

**Minutes of a meeting**  
**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 7.30 PM**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

CLLR R DYMOND (CHAIRMAN)  
CLLR S DYER (VICE CHAIRMAN)  
CLLR M HAIG  
CLLR J BLACKETT  
CLLR MIKE BOOTH  
CLLR SUE ARNOTT  
CLLR BEN SMITH  
CLLR GABBITAS

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Michael 'Geordie' Laidlow the volunteer & Neighborhood Watch Liaison Officer  
Mrs T Sampson (Clerk) and 7 parishioners.

- 1 Apologies for absence – None
- 2 Minutes: to confirm and sign the minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
Confirmed with couple of typing amendments as a true record.
- 3 Declaration of Interests – None raised.

The meeting was attended by Michael 'Geordie' Laidlow, the new Volunteer and Neighbourhood Watch Liaison officer. Geordie explained that he is now a Police Support Officer, previously a police officer for over twenty years and in the services before that. He is the liaison for Neighbourhood Watch and police volunteers. He is there to provide support and advice and mentioned that he found out, this evening, that the National Trust representative at the barn had felt let down by the police recently, but he has now offered to act as a link with parishioners and the police where needed. He explained that he is also part of the heritage watch from Leeds Castle.

A parishioner asked about the Churches and Geordie confirmed that the rural task force is trained to deal with all sorts of heritage crimes including theft from churches. He mentioned the fly-tipping prevention group and recognised that this was an issue across the County. His group had worked with Gov't to ensure the fines were higher. The Police Commissioner has recruited more people to join the rural task force, this is linked to Neighbourhood Watch and has links with NFU as well.

Cllr Booth asked how a crime report goes to the next level, the police system and how do you catch them. Geordie said that he receives a report which he circulates to neighbourhood watch teams and liaison officers so that all are aware. He was asked whether he had heard about a red Suzuki 4x4 that had been causing problems around the village, Lodge lane & Scotland lane caused damage to the bank and a post was knocked down on the green at the top of the Lime Avenue. He didn't think they were just joy riders. There was a discussion amongst the councillors about this vehicle.

The theft of our old Victorian post boxes was mentioned, Geordie explained that the police were now working with the Post Office to ensure the boxes could be identified if found.

- 4 Parishioner's Comments – nothing raised from the floor.
- 5 Cobham Parish Council will be holding a Litter Pick on 7 April this will be advertised to all. Pickers should meet at 9.30am at the Meadow Rooms, equipment will be provided but if anyone had hi-vis jackets – please bring them along. Cllr Gabbitas and Cllr Booth will not be able to make it. Halfpence lane is seen as the worst area for litter, but the team will split to cover different areas. There will be a sack deposit area at Meadow Room. We will hopefully cover Cobham and Sole Street in one day.

- 6 The matter of Salt/Grit Bins had been raised following the recent adverse weather. Residents of Saracens Close did have a salt bin but this was moved to the end of Battle Street. The Clerk was asked to request new salt/grit bins for Sarsens Close, the Meadow Rooms and Scalers Hill, it was suggested that perhaps the one from Thong Lane, Inn on the Lake could be moved to Scalers Hill. Clerk to action.

## 7 Matters Arising from previous minutes

- a. **Parish Council Membership** -Cllr Dymond said 2 people are interested and she is waiting for 1 CV, she did not feel it was appropriate to give out names at this time.

- b. **Sole Street footway** - Cllr Dymond

The chairman was due to have a meeting later in the week with KCC highways, unfortunately this has been postponed because the transport innovation team do not have the funding for the project but are looking elsewhere for an alternative source of funding – they will provide an update later in March. The Chairman said that this was very disappointing, but she is determined to see this project undertaken.

A Parishioner also asked about traffic management. The chairman said that the hope was for the narrowing of the road and chicanes etc when the footway was in place, but nothing now due to funding. KCC seem to have been too late to access the safe passage of children grant. Not sure how much it will cost. Next steps KCC to get funding and for chair to get plans.

- c. **Traffic management** – Cllr Dyer / Clerk

Cobham Parish Council Councillors and parishioners met with KCC Highways, they undertook a survey and CPC have put in a grant request to Cllr Sweetland for £3000 towards the £6,946.73, exc vat,cost. The posts for the Speed Indicator Device will be placed near Sweeps hole another at the corner of Scratton Fields and one in front of the Terrace, Cobham.

A parishioner asked whether the device can record data, the clerk didn't think it did but would check with KCC. The device is battery operated and this will be reviewed next year. The Chairman suggested that there may be additional funds available from GBC, Cllr Jassall to get a solar panel to power the device.

- d. **Correspondence** – Clerk

An email was received from a Parishioner who was concerned about Electric Cables being laid in White Post Lane for White Post stables. The clerk reported it to GBC who were not aware of the work but explained that planning permission was not needed for laying cables and that the decision regarding the planning application had not been made and was due on the 12<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Blackett will enquire with UK Power Networks.

AOB

Cllr Booth raised a point about the Precept, and that an email from GBC to the Clerk led us to believe we would be given the amount we requested.

Cllr Booth also mentioned an item from the previous meeting about bright lights on a property in Round Street. The Clerk had spoken to GBC and it was confirmed that you do not need to have planning permission to put lights on your property, But the Parish Council could raise the matter with the home owner if they felt there was a light pollution or environmental issue.

Bonham Hayes Trust- The Chairman would report on this during AOB.

Cllr Booth also asked Cllr Smith if he had managed to speak to the Forestry Commission representative about placing logs on the verges to prevent parking outside Jeskyns Park. Cllr Smith will be taking this forward.

Cllr Booth referred to the footway from Owletts to Parsonage Farm needs to be cleared. Chairman to speak to the farm manager about getting this done.

Cllr Booth raised the matter of the rubbish in the Dew pond in Scotland Lane. Cllr Haig said that a lot had already been cleared away but there were still some items in the sludge and in the bank that needs to be pulled out with a bucket.

Cllr Booth said that although the clerk fed back to the individuals that raised matters in the meetings he felt it appropriate that they should also be included in the next agenda for an update to the meeting.

## **8 Committee feed-back –**

**a** - Planning Committee Report –  
Cllr Dyer went through the latest report.

### Planning Report March 2018

Application Number: 20180104 20 Scratton Fields

Application for a lawful development certificate in respect of the proposed construction of a dormer extension in the rear roof slope and conversion of the roof space into habitable rooms.

**No objection from CPC**

Application Number: 20180078 5 Sallows Shaw

The application for erection of a single-storey rear extension together with a new wood burner flue to the south elevation and internal refurbishment.

**No objection from CPC**

Application No: 20180062 53 The Street, Cobham

Repair and rebuilding of the existing flint wall along the side boundary.

**No objection from CPC**

REFERENCE NO. 20170802 - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Erection of a single storey side extension to the existing garage and conversion into granny annexe. LOCATION Attlee House 1 Chapelwood Place Cobham Gravesend Kent DA13 9AG **CPC's comments concerning the application for Attlee House 1 Chapelwood have been considered, as far as relevant or possible. The application will now be reported to a meeting of the Regulatory Board for decision on the 7 March 2018.**

Cllr Dyer also updated the meeting on last month's applications:

- Corner cottage – GBC rejected the application.
- Darnley arms - GBC granted a licence or use of the area at the back to be used as additional car parking.
- Hanworth, Round Street is still pending with GBC
- White Post Lane due to be decided on the 12th March – 17 objections received so far
- Norbond Site, Sole Street, 147 objections received, and GBC rejected the application.

**b** - Footpaths Committee Report -Nothing to report. Cllr Arnott checked on the report received last month about overhanging Ivy on the footpath in Sole Street but couldn't see any. There had been a report about a fence panel with dangerous nails sticking out on the footpath opposite the Railway Pub in Sole Street. Cllr Arnott will check nails in the panel.

**c** - Transport Committee Report – there was nothing to report as there hadn't been any meetings. The next meeting will be the first for a while and Cllr Booth will attend. The Chairman raised the matter of the Cycle path, Cllr Booth said that it does not appear on the agenda. She referred to the Cycle Path from Gravesend to Cobham and the Cyclo Park.

The Chairman also mentioned that she had received an email from a Parishioner about the ongoing changes to the Blackfriars -Sole Street timetable and the support being provided by local MP, Adam Holloway.

**d** - Meadow Room Report –

Cllr Gabbitas reiterated her report from the last meeting with the dates of events–  
Munchies 5<sup>th</sup> May

AGM 17<sup>th</sup> May

Movie on the Meadow 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Chairman's surgery 27<sup>th</sup> September.

The Meadow Rooms were out of use during the recent bad weather, but Cllr Sweetland arranged for a large bag of grit to be delivered.

The new windows for the main hall and the Chairman's room are planned for 2019 but Cllr Gabbitas thinks that all the windows may be replaced.

The Chairman is due to give a report at the APA meeting in April.

**e** - Playing Fields Report – nothing to report, all looks fine including the fencing.

- 9 GBC Matters –No representative present. The chairman mentioned that the greenbelt consultation had not been sent out yet. She also asked parishioners to email the clerk with questions for Cllr Jassel in time for the APA.

There is to be a Thames crossing meeting towards end of March

The London resort meeting has not yet happened.

There are changes/improvements being considered on the A2 at the Bean/Ebbsfleet junction. A consultation is on the Kent Highways website. The Chairman encourages people to take part. Clerk to place details on CPC website.

- 10 KCC Matters No representative present. Councillor Bryan Sweetland will not be able to attend the APA but has sent a report to the Clerk to be read out. Clerk to provide the Chairman with a copy.

- 11 KALC Matters

There is due to be a planning conference on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, the chairman is unable to attend and asked for a volunteer from among the other councillors.

Cllr Booth will be attending a KALC course, Introduction to Planning, on Saturday.

The local Parishes are coming together to organise a joint 'dynamic councillor course' at Vigo parish hall- date to be confirmed.

- 12 Matters Raised by Parish Councillors

Cllr Arnott spoke about Sole Street and the kerb opposite the crescent, clerk to report. The matter of the blocked drains was raised, clerk to report. Additionally, the kerb stones around the new drains have caused issues with one motorist suffering a burst tyre. Clerk to report. Cllr Blackett will also check them. The drain opposite Rose Cottage in Cobham is also in need of cleaning. Clerk to report.

Cllr Gabbitas was asked to enquire about getting the water pump repaired as the spout had been taken, but without a photograph of the missing part it is difficult for her to do so.

Cllr Haig mentioned that, although the knotweed on around the Ship pub had been treated it was still showing. It appears that it will take a while for it to die off. Pot holes filled. Cllr Haig also thanked the Clerk for following up on reports of pot holes and getting them filled.

The path from church to the grave yard is very slippery Cllr Booth suggested the youth group might be able to help clean the path. Clerk to email the youth club to see if they could help.

Cllr Dyer said it was good to see KCC gritters, snowploughs and farmers out clearing the road.

The Chairman wants to ask Councillor Samir Jassal whether community toilet scheme cash is available to local pubs and how long they need to be opened? As the public toilets close at 6pm

### 13 Any Other Business -

Bonham Hayes Trust -The Chairman said that she had received two names to be put forward to the Trust but is interested to hear of anyone else thought to be in need. The names will be given to GBC to organise the money going out.

South East England in Bloom is running a scheme to see how community minded parishes are, the Chairman would like us to take part and to get an outside perspective. This would run alongside our usual front of house competition. Clerk to circulate info and Cllrs to feed back their thoughts.

**Battles over T** The commemoration of the end of WW1, the Chairman will be revising the booklets for the annual remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial. The Cobham Bell Ringers will be doing a muffled quarter peal in the morning. The Chairman would like to arrange a Bugler to be present to play the last post. She will invite the local Brownies. She would also like to see the village decorated with tasteful poppies, perhaps the WI could help with that. Cllr Arnott mentioned that she had a pattern of how to make attractive plastic Poppies. The Meadow rooms could perhaps provide an exhibition with the help of exhibits from Cobham Hall. Cllr Dyer also suggested that one of the Village Choirs might wish to take part.

The Clerk is trying to arrange a Council meeting to discuss the new GDPR/A process and policy, but the 13<sup>th</sup> of March does not work for everyone.

### 14 Finance

#### Cheques presented at PC meeting 5 March 2018

Planning Training Course with KALC	£72.00
Clerk's Pay	£213.00
Maintenance Man	£120.00
Total	£405.00

#### Incoming – Feb 2018

Money from GBC towards up keep of the toilet	£1,500.00
VAT claimed back May-Dec 17	£837.97
Total	£2,337.97

Cllr Gabbitas proposed acceptance of the finance report, seconded by Cllr Dyer.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.....

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Assembly and will take place at 7.30pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> April in the Meadow Rooms, Cobham.