**COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2014/15 (NO 10)**

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in

St Mary’s Church Room, Sole Street on

Monday 27th April 2015 at 7.30 pm

**PRESENT**

**COUNCILLORS:** CLLR A ROWE (CHAIR)
CLLR R DYMOND
CLLR M HAIG
CLLR N HAIG
CLLR K SMITH
CLLR B GLENISTER
CLLR S DYERCLLR ELLIS

**IN ATTENDANCE:** MRS K LANE (CLERK)

 10 + Parishioners

Cllr Alan Rowe opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Giles and Cllr Moore.
2. **Minutes: to confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th March 2015.** All agreed and signedby the Chairman Cllr Alan Rowe. The Annual Parish assembly minutes were also agreed and signed. Cllr Rowe and Cllr Dymond also signed the minutes of an extraordinary Finance meeting to discuss procedures etc.

Cllr Rowe began the meeting by saying how sorry he was to have to report the passing of Frank Gibson who, during his career, had spent many years as both a Borough and County Councillor. Cllr Rowe said Mr Gibson had been a great friend who had worked extremely hard for the village.

1. **Declaration of Interest:** None
2. **Parishioners Comments**

Mrs Hargrove reported over-hanging trees by the old bus shelter on Jeskyns Road. ***Clerk to report.***

Another Parishioner reported that the Manor Road parking situation seemed much improved but as a result of changes to parking restrictions, the road was wearing on one side and potholes appearing. ***Clerk to report to KCC Highways.***

It was also reported that the pavement outside number 30 Manor Road has been damaged by tree roots. ***Clerk to report to KCC Highways.***

1. **Matters Arising from previous minutes**

**Speedwatch**:

Cllr Rowe reported that the Speedwatch team would be attending the next meeting, hopefully with an update.

**Corner of road by Lodge Lane:**

The setts have been repaired/re-laid by KCC Highways.

**Manor Road sign:**

The Clerk has contacted KCC Highways about the sign and is waiting them to get back to her with a date for erecting it.

**Response from Richard Gagg re passing point on Manor Rd**

Cllr Rowe explained that Richard Gagg had been contacted about putting some soil down in the layby/passing point to prevent commuters from parking there. Richard had responded and said that any soil placed there would just run away because the area is tarmacced and this would need to be removed first. Cllr Rowe explained that it was not KCC who undertook this work, but a local homeowner who had some leftover tarmac. It was then discussed and agreed that the Clerk would contact Richard Gagg about removing the tarmac and preparing the area with soil. ***Clerk to action.***

**Pick up dog litter signs:**

The Clerk had requested signs. These had been received and were given to Cllr M Haig and Cllr Glenister for putting up in Manor Road and The Street.

**Footpath with electric fence alongside:**

The Clerk contacted KCC footpaths about a possible electric fence in Sole Street. It was explained that if it is an electric fence running alongside a public footpath gateway then signs would need to be displayed. Footpaths committee to investigate.

**KCC: ‘No HGVs’ sign at Gold Street/SS junction.**

New signs have replaced the original signs that were too large.

**Rounding off pavement SS/MR junction.**

This work is due to be carried out soon.

**GBC: Bin at end of Scratton Fields**

Cllr Rowe said that the old bin still has not been removed**. *Clerk to chase GBC again***

**Station approach**

Clerk has reported the issue with the fencing to South Eastern. Still awaiting response. **Clerk to follow-up.**

**Footpath by Bramble Cottage**

Cllr Dymond to check that the issue with hedge/fence blocking path has been fixed.

**Posts by Lodge Lane**

Cllr Rowe explained that the posts that have only recently been put in to replace the damaged ones, have been stolen. It was discussed and agreed that the Clerk would ask for new ones again but this time they will be concreted/fixed in such a way that they will be much harder to remove. ***Clerk to action.***

**Gravelled area in Halfpence Lane**

There was some discussion about coppicing in the area. ***Clerk to contact the Woodland Trust about coppicing licenses.***

**Knotweed**

Cllr Rowe said that a way forward should be discussed and agreed by the next Council. ***Clerk to add to next month’s agenda***

**Councillor queries:** Sign by Copthall/Dabbs Place Farm

At the last meeting it was agreed to have a sign made and erected by Cobham village green ‘Tollingtrough Green’. Following the meeting Cllr Ellis said she would be happy to have the sign erected on her property – opposite the green. Cllr Glenister confirmed that he was speaking to a neighbour of his who makes signs. After some discussion about size and fixings it was decided that it should be similar to the one made for Richard Dadd path ie an Oak board with two oak posts. Cllr Glenister said he estimated it would cost between £300-£400. Everyone agreed.

1. **Ongoing items**

**Playing Fields**

Cllr Dyer said there were some repairs needed to the fencing in the children’s play area. ***Clerk to confirm with Ian Springhall.***

**Footpaths**

***Nothing to report.***

**Transport**

It was again reported that the Parish Council is still looking for a Community Bus driver. Cllr Dyer asked the Kent Messenger correspondent for Cobham and Sole Street to put an ad in the newspaper.

**Planning**

**GBC Decisions**

*20150062 1 Orchard Cottage Sole Street Cobham*

Erection of a first floor rear extension to form a bedroom. CPC has no objection. Permitted

**CPC Comments**

*20150102-3 The Ship Inn 14 The Street Cobham*

Application for Listed Building Consent for the attachment of a replacement hanging sign externally illuminated by overhead trough lighting on the front elevation, three fixed advertisement signs with extenally illuminated overhead trough lighting on the front elevation and both side elevations, a fixed panel advertisement on the side elevation and two replacement chalk boards.

Display of a replacement hanging sign externally illuminated by overhead trough lighting on the front elevation, three fixed advertisement signs with externally illuminated overhead trough lighting on the front elevation and both side elevations, a fixed panel advertisement on the side elevation and two replacement chalk boards.

The proposed illuminated signs on the front and side elevations of this listed building are not appropriate in Cobham village Conservation area and should not be permitted. Cobham Parish Council has no objection to the proposed illuminated hanging sign or the chalk boards.

*20150263 Dabbs Place Farm Jeskyns Road Cobham*

Application for determination as to whether prior approval is required for the proposed change of use of an agricultural building for the storage of agricultural vehicles to a one bedroom single dwelling house.

*Cobham Parish Council has no objection.*

*20150239 2 Orchard Cottages Sole Street Cobham*

Erection of single storey rear extension to form garden room and erection of a side extension to form a new garage and store. Cobham Parish Council has no objection.

*20140183 Broadfield White Post Lane Meopham.*

Appeal ref 2015/00010/ENF An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against an enforcement notice issued by GBC on 14th Jan 2015.

Retention of the existing mobile home on land for use as an agricultural workers dwelling.

Cobham Parish Council objects to the retention of the mobile home other than for a very short period. The barn and mobile home are very visible from the public footpath.

At the end of Cllr Glenister’s report, Cllr Rowe said that the newly elected council should investigate the issue of barns being converted without requiring planning permission as this could affect other properties without the Parish.

**Neighbourhood Forum**

Nothing to report

**Jeskyns**

Nothing to report

**Parking**

Cllr Ellis reported concerns about HGVs parking the length of the sliproad by the Esso garage on the way to Cobham. It was decided to raise this with the County Cllr, Bryan Sweetland at the next meeting.

**Speeding**

Nothing to report

**Sweepshole Pond**

Peter Baylis has contacted the Parish Council about whether we want his company to continue to manage the pond work for the coming year. All agreed.

**KALC**

Nothing to report

**Matters raised by Parish Councillors**

Cllr M Haig reported that white lines need to be re-painted on the mini roundabout at the end of The Street. ***Clerk to report.***

Cllr N Haig reported that logs have been removed from Lodge Lane – opposite the new gate which is about 50 yards up from the War memorial. ***Clerk to ask Jonathan Ireland if he can replace them.***

Cllr Dymond reported that the street lamp opposite the Meadow Rooms is not working. ***Clerk to report.***

Cllr Dymond also reported that there is no footpath sign between the new and old graveyard. ***Clerk to ask KCC for a sign.***

**Any other business**

**Rural Housing Needs Survey**

Cllr Rowe expressed his disappointment at the findings of the survey. He felt that it was a terrible waste of money and totally unnecessary. He explained that the same survey was carried out years before and the result was that seven new properties were built which GBC subsequently struggled to fill. The new survey states that five new properties are required.

Cllr Ellis said she was not impressed with the whole procedure. Last time properties were built on the basis of a questionnaire.

Cllr Glenister said that even if it could be proven that there was justification for building more properties, there were no suitable sites.

The Parish Council have been asked to comment so the question was asked about how to respond. It was agreed that Cllr Rowe and Cllr Dymond would draft a response to Sharon Donald at GBC.

**Litter-pick**

It has been agreed that the Parish Council will organise a litter-pick at the end of May (this has since been changed to Sunday 14th June). ***Clerk to check the insurance policy and inform the police of plans***

**Stolen post boxes**

The issue of the stolen Victorian post boxes was discussed. So far we have not received a response about what Royal Mail are doing about the issue. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to Royal Mail. ***Clerk to action.***

**Files at Sole Street House**

Cllr Giles had suggested storing the Parish Council files under the stage in the Meadow Rooms. Cllr Rowe said he had investigated this possibility but the site was too damp and deemed unsuitable. The new council will need to consider this issue in the future.

1. **Finance**

On the proposal of Cllr N Haig, seconded by Cllr Dymond, the following cheques were signed and ratified:

**25/03/15 Clerk’s office expenses £41.83**

**25/03/15 CPRE Membership £36.00**

**25/03/15 Baylis Reed removal £210.00**

**25/03/15 Southern Water £651.30**

**13/04/15 KPFA Membership £20.00**

**13/04/15 Clerk’s salary (April) £250.00**

**13/04/15 Maintenance salary (April) £104.00**

**13/04/15 Clerk’s bonus £200.00**

**19/04/15 KALC election leaflets £23.70**

**27/04/15 Clerk’s salary (May) £250.00**

**27/04/15 Maintenance salary (May) £104.00**

**Total £1890.83**

Cllr Rowe ended the meeting with a ‘thank you’ and ‘goodbye’ following 44 years on the Parish Council.

Cllr Dymond also thanked the other Councillors who were stepping down – Cllr Glenister, Cllr Ellis, Cllr Giles and Cllr N Haig. She thanked them for their dedication to the Parish.

Cllr Ellis said that her 16 years on the Parish Council had been both an honour and a pleasure. She said it had been enjoyable, largely because of a supportive and friendly group who made up the Parish Council.

Cllr Glenister said he would miss it as he had enjoyed all his time on the Parish Council. He said if he could be of any assistance to the new council then just ask!

**As there was no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.**

Chairman.........................................................................................................................

**The next meeting is on Monday 18th May at 7.30pm in St Mary’s Church Room, Sole Street.**