of the Village Shop because his wife, Margaret was a member of the committee.

Cllr Mrs Smith reported that cars were being parked on the grass verge opposite the entrance to Cobham Hall School. **Clerk will write to Kent Highways**

Cllr Dr Giles pointed out that the lack of white lines on the red tarmac in Sole Street made it very dangerous in foggy conditions.

Vice-Chairman Cllr Mrs Dymond said that an estimate for replacing trees at the end of Lawrence Drive would be sought from horticulturalist, Alan Court who carried out most of the planting and maintenance of trees in Cobham & Sole Street. Bulbs could be planted after the trees.

11 Any Other Business None

12 Finance

On the proposal of Cllr Bernard Glenister, seconded by Cllr Dr Nigel Haig and agreed unanimously the following cheques were ratified

25.10.11	British Legion donation	50.00
	J Beety Salary(October)	208.00
	R Hogarth Salary (Oct 2w)	52.00
14.11.11	J Beety (Bonus 2011)	400.00
	Total	£ 710.00

As there was no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.00pm

Next meeting – 7.30pm, Monday January 9th 2012 at the Meadow Room