

Cobham Parish Council Meeting Minutes
9 October 2017 at 7.30 pm
St Mary's Church Room Sole Street

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: CLLR R DYMOND (CHAIRMAN)
CLLR S DYER (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)
CLLR M HAIG
CLLR J BLACKETT
CLLR GABRIELLA BJÖRK GABBITAS
CLLR BEN SMITH
CLLR S ARNOTT

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Bryan Sweetland, Mrs T Sampson (Clerk)
Appx. 12 Parishioners.

1. **Apologies for absence**
PCSO Joanne Hartley, Cllr Mike Booth.
2. **Minutes:** to confirm and sign the minutes of Monday 11 September 2017, the minutes were agreed.
3. **Declaration of Interests** -Cllr Sue Arnott and Cllr Steve Dyer excused themselves from commenting on the Roundhay planning application.
4. **Emergency Planning**, Stephen Scully from the Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council Resilience Team came to the meeting to discuss emergency planning. He explained there is a Tri-service centre of excellence and he also referred to the previous system of Community Civil Defence, which some members of the Parish may be familiar with. There is no legal duty for the Parish Council to undertake emergency planning – but the authorities are looking to encourage community resilience and cohesion, Steve emphasised the importance of collaboration.
KALC is a key partner on emergency planning and they recently ran a flood warden course for the County. He was positive about the drafted plan for Cobham and explained that Meopham already has a plan in place and Vigo started to put a plan together. Mutual support for each other amongst the Parishes is essential. Booklets are currently available for individual resilience; however, this is now being updated and will be available on line at the Kent prepared website as well as on the KCC and GBC websites. It would be helpful if people print off copies for those not using computers. Stated risks are thought to be weather, traffic or flood related and possible power outages due to fallen lines etc, Steve mentioned the need for a focal point where emergency support will be directed. Mrs Su Rowe -highlighted the Railway Station and the possible impact from an accident or breakdown in the line.
5. **Parishioners Comments**
Parishioner Bernard Glennister mentioned the condition of the footway in Manor Road. The clerk fed-back that KCC came out and visited the site and said that they had inspected Manor Road footways. Even though they are not in the best of conditions there is nothing out there that meets our intervention level or even any safety issues. – Clerk to contact again.

Mr Glennister also referred to a piece of land, on the corner of the Station entrance and Sole Street, which is fenced in which means that the grass cannot be cut and the rubbish cannot be cleared. Mr Glennister has asked whether the fence can be moved and one piece of fencing removed whilst still protecting the embankment (Railway land). This will be the 4th time the Mr Glennister has tried to resolve this problem. Previously the public relations officer dealt with it Rosemary has asked for details on the best person to speak with.

Parishioner Mrs Su Rowe gave some positive feedback about the clearance of nettles on the footpath opposite the Railway pub.

Parishioner Nicola Carter gave an update on the work she has been doing in relation to the changes to the Sole Street train timetable she handed out copies of the timetable which highlighted the proposed changes. Nicola was pleased that many people have been in contact with her and she also said that she will be having a meeting with Mr Adam Holloway MP on the 17th October 5.30pm in his Westminster Office.

Parishioner Peter Brierly had emailed the Clerk with some concerns which the Clerk will action and the parishioners discussed. They were as follows:

'Is there any substance in the rumour that Kent Highways will be establishing a base in the old varnish factory land at the far end of Sole Street Station car park? No one was aware of anything.

Sweeps Hole pond has had the vegetation cut down but there is a substantial amount that has been left lying in the overflow area adjacent to the BT cabinets. This work is being dealt with in two parts and the disposal of cut vegetation will be removed at the end of October.

I know I've raised a couple of issues with the local footpaths but there has been no action on NS 185 within the rear Cobham burial ground and NS 191 opposite the Railway Pub where a large amount of hedge and roots are restricting access just inside the swing access gateway. Have the owners of Leighton been contacted regarding their boundary fence along the north side of NS 191 which is unstable and encroaching onto the footpath? This is being reported to the footpaths team.

Another issue relating to footpaths is on NS 185 which diagonally crosses Scripp's orchards from the side exit of the rear Cobham burial ground towards Gold Street'. This will also be referred to the footpaths team.

There is an issue of overhanging foliage in Sallows Shaw.' An official letter will be sent to the owner by the Cobham PC outlining the hedge is the responsibility of the owner.

6 Matters Arising from previous minutes

i. **Membership of the Parish Council** (Cllr Dymond)

The Chairman mentioned Kerry's retirement from the Parish Council after many years of excellent work, the advert for her replacement is still on the website. The Chairman also asked if anyone present was interested in becoming a Parish Councillor for the next 2 years or if they knew of anyone who might be. There is already one person interested.

- ii. **Brown sign** for Owletts and Cobham Wood and Mausoleum - Cllr Gabbitas has spoken to the trust, the person dealing with the matter has moved and she hasn't heard from the replacement. Cllr Dymond suggested a meeting with the Parish Councillors to discuss where the signs should go – Cllr Gabbitas thinks that it will be one sign for each attraction/venue, however Cllr Dymond felt that one finger post sign at the corner of Lodge Lane and The Street indicating the by means of three fingers the direction and access to all the venues. Mrs Elizabeth Holland wondered if a sign should be at the Station? Good idea to advertise, maybe a poster on the platform. Cllr Dyer will speak to the station manager when he is next in the Station. Mr Brierly suggested a sign on the corner of the station road.

Sole Street footways - Cllr Dymond had two KCC officers visit Sole Street to witness the children using the road to catch the school bus, there was a great number of children on the morning in question. The number of children using the busses and main road supports CPC in its attempt to get the footway installed. Two families were witnessed by KCC walking down the busy Sole Street and KCC were shocked by the danger of it. They were also aware of the danger to children catching the bus at the end of Round Street and directly on the edge of a dangerous bend opposite the pond. Cllr Dymond to KCC.

Another meeting is expected to take place before Christmas. Cllr Dymond thanked the families for allowing her to show KCC how many children are involved.

Mr Glennister asked where the path would go – Cllr Dymond said they are trying to find one route rather than to cross the road. However, crossing the road could create a crossing point as a chicane which would help to slow the traffic.

iii. **Roads:** Flooding in Sole Street – Cllr Blackett/Clerk

Cllr Blackett referred to the meeting he and the Clerk had with Mark Carpenter from KCC. The difficulty is that a large pond/lake was filled in many years ago – a map (from around 1900 provided by KCC) was circulated to Parish Councillors and Parishioners and it showed the old lake; the approximate storage capacity based on the size of 35m x 17m and an average depth of 1.5m would be 892.5m³ of water or at an average depth of 1m the volume held would be 595m³ and the capacity could not be replicated no matter additional soakaways. KCC will still consider what they can do to reduce the amount of water laying on the road.

iv. **Cobham Public toilets-** Cllr Dymond explained that GBC have provided a deed of surrender for the handing over of the toilets, which has now been passed to our solicitor. A check will be made of the toilets before the handover to ensure they are in good condition. Cllr Dymond also said that we would not be able to take over the running of the toilets without the help of Cobham Sports Association.

v. **Cobham Bowls Club** The lease has now been completed and we are just waiting for Club to submit a planning application for the artificial green. The lease is now in place until 2046.

vi. **Traffic management/ Speed-watch** -Cllr Dymond/Clerk

We currently have four volunteers to go forward with speed-watch in Sole Street, however we do need more. Nicola and John also volunteered. Cllr Ben Smith and Cllr Dymond volunteered to be part of the Cobham speed-watch as there had been a lack of enthusiasm for the scheme there.

Cllr Dymond explained that we are looking to engage a traffic management consultant, however we are unable to do so before we have the relevant data. KALC are looking for the rural villages and isolated villages to be able to have a 20 MPH which would be enforced by the police.

Parishioner Mr Alan Holland referred to an incident he was involved in at the roundabout where the Street meets Halfpence Lane– where someone came speeding out of Cobham Village at 11am which forced him over and led to him hitting the kerb and damaging his tyre. He also said that Chicanes were needed in Sole Street. In Cobham Lane one 20mph sign is still obscured by leaves and is thought to be on the wrong side.

vii. KCC was going to inspect the clerk will check with Sami/Tom Williams.

2. **Correspondence – Clerk**

a. **Playground refurb** - Cllr Dyer 3rd quote still needed, just waiting for Mr Parker to provide it.

b. **Defibrillator update – checks all** fine nothing to report. Next training session at the College still to be arranged.

C Fire hydrant checks – scalers hill not listed and lfield not on the list James to report back to clerk.

8 Committee feed-back –

Planning Committee Report was read out by Cllr Rosemary Dymond

The 9th October 2017 – Cobham Parish Council Planning Summary

Planning Reference 20170884 Woodlands Sallows Shaw Cobham Erection of a single storey side extension.

Cobham Parish Council do not object to this application. They have, however observed that the extension will be very close to the neighbour's fence line.

Planning Reference 20170914 South Lodge & Barn 32 Lodge Lane Cobham

Cobham Parish Council do not have any objections to this variation.

Planning Reference 20170927 Roundhay, White Post Lane, Cobham

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 no. detached two storey dwellings with rooms in the roof space, a detached coach house comprising garaging with store in the roof space, laying out of associated parking spaces and driveway.

Cobham Parish Council object to this proposal. This would have an adverse impact on the surrounding properties. The addition of the second property will overlook neighbouring properties. The planned coach house style garage could be converted to an additional dwelling. Increased traffic due to an additional sizeable property. Plans indicate parking for up to 10 cars. This does not look viable from the drawings and may lead to increased parking on White Post Lane. White Post Lane is on the outermost boundary of Sole Street and is a secluded rural lane. It is an overdevelopment which would be detrimental to the surrounding properties and should not be permitted.

Planning Reference 20170956 23 Sallows Shaw Cobham Erection of a single storey rear extension. Cobham Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Footpaths Committee Report – nothing to report

Transport Committee Report – Cllr Dymond read out Cllr Mike Booths report in his absence. Nothing further from LTC despite your (the clerk's) efforts to push consultation with the CPC forward by requesting a further meeting and the speed data which they said at the meeting in the Civic Centre could be made available to us.

There was a meeting of the Joint Transportation Board on the 13th September which I did not attend, but there was nothing of relevance to Cobham on the agenda.

Cllr Booth had asked about the Community Bus and Cllr Dymond explained that the Parish Council contributed £500 per annum to the Community Bus.

Meadow Room Report – Nothing to report from the Meadow Room. Unfortunately, the Chairman's clinic was cancelled but Cllr Haig mentioned that the rooms were being used more including for regular osteopath sessions.

Playing Fields Report -Nothing to report that hasn't already been discussed.

9 GBC Matters – No attendance from the GBC Councillor, Cllr Dymond will invite Robin Theobald to attend in future.

10 KCC Matters- Councillor Bryan Sweetland provided feedback on the LTC meeting, which was along similar lines to those of Cllr Mike Booth (at last month's meeting) as he had also attended. There is no further progress to report and Highways England are still referring to the 2015 map. Councillor Sweetland also mentioned that he had met with KCC and Bob Lane (Shorne Parish Council) they discussed the roundabout at A226 and the need for HE to consider more tunnelling and covering. Some early drilling had been taking place in Chalk.

Councillor Sweetland emphasised that the Parish could ask for transport meeting to consider any concerns they wish to raise, and a Parish Councillor can attend. Cllr Booth does usually attend but may not be able to attend the next one.

The meetings take place every few months. Cllr Dymond referred specifically to the problems of Sat-Navs directing large vehicles down unsuitable roads. Councillor Sweetland suggested that she looks up Kent Freight action plan on the internet as it contains information about Sat Navs. There appears to be a problem with cheap Sat-Navs which are not very helpful to lorry drivers from abroad. It was also mentioned that there was a need for more legislation for drivers from abroad regarding parking and road tax etc.

Councillor Sweetland spoke about all the resurfacing work taking place in rural areas and upgrades and that thousands of potholes, around Kent, have been filled.

Councillor Sweetland then went on to discuss budgets, £70 million has been taken out of KCC budgets and they now at just under a Billion pounds, things are getting difficult and he referred to elderly care. Some 'spin off' companies have been set up e.g. Invicta law for legal services, Gen 2 for technical support; many areas are being turned over to commercial companies, however any profits made go back into to KCC funds which means the Council tax does not need to be put up. The KCC grant fund stands at £21,000 for all the Parishes – approx. £ 3,000 each. Shorne are using their grant money to install CCTV cameras, Cllr Sweetland explained that it was up to us to decide what we would use any grant money for, if we wanted to use if for the speed-watch equipment we could. KCC will give us £900 and Cllr Sweetland we could apply for another £900 from the grant money (Clerk to obtain the grant application form from Cllr Sweetland). The cost of the traffic management consultant will be approx. £5,000.

Cllr Dyer asked about the cutting of verges/hedgerows and whether the idea was still to devolve this down to Parish Councils. Cllr Sweetland said that the council will still undertake the work, but the service may be less frequent.

The pavements in Manor Road were mentioned again and the clerk will forward the details to Cllr Sweetland.

A parishioner asked about the LED signs that help to slow down traffic, Cllr Ben Smith explained that he had found some reasonably priced signs (lower than the quoted £7,000) that can highlight the speed a vehicle is travelling, he referred to how well the signs work in Belgium.

12 KALC Matters

Cllr Dymond referred to the AGM which is taking place on the 18th November from 9.30am to-2pm lunch included. A motion to establish a 20mph limit in rural villages will be debated.

Devolution has now slowed down. The six local Parish Councils are working together to ensure we get value for money with training. Cllr Dymond asked Parish Councillors to contact the Clerk to let her know which training courses they are interested in.

Any nominations for the Community Awards should be sent to the Clerk before January. The local KALC meeting will be on 17th Oct please let Cllrs Dymond and Smith or the clerk know of anything that needs raising.

13 Matters Raised by Parish Councillors

Cllr Ben Smith would like to see more social media, on Facebook for example to promote the Parish Council and Village events.

Cllr Steve Dyer mentioned that he was trying to sort out what needs to be done for Pension regulator.

Cllr Margaret Haig mentioned that two posts had been knocked over opposite her Cottage on Daffodil Corner – Cllr Smith volunteered to straighten the posts. Cllr Haig also said that the School hedge has been cut back a bit following a request from CPC.

Good news the electricity work that is to take place will no longer need The Street to close after all. The work should be completed on Wednesday 11th October.

14 **Any Other Business** – Nothing raised

15 Finance

Cheques previously signed.

MI Payroll Services	£45.00
HMRC	£160.00
Pkf Littlejohn Auditors	£120.00

Cheques presented at PC meeting 11/9/17

Maintenance Man (Oct)	£120.00
Clerk Salary (Oct)	£213.00

Total **£658.00**

Payments being transferred from Bowls Club - £1,989.55

Cllr Dyer proposed acceptance of the Finance report and Cllr Arnott seconded.

The Next Meeting will be held in the Meadow Room, Cobham on Monday 20th Nov at 7.30pm

Cllr Arnott explained that she will be unable to attend the next meeting.

The Chairman closed the Public Meeting at 9.45pm.....