

COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 15th January 2018

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

CLLR R DYMOND (CHAIRMAN)
CLLR S DYER (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)
CLLR M HAIG
CLLR J BLACKETT
CLLR MIKE BOOTH
CLLR SUE ARNOTT

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs T Sampson (Clerk) and 12 parishioners.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and wished us all a Happy New Year.

1. Apologies for absence: Councillor Samir Jassal GBC, Cllr Ben Smith, Cllr Gabbitas

2. Minutes: The Minutes of Monday 20th November 17 and the minutes of the Budget meeting held on 4 December 17 were agreed as true records of the meetings.

3. Declaration of Interests: None were raised

The Chairman expressed disappointment that Councillor Jassal was unable to be present, but was sympathetic of the reason for his absence. She explained that Councillor Jassal had said at November's Parish Council meeting that a consultation would be held in January regarding the possible development of greenbelt in the area. No Consultation has so far materialised so is likely to be held in February, there have not yet been any meetings.

The Chairman also mentioned the retirement of our Community Warden, Steve Gray. The Clerk is to find out if a replacement has been found yet.

Cllr Booth mentioned that Councillor Jassal was yet to answer questions about the number of houses being considered within the proposed greenbelt consultation, additionally the Councillor still hasn't produced a copy of the map that he fleetingly showed at the meeting. The Clerk has contacted him on several occasions without response.

4. Parishioners Comments: The Chair explained how she wished the meeting to progress and hoped to answer any questions raised within the items on the agenda.

A parishioner asked whether Gravesham clears the drainage pit outside Sundown on Sole Street. Cllr Blackett explained that the drainage and gullies were the responsibility of KCC and that he shared their frustration at the lack of progress in relation to unblocking them.

Another Parishioner mentioned that they would like to see Councillor Jassal's map and some background on what might happen. The Chairman shares concerns and mentioned a possible development on Gold Street. Another parishioner mentioned that she has never been notified of any potential development, but had been told that the owners of the plot opposite her house was regularly looking for planning permission.

The Chairman explained how the notification process worked, with notices being made public etc. Councillor Haig had, like many present at the November meeting, taken a photograph of Councillor Jassal's map and shared it at this meeting. Ideally the Parish Council would like to make the map available on the website, but we do not currently have the permissions to do this.

Concerns were raised that a sign has been put up in an area of woodland just off Manor Road, Sole Street to say that the area is private land and parishioners are concerned that this may be to stop people using the footpath.

5. Precept / Budget: The Chairman went through the discussion held at December's Budget meeting and explained that we would be asking for an increase in our precept, it is the first time in many years. The Chairman also gave information on how our precept compares to other local parishes. The precept requested is £16,560, this will mean the cost to a band D property in Cobham will be £24.51. The Parish Council had considered carefully what was needed and what could be reasonably achieved in the coming year before requesting the increase. A copy of the budget meeting minutes has been published on the Parish Council website.

In relation to the Community Bus, 10 to 11 people are regularly using the bus and enjoying the occasional trip to Bluewater. Our financial contribution to the running of the bus is very beneficial to the community.

6 Matters Arising from previous minutes

- a. **Membership of the Parish Council** There is still a vacancy for a Councillor in Sole Street- if we were to co-opt someone they would have just over a year to serve. The Chairman asked the meeting if they knew of anyone interested in the role and to let her or the clerk know.
- b. **Sole Street footway** - Cllr Dymond is still to meet with KCC, but a survey was undertaken during the 1st week of November, two rubber strips were placed across Sole Street to measure the amount and speed of traffic. KCC said that the survey results did not support the need to make Sole Street a 20 MPH road. However, the Chairman is still looking at the scheme and will see if Amey can look at the results again to support us in our endeavour to have a footway along Sole Street. Plans are still moving in relation to the footway on the Westside of the road, which will help with slowing down the traffic.

Many rural Villages are lobbying for the roll out of 20 MPH for villages and this is going forward as a Bill in the House of Commons.

- c. **Traffic management** – The clerk is having a meeting at 10am on Fri-19th of January with a member of the Traffic & Network Solutions Team, Kent County Council. Some parishioners and parish councillors will try to attend. The meeting is to discuss the placement of a speed indicator device on Sole Street and in Cobham Village.

- d. **Youth Club fundraising** - Cllr Dymond referred to the idea of sharing the cost of the Youth Club with Meopham, but there does not appear to be much to be gained as co-operation is limited to the clubs being held on alternate weeks rather than sharing costs. The Youth club does have enough volunteers, but they ask each year if any parents want to help. Around 20-30 young people currently attend the fortnightly session and there are 40 youngsters on the membership role.

The organisers of the youth club were present and were grateful for the money the Parish Council have donated to them. The club will start to fundraise, they know the overheads etc are and they think they need to fundraise about £500 a year. Unfortunately, they are unable to access a grant to help fund the youth workers from the Grand.

Cllr Booth asked ages of kids and what do they do- the club organisers said that they play games/sports, parties and listen to music. Cllr Booth asked if the young people could be involved in projects around the village, this was well received, and he also mentioned making use of the tennis court/sports club.

7 Committee feed-back –

a. Planning Committee Report

Cllr Dyer spoke about the recent planning cases. The planning sub-cttee will discuss a couple of cases after the public meeting has finished.

The Landlady of the Darnley Arms spoke about their planning application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of part of the northern field for car parking. She is particularly concerned that the pub might close, they have been using the field for 10 years, and the Darnley Arms is the only independent pub in the village. The pub had to buy aerial photographs at a cost of £1,000 in support of their application. Councillors felt that the application should be supported.

b - Footpaths Committee Report

Cllr Arnott said that the footpaths appear to be clear. Cllr Booth mentioned the broken footpath sign near the Village pump, the clerk will report it and see if it can be replaced/saved for the Village.

c - Transport Committee Report

Nothing to report, no meetings have taken place. Cllr Dymond is to attend a meeting with Highways England at the Civic Centre on 18th Jan.

Cllr Dyer gave an update on the trains stopping at-Sole Street- SE trains have all the info regarding the number of Children travelling to school in the morning. The 7.59 train will now continue to Chatham in the morning, this is a partial solution, commuters should note that the morning trains will take longer in the future. One of the trains causing concern in the evening has been re-instated, but there will still be a problem with Blackfriars trains in the evening.

d - Meadow Room Report

No Meetings have taken place and there is nothing to report.

e - Playing Fields Report

Cllr Dyer referred to the playground refurbishment and how good the paintwork and extra equipment looks. The matter of grass cutting should be raised at the next meeting.

GBC Matters

Nothing to report as Cllr Jassal was not able to be present. The Chairman highlighted that Gravesham Borough Council has been criticised for not supporting the rural areas in relation to the Lower Thames Crossing.

Cllr Dymond is to attend a meeting to discuss air pollution with Highways England. She suggested people visit the BBC website to check on air pollution near their house.

Cllr Haig raised a recent newspaper article in which the possibility of a tram route across the Thames was mentioned. No further information is available.

KCC Matters

Councillor Sweetland was not present. The matter of the 311 bus being cut had been raised and Councillor Sweetland had responded to reassure parishioners that the bus was not being cut, however this does not now appear to be the case. The matter of the late running school bus was also discussed. Red route buses to be contacted.

KALC Matters

The new DPA Bill is having its third reading in the House. There are discussions around the charges for data registration. Additionally, the Chairman raised concerns that KALC feel that clerks should not be the Data Protection officer for Parish Councils. The Cobham Clerk is due to undertake some DPA training soon.

Matters Raised by Parish Councillors

Cllr Haig mentioned that the Cobham drains are blocked, some flooding is occurring outside the Old Forge/opposite the school.

Cllr Booth mentioned that the Parish Pump's inscription stone needs a scrub or jet wash. He also mentioned that the spout has been broken off the front of the pump. The Clerk to check with Cllr Gabbitas to see if she knows someone that can restore it. He also asked if the maintenance man could clear the leaves around the pump.

The Chairman was asked whether the accident we were told about at November's meeting had been officially logged. The Chairman confirmed that she had logged it with KCC.

Cllr Booth also mentioned the problem of litter along Watling Street and the need for a road sign on Scotland Lane. The meeting was also pleased to hear that the Cobham post box had been repainted.

The Chairman asked parishioners to consider what might be the Parish Council's legacy, she personally wants it to be the Sole Street pathway, but would be happy to hear any other ideas.

Any Other Business

Cllr Dyer referred to the train timetables- which I have incorporated in the transport report above.

Finance

Cheques previously signed.

KALC DPA Workshop for Clerk and Chairman	£72.00
Maintenance Man	£150.00
Clerk Salary	£213.00
Gullands (legal costs for the transfer of Public toilet's lease)	£540.00
PKR property Services Ltd (Refurb of children's play area	£720.00
Clerk's stationery costs (printer ink, postage etc.)	£68.50
Payroll Services (MI)	£45.00
EDF Bill -sports club	£651.18

Cheques presented at PC meeting 15/01/2018

Clerk's Pay	£213.00
Maintenance Man	£120.00 * late addition
Total	£2,792.68

Cllr Dyer proposed the acceptance of the finance report and was seconded by Cllr Arnott.

The next meeting will take place on the 5th February at 7.30pm in the Meadow Rooms Cobham

The Public Meeting finished at 9.30 pm

SignedThe Chairman