

**Minutes of a meeting held on
Monday 14 January 7.30PM
St Mary's Church Room Sole Street**

Present

Cllr R Dymond (Chairman) Cllr S Dyer (Vice Chairman)
Cllr M Mason Cllr J Elliott
Cllr B Smith Cllr M Haig
Cllr M Booth Cllr G Gabbitas
Community Warden Paul Hassell, PCSO Jo Hartly, PCSO Faye Flood
Clerk Mrs T Sampson and 9 Parishioners

The chairman opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

1. Apologies for absence
Cllr James Blackett
2. Minutes: to confirm the minutes of 19 November and 3rd December 2018
Agreed true record of the meetings.

The Chairman introduced our PCSO, Jo Hartly. Jo explained that she works part time and apologised that she will not be able to attend Monday meetings. Jo also explained that she is trying to get a special constable to carry out speed monitoring in Cobham using a speed gun and it is likely to take place at 9.30am during February on a Wednesday, date to be confirmed, additionally they will try to repeat it one evening in the Spring. The pub car parks will be used to pull over the motorists.

3. Declaration of Interests – None
4. Parishioners Comments – *items not already identified on the agenda.*

The matter of dog fouling on Manor Road was raised. The chairman mentioned the matter at the previous chairman's meeting.

ACTION -The clerk will inform GBC of ongoing issue.

A parishioner raised the subject of litter picking and enquired about the next pick being carried out by the parish council. The chairman said that it is likely to be in March. The parishioner also mentioned that the school playground has a litter problem.

ACTION- Cllr Dyer to mention to the school.

The Parishioner mentioned that 5 people will be undertaking a litter pick on Friday (18th Jan) this is being organised independently, they will be parking in the Ashenbank car park and will work along Halfpence lane. The chairman mentioned the dangers of that road, other councillors also cautioned about safety and the need for high vis jackets, gloves etc. The clerk suggested the parishioner contacted her and if the parishioner was happy to share her contact details, she would put her in touch with staff in GBC and would share the PC's risk assessment if required.

The parishioner has also contacted local MP and Highways England regarding the litter problem and mentioned that a push bike had been dumped along White Post Lane. Cllr Booth mentioned getting some signs put up around the Parish.

Another Parishioner mentioned the blocked gullies along Manor Road.

ACTION Clerk to report dumped bike in White Post Lane and the need for gully clearing and contact GBC regarding posters and signs.

The matter of cars parking on the corner opposite Sweeps Hole was raised it is believed that it could be a work man. The community warden will mention to the police. Pavement parking in Manor Road was also raised and is causing damages to the path and could cause broken bones, the chairman mentioned that it had been brought up at Chairman's meeting. The Community warden explained that vehicle obstructions can be reported to police on 101 and said the more people reporting it the better. Cllr Mason mentioned the number of people parking on Lawrence Drive when there are games on at Cobham football ground. It was suggested that the club should be telling visitors to park in the carpark and not Lawrence Drive.
ACTION -Clerk to mention to the chairman of the sports association.

5. Matters Arising from previous meeting

- a. Parking – Greenlands-** Chair raised the following at GBC Chairman's meeting and read out the response: -

Who is entitled to permits?

Residents of Greenlands, Manor Court, Manor Road, Scratton Fields and Sole Street (between Orchard Cottage on the eastern side, Westbank on the western side and the railway bridge).

Is there a limit to the number of permits a property can have (i.e. if they have four people in the property with four cars, do they get four permits)?

Yes, there is a limit on the number of permits a property can have. Permits are issued based on the property and not per residents. We can issue one waiver permit 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 visitor permits.

Is there an issue of over issuing permits – If a road has room for 20 cars in the road do, we just issue 20 permits, or do we issue as many as are requested so pushing the cars into other roads?

There are no parking bays provided for the Sole Street Controlled parking zone, so we are unable to provide the number of spaces and compare this to the number of waiver permits issued. Available kerb-space for parking would depend on the size of vehicles and how the vehicles have been parked (how large the space between parked cars). The majority of properties within the CPZ have driveways and therefore in the majority of cases only one permit would be issued to a property.

Has a borough wide review been done for the number of permits issued against the number of spaces available?

As spaces are not guaranteed, it has not been necessary to conduct a review on the number of permits issued. I am not aware that we have received previous reports that kerb-space for parking is not available due to the number of vehicles parking with waiver permits, during the one-hour restriction. Therefore, to date it has not been felt necessary to impose further restrictions on the number of permits residents can apply for.

The chairman mentioned that GBC officers have said that they will come out and check Greenlands, Scratton Fields and Manor Road.

ACTION -Clerk to get a date from GBC.

b. Community Warden Surgery -update from Paul Hassell.

Mr Hassell explained that the surgery was going well and hoped that more people will visit during the warmer weather. He said that he had put up some new Neighbourhood signs in Sole Street. Cllr Mason mentioned his own recent experience of crime with items including his car being stolen from the carpark of the Darnley Arms sadly the police response was disappointing.

The warden gave advice about stopping credit cards from being cloned by using a secure wallet. The next surgery will take place in the Church Room on the 1st Feb.

c. Speed Indicator Device

Sadly, Cllr Blackett could not be present, but sent the following brief summary for the meeting: - The speed camera was installed at Scratton Fields, on 6th November 18, facing towards Meopham and removed on 13th January 19. The data has been collected and analysed. It shows peak traffic flows of 500 to 800 cars per hour in the morning peak around 8am and around half those values over a longer period in the evening peak. Speeds recorded vary from 10 to 70 mph, although the clear majority are 30 to 40 mph. Only about 4% of drivers are exceeding 35 mph.

The camera has now been installed in Cobham facing towards the village and is monitoring the speed vehicles exit the village through the chicane.

d. Lower Thames Crossing- update Chairman/Cllr Dyer

The Chairman and Cllr Dyer spoke about the consultation and that 26,000 responses had been received, these will be collated and analysed by an outside independent source. The Parish Council's response was then referred to. A copy of which can be found on the Parish Council website alongside the meeting minutes.

e. Children's playground repairs. Cllr Dyer referred to the work that needs to be undertaken in relation to the rubber matting on the playground. One quote has been obtained with two others needed.

The annual safety report has been received and highlighted a couple of low to moderate risks which the playing fields group will investigate.

ACTION - Clerk to obtain a further quote with Cllr Smith obtaining one also.

Clerk to circulate the playground report to Cllrs' Dyer, Smith and Booth.

f. Forthcoming elections and funding. The chairman explained that the elections will take place in May and that people should make their interests known if they would like to stand as a Parish Councillor.

ACTION -Clerk to obtain and put up notices.

g. Wildlife road signs. Previously a parishioner raised the matter of a stag wandering on to The Street and asked whether warning signs could be obtained. The Clerk followed up on the request and Highways explained that the only sign that might be suitable was the "warning wildlife" sign and the parish council would have to pay the bill of approx. £300, it was agreed that the PC would see if there were any further reports and if necessary, revisit next year. This information has been relayed to the parishioner.

h. Parish councillor's email addresses. It had been hoped that we could check on the progress relating to Parish Council email address for each councillor, however as Cllr Blackett was not present this will appear on the agenda for next month's meeting.

6 Committee reports

Playing Fields Committee Report.

Cllr Smith removed the small gas canisters from the Car park gas canisters, the playground report had been discussed earlier. The clerk provided an update on the recreation ground's water bill.

Footpaths Committee Report – Cllr Dymond said she would be joining Cllr Smith on the footpaths group. The matter of knotweed by the Ship was raised saying that the area was practically clear. The broken steps from the footpath on to Sole Street had been reported.

Local Traffic Report- Cllr Elliott raised the serious accident on the evening of the 13th December on Camer road. Two police cars involved in a chase hit another car.

Planning Committee Report A parishioner had earlier raised the matter of planning permission for a property on Round Street which appeared to be expanding. She was reassured that permission had been sought and given.

Planning Report Dec 2018 /Jan 2019

20181246 Rosebank, Round Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

Erection of a single storey rear extension, erection of detached garage and painted render finish to existing dwelling.

No objection but requested clarification of details

Appeal was submitted in relation to a granny annex at Leighton, Sole Street

The Parish Councils objections remained the same.

20181252 Meadow House, The Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

Application for Listed Building Consent for the retention of a 1.8 high metre panel fence along the eastern side.

Planning group still considering

20181311 Attlee House, White Post Lane, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

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.

Planning group still considering

UPDATE

The Norbond Site appeal was dismissed, and notices were published across the Parish, Facebook and website.

White Post Lane Farm The appeal in relation to the stables and the chalet has been dismissed.

In the matter of the most recent changes to the area – including the tarmacking and the new mobile home, GBC's enforcement officer visited the area and whilst they are aware of the new tarmac driveway, which they are in communication with the owner with no other works were observed.

GBC explained that the owner is claiming that the replacement mobile home is in accordance with the permission granted for the use of the land for the stationing of a caravan for security purposes. This is presently under investigation.

Rural Parishes Report- The Chairman has put in a request for the head of the rural police unit to visit the Parish.

Chief Inspector Gadd said, at a recent meeting, that the police were concentrating on terrorism. The rural parishes share a lot of the same issues -parking, fly tipping and Nitros oxide canisters.

The Chairman also asked the Clerk whether the new maps of the wards had been received.

ACTION- Clerk to follow up.

Cllr Booth asked what was being done about fly-tipping. The chairman said that Higham has a big problem with fly-tipping, but cameras were wrecked. Only 3 prosecutions have taken place. Kent now has an officer for Fly tipping and Gravesham is working closely with Medway. There are six incidents of fly-tipping each day with a cost of £100 for each incident. People should always check for the licence of the person taking their rubbish as they could be prosecuted if the company is not licenced.

7. GBC Matters – no representative and no report received.

8. KCC Matters – no representative and no report received.

9. KALC The chairman explained that KALC were focussing on matters relating to maintaining the rural roads. KALC wants to see Kent become a 20MPH area and allow villages to have the right to ask for 20MPH speed limit. They would like the Police to train civilians on speed enforcement.

A planning conference is being held and Cllr Dymond will be attending and would like a member of the planning group to attend also. Cllr Dymond attended a useful Chairman conference. The Police and Crime Commissioner will be holding a public meeting on the 18th January in the Cricket Pavilion Meopham. It is hoped that the PCC will still arrange a coffee morning in Cobham. The Chairman asked for people to share their own experiences and then she will then raise them with the commissioner. A parishioner recently called 101 to report an incident and it then took 11 days for them to come around.

Cllr Haig raised the threat to our libraries and mentioned the importance of keeping libraries open

10. Correspondence/GDPR: Update Clerk

The Clerk explained that correspondence about road signs, potholes, planning concerns were received, these matters were discussed earlier, and action had been undertaken by the clerk.

11. Matters Raised by Parish Councillors

Cllr Haig mentioned the gully opposite the school needing to be cleared, she also said that the White Lines at the chicane need to be refreshed as people are not taking notice of them. Also, the lighting above the chicane needs to be brighter and the foliage cut back.

ACTION – Clerk to take reports forward.

Cllr Smith said that the kerbs are wearing away at the s bend near Henhurst farm yard the bank is also being worn away and wondered if the Forestry Commission could reinstate. Parking down Church Road is excessive with over 30cars parking on both sides. Could the double yellow lines be extended. A parishioner also said that HGVs are parking there overnight, the warden is issuing tickets, but it is not consistent.

Cllr Elliott mentioned that the Meadow Rooms fence still has the Heart Beeps sign on the left by the entrance, this makes pulling out of the carpark difficult and dangerous.

ACTION- Cllr Smith and Cllr Gabbitas to mention to the Meadow Rooms chairman.

The Chairman thanked Ben for arranging and erecting the Cobham Christmas tree.

12 Any Other Business

Cllr Dymond mentioned that the Parish had received an award as part of the SE in Bloom competition and hopes to enter the parish in the 2019 Village competition. The judging will take place in June. Everything influences the outcome, the overall tidiness and pride of the parish together with community events. Further details of the competition will follow.

13 Finance

Cheques already signed

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| ICO Registration fee | £40.00 |
| MI Payroll | £45.00 |
| Maintenance Man | £150.00 |
| Clerk Salary | £302.03 |
| HMRC | £226.40 |
| Artisan (pump repair) | £1,358.40 |

Cheques to be signed

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|---|---------|
| KALC -Chairman's conference | £72.00 |
| Cobham Parochial Church Council (room hire 1yr Church Room) | £142.00 |
| Maintenance Man | £120.00 |
| Clerk Salary | £301.00 |

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

The Chairman closed the public meeting at 9.30pm.....

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2019 IN THE MEADOW ROOMS COBHAM.