**COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 2014/15 (NO 9)**

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in

The Meadow Rooms, Cobham on

Monday 9th March 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 J GILESCLLR ELLIS

**IN ATTENDANCE:** MRS K LANE (CLERK)  
CLLR A MOORE (GBC)  
JONATHAN IRELAND (NATIONAL TRUST)

10 + Parishioners

Cllr Alan Rowe opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Dyer, Cllr Sweetland and Speedwatch Group.
2. **Minutes: to confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th February 2015.** All agreed and signedby the Chairman Cllr Alan Rowe.
3. **Declaration of Interest:** None
4. **Parishioners Comments**

Parishioner Len Freeman mentioned a compound that the National Trust has built behind his property (Lodge Lane). He described it as a 60m x 20m compound for storage and wood cutting. He said it was in full view of his property.

Mr Freeman explained that he had spoken to Jonathan Ireland about it and told him that it should have been discussed before it went up. He said he has now also been told that security fencing is going to go round the outside - the anti-vandal steel mesh type – very industrial looking. He felt that samples should have been shown to the Planners first.

Cllr Rowe said that when he originally heard about the National Trust’s plans, he and Cllr Glenister went to take a look. He was surprised to be told by GBC that the National Trust did not require planning permission for the compound. He said that in future the National Trust have said that timber will be logged in the woods.

Jonathan Ireland came to the meeting to explain the situation. He said the compound is just an area to protect machinery. He stated that the compound in in fact 30m x 20m and explained that when positioning it he had tried to move it to the side, away from view. He said that there would be a 2m security fence around it but he had just placed an order for some large trees to try to landscape around it. He said he was not intending to build a barn or anything else and he was trying to do what he can to mitigate impact.

Cllr Glenister asked whether the Planning Officer was aware that the fence would be 2m high. Jonathan confirmed that he did. Cllr Moore said that a 2m fence could be erected without planning permission.

Mr Ireland was asked about the surface that was put down. He explained that the surface was not permanent eg limestone chippings to suppress the weeds but the idea being that the compound could one day be lifted and removed and the area then put back to grass.

Mr Freeman made the point that £500 does not buy many trees and would not provide much cover. He also said he was still concerned about the fence. Mr Ireland stated that it would be powder-coated green to blend in with surroundings as much as possible.

Cllr Rowe asked whether GBC had seen samples. Mr Ireland said ‘no, they had not asked.’

Cllr Dymond asked whether there would be a roof on the compound. Mr Ireland said ‘no.’

Whilst Mr Ireland was still present, Parishioner Jean Coulter took the opportunity to mention the Chestnut Tree and Holly Tree at Yeomans which are overhanging into St Mary Church room and need cutting back. She also mentioned the wooden fence with ivy growing through it. Mr Ireland said he would look into it.

Mrs Coulter also mentioned a pothole around a drain cover opposite Copper Beeches, No. 1 Greenlands. ***Clerk to report***

One Parishioner said that a new Manor Road sign was needed. Cllr Rowe explained that there is a spare one still in his garage. ***Clerk to ask GBC to erect it.***

Harry Seaford mentioned the danger of walking along Sole Street from Scratton Fields to Round Street. Cllr Rowe said it was his one regret that he had not managed to successfully get a footpath here during his Chairmanship.

Mr Seaford also thanked the Parish Council for the sign on the wall outside the Church.

Another parishioner mentioned an issue of dog fowling along Manor Road and into Sallows Shaw. There are dog bins and it seems to be more of a problem with people just being too lazy to clear up. It was discussed and decided that we should ask for some small signs for existing posts. ***Clerk to ask GBC***

One Parishioner mentioned Jeskyns parking issues and the fact that people have been parking opposite. Cllr Rowe said that when the Forestry Commission took on the land we were assured that there would be no building and no parking charges. Café and parking charges have since been introduced.

Cllr Moore explained that he had put Denise Bird, Jeskyns Ranger in touch with Nick Brown at GBC as Mrs Bird would like GBC to start enforcing the parking restrictions.

Some Parishioners mentioned that people are now parking in Church Road, Battle Street and Round Street too and parking is likely to be pushed further out.

1. **GBC**

Cllr Alex Moore explained that there was a recent Budgetary meeting. Council tax had gone up 1.7%, as well as council tenancy increases. He said that car park charges would be remaining the same this year. He also reported that GBC have installed solar powered bins in town. They work by sending an automatic email to the waste depot when full!

He explained that he has dealt with the other issues that he had been asked to look into including the dog bin, hedges etc.

Cllr Smith said she had seen the parking area in Scratton Fields and thought it looked really good. Cllr Rowe said the residents were happy.

Cllr Ellis asked about the new refuse system and how it was working. Cllr Moore reported that it was working well and proving quite successful. Recycling levels up to 30-40%.

Cllr Glenister asked Cllr Moore to please ask the parking attendant to help tackle issue with people using the short-term parking bays opposite the shop in Sole Street for long-term parking. He feels that if cars are ticketed then this will help deal with the problem.

Cllr Glenister complained about the fact that the refuse men seem to be throwing the orange bins down and then driving off. The bins are small and hard to see in the dark causing a trip hazard.

1. **Matters Arising from previous minutes**

**Speedwatch**:

The Speedwatch team presented at the last meeting and since then a site meeting had been arranged. Bryan Sweetland, two KCC Highways representatives and two speedwatch representatives, Rosemary Dymond, Lynn Ellis and Cllr Rowe walked through the village to look at the suggestions put forward by the Speedwatch team and consider how practical/viable they were etc. Cllr Rowe said there were some first class suggestions that had been put forward. KCC Highways would now be coming back with a written report on what could be done.

Cllr Ellis said that the report would include costings. Anything that we could not do immediately due to cost could be addressed at a later date.

Cllr Rowe said that Bryan Sweetland had agreed to spend £3000 of his budget on road safety improvements in the village.

Cllr Dymond said that the group spent almost two hours walking through the village and it was a thorough investigation into things like where bollards could go, road markings etc. The report would put the ideas in order of recommendation.

Cllr Rowe said that the Parish Council could probably help as well but said he would not be committing to any figure at this stage.

Cllr Ellis mentioned the wider problem of speeding between Sole Street and Cobham. Cllr Rowe said that there was no weight restriction sign at the end of Green Lane.

**Mobile police station**:

It was reported that the police had responded to the request to move some of the mobile police stations to the village. One suggestion was to have them pull-in opposite the school where the mobile library stops.

**Annual Parish Assembly**:

It was reported that the APA is scheduled for 13th April at 7.30pm in the Meadow Rooms.

**Gravelled area in Halfpence** **Lane :**

Cllr Rowe said he has asked everyone he can think of but no one knows anything about it. **Clerk to** ***write to Clive Gilbert and ask for someone to take a look***. Cllr Rowe questioned whether he should have applied for planning permission as the gates are on a classified road.

1. **Ongoing items**

**Playing Fields**

Cllr Dyer to prepare report for the APA.

**Footpaths**

Cllr Ellis explained that a Parishioner had raised an issue about a rope partially restricting access to a footpath near Round Street (presumably to prevent horses escaping as the Footpath goes through paddocks). Cllr Dymond looked at the photograph and said she did not feel that it constituted an obstruction as the rope could be moved.

Cllr Ellis also said there appeared to be an electric fence near the gate but there were no warning signs up. ***Clerk to ask County footpaths about the rope and signage etc***.

**Transport**

It was reported that one of the Community Bus drivers had stepped down. ***Clerk to put ad in Parish Magazine.***

**Planning**

GBC Decisions

*20140519 56 The Street Cobham* Application for Listed Building Consent for completion of structural remediation works to western elevation, to include replacement of defective timber wall members, closure of existing fireplace and reinstatement of external lime render/internal lime plaster finishes. Opening up of fireplace to eastern elevation to include remedial works to existing brickwork and timber panelling. Permitted.

*20141082 White Post Farm, White Post Lane Sole Street*. Use of the land for stationing of a caravan for security purposes. Permitted.

*20141183 3 Manor Road Sole Street Cobham.* Creation of a first floor level, incorporating three dormer windows and two roof lights in the side roof slopes at first floor level, to provide bathroom and three bedrooms, one with an ensuite at first floor/roofspace level and erection of a two storey side extension to form garage and utility room with home office in the proposed roofspace/first floor level over incorporating a dormer window in the rear roof space and two rooflights in the front roof slope and single storey rear extension to form lobby. Permitted.

CPC Comments

*20150019 The Ship Inn, The Street Cobham*. Application for Listed Building Consent for the external redecoration to main building and the barn at the rear and internal redecoration to ground floor only, incorporating minor modification to bar server counter. Cobham Parish Council has no objection.

*20150019 The Ship Inn, The Street, Cobham*. REVISED DESCRIPTION. Application for Listed Building Consent for the external **r**edecoration of main building and internal works to ground floor only, including removal of servery counter and rear counter to provide additional seating area, installation of new small rear counter to form coffee station together with new small front bar counter in timber with a low level access gate, installation of replacement floor coverings including timber boarding and tiling, installation of new feature wall boarding, new pendant light fittings over counter and blocking up of window serving the ladies toilets and window serving the bar area. Cobham Parish Council objects to the proposal to display exterior illuminated signs in the Cobham Village Conservation Area.

**Neighbourhood Forum**

Nothing to report

**Jeskyns**

Already discussed.

**Parking**

Nothing further to report

**Speeding**

Nothing further to report

Lay-by was discussed. Debated whether logs should go there to stop people parking for the station. It was agreed that soil would be a better option to bank the area up. ***Clerk to ask Richard Gagg.***

**KALC**

Nothing to report

**Correspondence**

We received a letter from the Kent Wildlife Trust asking for a voluntary warden to look after Cobhambury Nature Reserve. ***Clerk to advertise on website and in Parish Magazine.***

**Matters raised by Parish Councillors**

Cllr Glenister asked if the Parish Council could write to South Eastern re the fence on the Ptch of land at the end of the road. ***Clerk to action.***

Cllr Ellis asked if the Parish Council would consider placing a sign on the patch of grass by Copthall/Dabbs Place filed to recognise its historical significance. ***Clerk to ask Forestry Commission*** if we can erect sign on their fence. Cllr Glenister to ask his neighbour about making a sign.

Cllr Haig reported that a fence was down at the end of Battle Street – one which backs on to Jeskyns. ***Clerk to tell Denise Bird.***

Cllr N Haig reported that the setts in the road at Lodge Lane are in a bad condition again. Cllr Rowe said he would speak to Cllr Bryan Sweetland again about what could be done.

1. **Any other business**

Cllr Rowe mentioned the upcoming elections. He also talked about the Chairman’s meeting and what items the other Councillors would like him to raise. One was Whitepost Farm and one was the black sack deliveries.

Cllr Rowe also spoke about the archiving of the historical files. NALC had not been much help with this but he said they could stay at Sole Street House for now but at some point the Parish Council would need to decide what happens to them long-term. Cllr Giles suggested storing them underneath the stage at the Meadow Rooms.

A Parishioner had asked whether the Parish Council would consider putting in some gravel/hard area by the pond for parents to stand when collecting children from the bus as this area is currently very muddy. It was felt that as this is not an official bus stop it would not be safe to encourage people to use it.

The risk assessment for 2015 was considered by all Councillors. Councillor Dymond proposed and Cllr Glenister seconded its approval and signing.

1. **Finance**

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

**09/02/15 Meadow Room hire £72.50**

**21/02/15 All Seasons Projects (fence posts) £240.00**

**02/03/15 EDF Electricity £351.50**

**09/03/15 Clerk’s salary £250.00**

**09/03/15 Maintenance person salary £130.00**

**Total £1044.00**

**As there was no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.**

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

**The next meeting is on Monday 27th April at 7.30pm in St Mary’s Church Room, Sole Street.**