

**Minutes of a meeting held on
MONDAY 8th OCTOBER 7.30PM
St Mary's Church Room Sole Street**

Present

Cllr R Dymond (Chairman)	Cllr Steve Dyer (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Margaret Haig	Cllr Ben Smith
Cllr Matt Mason	Cllr Jessica Elliott
Cllr James Blackett	Mr Paul Hassell, Community Warden
Mrs Tina Sampson (Clerk)	10 Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Gabbitas as she is attending a seminar, Cllr Booth is abroad, KCC Cllr Bryan Sweetland is attending a meeting in Medway and PCSO Hartley is on annual leave.
2. Minutes: to confirm the minutes of the 3rd September meeting
Confirmed and signed by the Chairman, Cllr R Dymond.
3. Declaration of Interests - none
4. Parishioners Comments – *items not identified on the agenda.*
A Parishioner asked about the application regarding White Post Lane Farm, Cllr Dyer explained that the appeal had been allowed to go ahead and it was now with the planning inspectorate in Bristol, this related to the stables and the house not the mobile home.

Another Parishioner mentioned the grating in the gully on Sole Street near the corner of Manor Road. A circular piece of plastic has been twisted and broken and needs replacing. He also mentioned that the footpath on the south side of Manor Road is deteriorating and breaking up and needs to be repaired.

- **ACTION – Clerk to report.**

5 Matters Arising from previous meeting

a. Parking: Greenlands: update from Chairman.

A parishioner provided the Parish Council with photographs of cars parked on the grass verge as there had not been enough room on the road. The verges are the front lawns of the houses and they do not wish to lose the greenery by widening the road and would prefer double yellow lines.

This matter was raised by Cobham at the Gravesham Parish Chairman's meeting and GBC responded as follows: 'Civil Enforcement Officers patrol the Cobham Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) and other restrictions on a regular basis. Whilst the officers would use a vehicle to travel to Cobham, they would patrol the area on foot, particularly the CPZ so they can see the permits in the windscreen. Permits are issued to any applicant that can provide proof that they reside within the zone and the vehicle is registered to them. Permits have an expiry date on them so if the CEO saw a permit with an expired date a Penalty Charge Notice would be issued. The CEOs would also be able to detect a 'fake' permit by sight and again a PCN would be issued.

The handheld device that the CEOs use to issue the PCNs also informs the CEO if a vehicle has a valid permit. Genuine permits issued by the Council also have a hologram to ensure copies cannot be made.’

Cllr Elliott would like to know about the number of permits issued and is concerned that the parking problem may just be moved around the village. Would parking bays help? Parishioners thought not. Cllr Smith mentioned that Scratton Fields is worse for parking but agreed yellow lines are the answer.

- **ACTION -The Clerk to follow up with GBC re: yellow lines, permits and parking officer visits etc.**

b. Community Warden Surgery: Our community Warden explained that there may be a change to our PCSO and would inform the Parish Council if and when it was confirmed. It was agreed a surgery would be held on a Friday morning at 10.00 to 11am in St Mary’s Church Room this will be to discuss any problems with anti-social behaviour, litter, dog fouling or any other concerns in relation to the community, all discussions will be kept confidential. The first surgery will be on Friday 2nd November and then monthly on the first Friday of each month. The Community warden also acknowledged that there was a problem with calling the 101 service to report crimes. Cllr Elliott said there had been a few anti-social crimes in Sole Street recently and that people were disappointed with the 101 service.

- **ACTION- The clerk to book the Church room for the surgery and publicise it on the website and Cllr Elliott to add to face-book**

c. Village Pump – update Councillors.

Cllr Dymond has received a pencil sketch of how the replacement tap and tray will look, the repairs will restore the pump to how it looked before the first world war, however the tap will not work. The renovation will cost approx. £1200. Additionally, renovation of the wall behind the pump will take place during October. The Ivy will be removed, and the lime mortar replaced this will cost £250.00 and will be carried out by a conservation craftsman. This has been organised by Cllr Gabbitas.

d. Speed Indicator Device- update Cllr Blackett.

The Sid has been installed in Cobham, monitoring vehicles coming past Owletts into the village. The incoming average speed during daytime is around 32 mph, rising to 36 mph in the small hours. The peak time is during the evening between 6pm and 7pm, when there are circa 630 vehicles per hour. There isn’t a real morning peak, but traffic levels are around 250 vehicles per hour. The vast majority of vehicles are recorded at less than 40 mph, however there are a few recorded at up to 70 mph.

A Parishioner raised an enquiry with regards to the speed limit sign which has recently been moved to The Street in Cobham.

The parishioner believed that the sign should be turned around to remind road users of the limit as they leave Cobham rather than as they enter, being that a little after the interactive sign, they are slowed to 20mph and road calming measures.

Cllr Blackett explained why we have the device. The Speed Indicator Device (SID) was purchased via Kent Highways. It is a moveable sign which we are locating at points (on posts positioned by highways) around Sole Street, Sweeps Hole and Scratton Fields and in Cobham near the Terrace. The SID spends 8 weeks at each location and at two of the locations the sign can be fixed to face either way. Cllr Blackett reassured the gentleman that the Council are trying to gather info from the various locations around the Parish and this will likely include turning the sign around on its return to the location near the Terrace just outside Cobham Village.

Cllr Haig mentioned that a cyclist was recently knocked down outside the Church Cobham.

e. Footway through Sole Street – update Chairman

The Chairman and the Clerk met with a Schemes Project Manager from KCC on Friday 5 October following KCC's refusal to the construction of a footway along Sole Street.

A discussion took place regarding the footway and other options to make Sole Street safer for pedestrians; including the replacements of the steps up the bank opposite Greenlands with a more accessible slope. Unfortunately, the bank is too steep to safely provide a slope. Also discussed was making the area safer where the children catch and leave the school, the project manager said he would find out who owned the land with a view to providing a safe area of hard standing for the children and their parents. The parking problems in Greenlands were also discussed but the project manager said they would never widen a road because of parking issues.

The footpath along Sole Street towards Camer Park is, once again, overgrown and soil from the farm is making it difficult for people to walk along there. It is the farmers responsibility to clear the area.

ACTION: Clerk to speak to Meopham about how they get their hedge cut and path widened by the farmer. Also, to obtain the feasibility design commissioned by KCC in March 2017 and the Road Safety Audit Stage 1 completed in May 2017 in relation to the Sole Street footway.

f. Planning consultation – The feed-back from the GBC greenbelt consultation will not be available until next summer, not this autumn as originally stated. The chairman said that the rural parishes group, together with CPRE, are fighting the loss of greenbelt to property developments and say that 8,000 houses are not needed.

Cllr Haig referred to the recent climate change announcement and the need for the protection of green fields and forests. 3

ACTION: The Chairman will find out the date of the next rural parishes meeting if the clerk does not receive notification.

g. Lower Thames Crossing- update Chairman.

Members of the LTC team will be visiting Sole Street and Cobham with their information van during November- awaiting the date which the Clerk will publish. A ten-week consultation is to be launched on 10 October and will close on 20 December. The LTC website –will contain project information as well as a consultation response portal for people to ‘have their say’. The latest info will include changes to the proposals in Gravesham since the last release. A list of all the consultation exhibitions have been published on the Parish Council website and Facebook.

A parishioner asked if a traffic impact assessment had taken place- the Chairman explained that various assessments had been undertaken including viewing from helicopters. A parishioner asked how we could get maximum benefit for the Parish. The Chairman said that we would like to see more traffic control, a footway and car parking had been suggested as part of the legacy request previously. Cllr Elliott asked for a review of cycle routes. Another parishioner suggested the maintenance site planned for Norbond could be included as part of LTC plans. The Chairman explained that the company that wishes to develop Norbond would like five depots around the tunnel. She encouraged parishioners to go to the LTC events.

- **ACTION: Cllr Elliott to publish the dates for the LTC exhibitions on Face-book.**

h. The footpath from Sole Street to Sallows Shaw- update Cllr Blackett.

Reports had been received that the footpath was too dark because of over-hanging branches, one of the homeowners acted to cut back his trees but the issue persists. Cllr Blackett was tasked with investigating the foot path issue and he provided the Chairman with a report.

- **ACTION: The Chairman will deliver an official letter and speak to the owners requesting the pruning of the trees and their liability as land owners.**

i. Children’s playground repairs – update Cllr Dyer

The rubber safety matting needs repair – three quotes needed.

Cllr Smith will contact one of his associates in relation to the work.

- **ACTION: Cllr Smith and Cllr Dyer to take forward, together with the repair of the musical equipment from the playground.**

j. Norbond Site – Cllr Elliott update.

Cllr Elliott explained that the Parish Council’s expanded objection had been sent to the planning inspectorate. Meopham PC and Vigo PC have supported our objection with their own objections. The Chairman thanked Cllr Elliott for her work on the objections and the Council’s second response.

6 Adoption of the Parish Council's updated Standing Orders.

The Clerk updated the standing orders in line with KALC's new template suggestions, Councillors were provided with a copy. No objections were raised. The updated Standing Orders document will be available on the Parish Council website.

Review and agreement of Parish Council's updated risk assessment.

The ownership of the speed indicator sign together with the public toilets and the defibrillators were added to the risk assessment. No objections raised. The document will be made available on the website.

7 Committee reports

Playing Fields Committee Report: See also earlier playground item.

The Grass cutting contract is going well and everything is looking tidy.

Footpaths Committee Report: see earlier comments.

The footpath behind the Leather bottle is overgrown.

The stile at the start of the footpath on Sole Street needs checking.

The fence along the footpath opposite the Railway Pub is still unstable.

- **ACTION- Clerk to contact Luddesdown rights of way group and Public Rights of Way and Access Service.**

Local Traffic Report – nothing to report.

Planning Committee Report - Cllr Dyer read the report out.

20180822 Demolition of existing garage and outbuildings and erection of a 3-bedroom dwelling with integral garage. Broadview, Round Street.

CPC Objected

20180941 Application for Listed Building Consent for the removal of metal oil storage tank and construction of woodchip store with associated feed augars. Cobham Hall, Brewers Road, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

No objection from CPC

20180939 Variation of condition 2 and removal of condition3 attached to planning permission reference no 120141082 for the use of the land for the stationing of a caravan for security purposes; to allow the caravan to be elsewhere on site (condition2) and removal of the restricting use of the caravan for security purposes (condition 3). Whitepost Farm White Post Lane Cobham DA13 9AX

CPC Objected

20171274 APPEAL Location: Former Norbond Site Sole Street Cobham Gravesend: Change of use to establish a vehicle depot for highway maintenance and traffic management works.

CPC Objected

REFERENCE NO. 20181006 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Retention of existing outbuilding for use as a home office/games room ancillary to the main dwelling. Leighton, Sole Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

CPC Objected

20180962 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Surfacing of existing overflow car park for permanent use including provision of landscaping and earth bunding; construction of wooden shelter to enhance the outdoor seating area of the cafe; construction of ranger office building; relocation of cafe store and bin store. Jeskyns Community Woodland and Greenspace, Henhurst Road, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

No objection from CPC

Rural Parishes Report- meeting due to take place in next couple of weeks.

- 8 GBC Matters –There will be elections in May and all Borough Councillors had to be interviewed and some councillors have set up their own party. The Leader of the council remains to ensure business continues.
- 9 KCC Matters -apologies received from Cllr Sweetland- no report but was happy to receive any concerns he needs to be aware of.
- 10 KALC The Chairman explained that members of the local KALC group met on the previous Monday to discuss important issues that each parish shared including the erosion of the Greenbelt and the Lower Thames tunnel.
- 11 Correspondence/GDPR: The Clerk said that two pieces of correspondence had been dealt with 1/ regarding the SID and another relating to the War memorial.
- 12 Matters Raised by Parish Councillors.

Cllr Haig- explained that the cobbles opposite her property had now been repaired, additionally she said that someone cut back the bushes on lodge lane, she also tidied up the bushes around the sign post. The knotweed treatment has been quite successful, but there is still some left in the Ship's beech hedge, hopefully another year of treatment will clear the problem. The bushes near the old bus stop also need cutting back.

Cllr Smith raised concerns about advertising banners that are appearing around Cobham Village which look unsightly and one of the banners blocks the view to traffic. Little orange flags have also been left in various places following a recent cycle race.

- **ACTION: The Chairman will contact the manager of the Meadow Rooms to see if he is aware of the owner of the banners.**

13 Any Other Business

The Chairman reminded everyone about the WW1 commemoration taking place through November.

Calendar of Events

Sat 10th November –Sole Street afternoon tea at St Mary's Church Room, Sole Street

Sun 11th November – 10.00am Remembrance Service at the Memorial in Cobham

10.00am Muffled Bells

10.30am Service of Remembrance at St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham

12.30 pm Memorial bell peels. 6

- 7.00pm Cobham Bells will ring out once again.
 □7.00 pm Bonfire and BBQ at the sports ground
 Cobham Church will be specially floodlit

Thurs 15th –Sat 17th November CADS present a play, written by the cast
 WW1 at home’

Fri 23rd November – Evening talk at Cobham Hall about the making of the
 film ‘War Horse. £12 per including a finger buffet and wine.

Sun 25th November – All day exhibition in the Meadow Room of events in
 Cobham during WW1 including: photographs, paintings, artefacts and a re-
 enactment group in WW1 costume.

A talk is available to local clubs which is children’s thoughts of WW1 based
 on a collage that the seven to eleven-year olds have produced. Please book by
 contacting 01474 814143. The talk is free.

The Parish Council hopes that residents in Cobham and Sole Street will
 decorate the fronts of their houses with red flowers and poppies; both man-
 made and natural.

The residents of Cobham College are preparing decorations for the Village
 Pump and the College, Cobham WI have been busy knitting poppies to
 decorate the church. Sole Street WI will be decorating the grounds around the
 Church Room.

The Chairman congratulated Cobham and Sole Street on winning the Silver
 Gilt award in the South East in Bloom competition, which reflects so well on
 the fantastic community in which we live.

14 Finance.

Receipts

Payment from Sports Club for EDF bill	£1,053.49
VAT return from HMRC	£1,639.58
Total	£2,693.07

Cheques already signed

FASTNET annual renewal	£57.46
KALC finance conference for Clerk & Chairman	£144.00
EDF Bill Sports Club	£1,053.49
MI Payroll Service	£45.00
Clerk expenses (Nov 17- Sept 18) see below	£98.84
<i>(Stamps £24.12 -Photocopying £18.18 -Stationery £13.75 -Printer Ink £40.68 Recorded delivery £2.11)</i>	

Cheques to be signed at the meeting

Kent County Playing Field Association	£20.00
Maintenance Man	£120.00
Clerk Salary	£301.83
HMRC	£226.40
Smooth and Rugged Landscapes	£30.00
Satswana DPO 1yr	£180.00
Maintenance of the Village Pump -	£250.00
Bayliss Maintenance of Sweeps Hole	£732.00
Total	£2,693.07

The finance report acceptance was proposed by Cllr Dyer and seconded by Cllr Haig.

The Chairman closed the public meeting at 9.15 pm

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 19 NOVEMBER - MEADOW ROOMS COBHAM