

**Minutes of a meeting held on  
Monday 19 November 7.30PM  
Meadow Rooms Cobham**

**Present**

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Cllr R Dymond (Chairman)</b> | <b>Cllr S Dyer (Vice Chair)</b> |
| <b>Cllr J Elliott</b>           | <b>Cllr B Smith</b>             |
| <b>Cllr M Haig</b>              | <b>Cllr M Booth</b>             |
| <b>Mrs T Sampson (Clerk)</b>    | <b>7 Parishioners</b>           |

**1 Apologies for absence**

Cllr M Mason, Cllr J Blackett, Cllr G Gabbitas and Community Warden Paul Hassel.

**2 Minutes:** to confirm the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> October meeting-

Proposed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman

**3 Declaration of Interests** -none

**4 Parishioners Comments** – *items not already identified on the agenda.*

- A parishioner raised an issue with overgrown vegetation on a property on Manor Road, the hedge- is obstructing the pavement and it has not been cut all year.  
ACTION Cllr Dyer to take forward.
- A parishioner highlighted that the 30 MPH signed by Sweeps Hole is hidden behind the BT box and asked whether it could be moved to the other-side of the road.  
ACTION Clerk to contact KCC.
- The same parishioner also had a concern that the Speed Indicator Device (SID), since being positioned near Scratton Fields, does not appear to be picking up all vehicles. However other parishioners felt it was working fine.  
ACTION Clerk to check with Cllr Blackett who is keeping an eye on the SID.
- Parishioners mentioned an increase in dog fouling along Manor Road  
ACTION Chairman to mention at forthcoming Chairman's meeting. Clerk also to report.
- A parishioner mentioned pot holes where the road goes into Dadds Place from Henhurst Road at the apex.  
ACTION Clerk to report

**5 Matters Arising from previous meeting**

**a. Parking:** Greenlands – update from Chairman

The Chairman mentioned that evidence from previous records indicate that this is an issue that has been going on for some time and that no easy solution has been found yet. Another parishioner stated that although they were sympathetic to the situation in Greenlands they had concerns that the cars would then be parking inconsiderately on Manor Road, where there is already an issue and where home owners had to pay to get white lines painted to stop parking across their driveways, but this hasn't helped. The white lines act as a reminder but are not in any way legally effective.

The Clerk explained that there were currently 97 permits operational in Sole Street. A parishioner asked how permits are allocated. The Clerk explained: One waiver permit is issued if the property has off street parking available. If no off-street parking is available, two waiver permits can be issued. There are no separate resident or visitor waiver permits, a waiver permit can be used by a resident or visitor.

With each application proof of residency dated within the last three months needs to be provided. Proof can be in the form of utility bills, bank statements or tenancy agreements etc. Permits will not be issued unless the proof of residency is provided.

The system is checked to see how many permits have already been issued to the property prior to issuing the new permit.

Cllr Elliott asked if it was possible to get some feedback from the permit holders to see how things work from their perspective. Parish councillors agreed with the proposal of asking GBC to contact permit holders on the PC's behalf, so they can gain some insight of how the system works for the users. Scratton Fields has a serious problem as mentioned by visitors to the Community Warden surgery.

A parishioner asked how much the permits cost.

A parishioner suggested that a strategic review was undertaken to identify capacity against demand.

ACTION Chairman to raise at the Chairman's meeting, if not possible the Clerk to also speak to GBC.

**b. Community Warden Surgery** -update from Paul Hassell/Clerk.

A report from Mr Hassell was read out. The warden surgery was attended by five members of the public including a Neighbourhood watch member. The main complaint was about parking issues these have already been highlighted by the Parish Council. Parking on the Pavement, the enforcement team at Gravesham have been notified regarding this problem parishioners advised to contact Police on 101 if causing an obstruction. New Neighbourhood watch signs, I can assist with replacing old signs with new, but we are not allowed to go up ladders. (due to health and Safety). General response was good and that this was a good idea to have a surgery with members stating that they would attend the next meeting on 7 December.

**c. Village Pump** – cost of repairs.

As mentioned at the previous meeting the anticipated cost of the repairs would be approx. £1,200. The clerk explained how difficult it had been to get further quotes for such a specialist job and asked if the PC if it was happy to go with the quote the chairman had obtained for £1,132 plus VAT. Cllr Booth asked if the money could be spent elsewhere seeing as we have passed the armistice commemorations and it had been hoped to do the repairs before. The Chairman put the matter to a vote and the majority agreed to have the work done. ACTION- Chairman to commission the work.

**d. Speed Indicator Device**- update Cllr Blackett

Cllr Blackett was unable to be present but has provided the following information. The Sid has been installed in Cobham, monitoring vehicles coming past Owletts into the village. This is an update on last month's data for the same position and covers data from 29th September until 21st October 2018.

The incoming average speed during daytime is around 32 mph, rising to 36 mph in the small hours. The peak time is during the evening between 7pm and 8pm, when there are circa 400 vehicles per hour. There isn't a real morning peak, but traffic levels are around 180 vehicles per hour. The vast majority of vehicles are recorded at less than 40 mph, however there are a few recorded at up to 80 mph. Some of this data may be affected by half term and the clock change. Also, the condition of the A2 affects the data. Once we have had the SID installed at all 5 locations, a much more detailed report will be produced.

The Chairman said that other local rural parishes had shown an interest in purchasing the same device.

**e. Lower Thames Crossing- update Chairman**

The Chairman asked the LTC community engagement officer to provide some briefing on the info van's visit to our area which she then read out:

The LTC Community Information Bus visited the Meadow Rooms Car Park and Sole St Station on Thursday 15 November and received 135 visitors.

Residents had mixed views on LTC, their primary concern being the potential increase in traffic rat-running through the village which they state is already being used as a major rat-run when the A2 blocks up.

Other issues raised:

- A2 junction design
- Concern about potential damage to listed buildings in Cobham
- Inability of the narrow streets to cope with two-way traffic now
- Rat-running on the A227
- Access to/from Wainscott Bypass
- Air and noise quality
- Blight and impact on value of properties

Some residents have voiced concerns about the potential traffic impacts on Sole Street Village as a result of the proposed LTC and have been asking for the exact traffic figures forecast.

Please see LTC's response below:

Listening to community feedback, we have already removed the previously proposed junction with A226, specifically to limit the impact on local roads. We know that this is a key concern for residents and we take it very seriously.

We are working closely with Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council who manage the local road network regarding all aspects of Lower Thames Crossing, including any possible impact it may have on traffic on local roads, and on road safety issues.

As part of those ongoing conversations both the borough and county council will evaluate the traffic model data in order to understand the potential local impacts. As that data is part of ongoing detailed technical conversations we are unable to provide the information you are seeking. However, the Traffic Forecasts Non-Technical Summary in our consultation materials does provide average forecast traffic flows in order to provide an overview of the work carried out by Highways England to assess the need for, and impact of, the Lower Thames Crossing project on the road network.

We will be discussing these concerns with Cobham and Meopham Parish Councils, and as discussions on local road impacts are likely to be ongoing, we will keep them informed on any developments.

A parishioner said it would be useful to have our own statistics to compare with the LTC stats and to also find out the ratio of residents to cars.

Cllr Blackett went to a meeting with local rural Parishes regarding the Lower Thames Crossing.

Cllr Dyer read out Cllr Blackett's notes:

Comments from a Shorne Parish Councillor -

- 1 Raised concern over the construction sites in terms of noise location and access
- 2 The junction with the A2 is very poor for Gravesenders going east - the impact of the present scheme is difficult to assess
- 3 Concerned about the Thong Lane crossing
- 4 Happy that the tunnel portal was extended. (There was much discussion as to if it could be further extended by tunnelling or cut and cover - the longer the better)
- 5 Raised concerns over traffic levels in Thong Lane and The Ridgeway, both during construction and in the longer term.
- 6 The traffic model doesn't show much change to the flows on the A227, is this correct and what about when things go wrong?

Comments from a County Councillor

- 1 Much of the traffic comes from Dover, how does this get to the new tunnel? (There was acceptance by all that there needs to be improvements to the M2 / M20 link roads, especially Bluebell Hill. Also, the M25 / A2 link for northbound traffic wanting to go east onto the A2).
- 2 Concerned over the lack of modelling for when things go wrong - the Dartford tunnel is blocked north bound almost daily at the moment.

Further Comments

A contributor talked about noise pollution and the various mitigation's that can be put in place.

Further Comments

A contributor commented most on the Bluebell Hill junction - all agreed that this was an issue and would need to be addressed, but not as part of this project.

Comments made by a member of the LTC development Team

- 1 Likes our group and encouraged us to continue
- 2 Was pleased that we accepted the road and were now looking at the project constructively
- 3 Recognised that everybody was looking to get the best result for the nation and for locals
- 4 Encouraged everyone to complete the survey - but don't just put "NO". It doesn't help anyone.
- 5 Raised the issue of hardship cases and encouraged anyone affected to register with the project
- 6 Tunnelling will be from the north side, so all spoil from the tunnel will come out north of the river.
- 7 Digging on the south side will be removed on the south side
- 8 Tim stated that he needs to do everything to the letter of the law to avoid delays by unnecessary legal challenges.
- 9 The junction with the A2 is the most complex junction Highways England have ever attempted, being patient and constructive with comments will help enormously.
- 10 The issues for Gravesenders wanting to go east onto the A2 are difficult and need to be resolved (There were discussions as to what other benefits there may be to counteract this access issue, but little on the positive side - just to say that the junction layout was far from finalised)
- 11 I see the benefits of a longer tunnel and will do my best to make it as long as possible (but I suspect there will be some financial limitations, which may limit that).

12 There were discussions about traffic modelling - Tim said that this project has the best ever traffic modelling done for any road in the UK (He was quite proud of that)

General comments and discussion -

- 1 The issue of toll charges was raised, but there is nothing set at this stage
- 2 There would be no PFI elements to this project
- 3 There is a preference to employ locally - Gravesham have been prompted to be ready to take advantage of this in terms of facilities available for employees - accommodation - shops etc
- 4 The project is in conversation with colleges and universities to source skills
- 5 There is an issue with HS2, Hinkley and later Heathrow taking valuable resources.
- 6 The construction team is likely to be 400 to 600 strong

**f. Footway Sole Street - update Chairman-**

The Chairman explained that KCC will not allow the footway due to the cost, they have also said they will not support, financially the development of a safe area for school children catching the bus as it was stated that there were not enough accidents in the area reported. Parishioners were urged to provide details of any accidents they are aware of the Parish Council as there appears to be a lack of accident records for the area.

Cllr Booth said that the reports KCC undertook were flawed and it only supports their arguments, he suggested that the PC escalated the matter within KCC.

**ACTION** – Cllr Booth to construct a letter/argument regarding the KCC reports going forward. (To be discussed at the January meeting).

**g. Children’s playground repairs – update Cllr Dyer/Cllr Smith**

Cllr Smith will repair the musical toy. Cllr Smith has provided the Clerk with a contact number for a company who may be able to assist with the repair of the rubber matting.

**ACTION** clerk to make contact

**Committee reports**

**Playing Fields Committee Report** – Bench sets need looking at and they are being used as a dumping ground.

**ACTION** Cllr Smith will look with a view to clearing the site.

**Footpaths Committee Report** A parishioner mentioned the steps from the orchard NS 187 near the corner of Round Street on to Sole street are broken and unstable.

**ACTION** Clerk to report

**Local Traffic Report** – Nothing to add to previous discussion.

**Planning Committee Report** -It was agreed by the Parish Councillors that Cllr Elliott should join the Planning committee.

The planning report was then read out by Cllr Dyer.

REFERENCE NO. 20181082 **Oldlands Barn, Gold Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent**

Application for the approval of condition 5 attached to planning permission reference no. 20180313 relating to details of roof lights proposed in the northern roof slope.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

REFERENCE NO. 20181126 **Homelea, Halfpence Lane, Cobham, Gravesend Kent**

Conversion of existing garage into habitable rooms, removal of 2no chimney stacks and replacement of all existing windows and external doors.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

REFERENCE NO. 20180756 **35 The Street, Cobham, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3BX**  
Application for Listed Building Consent for the installation of new LPG central heating system including new LPG boiler with LPG bottle site in garden as well as removal of old storage heaters and immersion tank.

**INVALID APPLICATION AT THIS TIME**

**APPEAL-Leighton 20160760**

Appeal to S/S regarding Council's refusal to allow the placement of a Mobile Home/Granny Annex on the Land. **Deadline for comments 5<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Rural Parishes Report** – Nothing further to add to previous discussions.

- 6 GBC Matters – No representative in attendance or report provided The Chairman reminded everyone that the local elections will take place in May, she had leaflets available if anyone was interested in standing for election. Current Parish Councillors to say if they wish to stand again.

The Chairman said that the town's Christmas lights had been switched on and a drum event had recently taken place.

- 7 **KCC Matters** – No representative present or report provided

- 8 **KALC Matters** –

The Chairman explained that the October meeting had been attended by Chief Inspector Andy Gadd (Kent Police). It was also suggested that he might visit Cobham. The CI said that there should be regular PCSO visits.

There was a plan to double the size of the Rural Policing team in Kent. It was also said that the Community Warden Supervisors would be moving into the Community Safety Unit to work alongside the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

PCSO's have recently had newly marked out "wards" assigned to them. These wards have changed slightly from previously areas. Parish Clerks are to be informed of the break-down of new wards. The wards the PCSO's worked in were entirely different to the "Parish Ward" areas, there were between 15 and 20 wards in Gravesham, each should have a named PCSO. The matters of HGVs were raised and the need for something to be done.

At the KALC AGM on 17 November two motions were carried to support the project '20s plenty for Kent'.

- KALC was to act to make KCC a 20 MPH Local Authority requiring KCC to change the interpretation of DFT setting local speed limits guidance to make schemes.
- KALC to lobby Kent Police to delegate enforcement powers to local authorities and/or trained civilians to deliver more frequent and less costly enforcement of speed limits.

- 9 **Correspondence/GDPR: Update Clerk**

The Clerk received some evidence/photographs from a parishioner living in Greenlands of inappropriate parking. GBC's response to the Greenland photographs received was:

'I have asked the Civil Enforcement Officers to ensure that Greenlands (as well as the other roads in the CPZ) is patrolled and any vehicles parked without a permit during the restricted times will be issued a Penalty Charge Notice.

With reference to the vehicle parking partially across a dropped kerb and causing an obstruction, this would be a matter for the Police to enforce. Our Officers can only issue Penalty Charge Notices when a vehicle is parked on a restriction. Obstruction offences is still dealt with by the Police.'

Warden Surgery – The first meeting took place and the Parish Council had agreed to pay for the hire of the room.

### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED-**

- Several emails about the Bollard outside the medieval house Cobham being knocked down- it has now been replaced.
- A Parishioner asked if road signs indicating that there are Deer and Peacocks in the road could be put up around the village. This was discussed and there was mixed feeling about the need for a sign  
ACTION Clerk to contact KCC about possible safety signs.
- Lower Thames crossing – a parishioner asked what action the Parish Council would be taking to ensure the impact of the new Crossing was as small as possible on the village and enquire about contingencies put in place for when things go wrong on the road. This was discussed within the meeting (see earlier item)
- An expression of interest was received from someone wishing to become a Parish Councillor. I explained that we currently have a full complement of councillors, how future vacancies might be advertised and how to apply.
- Further concerns were raised by email by a Greenlands' resident, it appears there are now works vans parking in the cul de sac while work is carried out in Scratton fields.

### **10 Matters Raised by Parish Councillors**

Cllr Haig mentioned that an accident took place last Friday a 4X4 car hit a parked car on Sole Street It was also mentioned that there had been a motor cycle accident outside Sole Street House Motor cycle accident

A parishioner mentioned that a trials bike had been seen performing wheelies along Sole Street.

Cllr Dyer said there had been a problem with an HGV coming through Cobham and damaging a car.

Cllr Dyer asked if a report could be sent to the enforcement officer about White Post farm's tarmacked drive.

Cllr Booth asked about the date of the Budget meeting – which is 3<sup>rd</sup> December He also enquired about the issue with the Water Bills for the Bowls Club, the Clerk explained that the issues were still ongoing.

Cllr Smith mentioned that small laughing gas canisters were being left on the verge – of the Sports Field Car Park.

ACTION- Clerk to ask maintenance man to include this on his next visit.

Cllr Dymond mentioned that the bollard is missing from the corner of the road leading up to Meadow House.

ACTION Clerk to report

Cllr Elliott mentioned that posters were still causing issues with vision of drivers. Cllr had mentioned to the Chairman of the Meadow Rooms.

ACTION Chairman to contact Chairman again.

### **11. Any Other Business**

Armistice Commemoration the Chairman was grateful for all the work carried out by Parishioners to make the Village look so special and preparing and taking part in all the events. The Chairman also mentioned the all-day event in Meadow Rooms on the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov and asked for any exhibits to be passed to her.

Parishioners left the meeting at this point, and a brief discussion took place about improving communications between the Parish Council members.

**12. Finance**

**Receipts**

GBC community toilet grant £600

**Cheques already signed**

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Singlewell Printers WW1 circular.   | £24.00 |
| Smooth and Rugged grass cutting.    | £30.00 |
| Royal British Legion – PC donation. | £50.00 |
| Royal British Legion - PC wreath.   | £18.50 |

**Cheques to be signed**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Maintenance man                                     | £150.00 |
| Clerk's Salary                                      | £301.00 |
| Cllr Mike Booth (reimbursement for safety tape)     | £13.45  |
| Meadow Room Invoice                                 | £30.00  |
| Cllr James Blackett (reimbursement for McAfee).     | £6.22   |
| Singlewell Printers Armistice remembrance programme | £40.00  |

Cllr Dyer proposed the acceptance of the finance report and Cllr Haig seconded.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm.....

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE THE 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER  
BUDGET MEETING FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS