



Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2021

Present – Cllr Mike Booth, Chairman, Cllr Steve Dyer, Vice Chairman, Cllr Margaret Haig,
Cllr Robert Pryor, Cllr Gabriella Gabbitas, Cllr Bennet Smith, Cllr Rosemary Dymond,
Cllr Mat Peterson-Pearce, Cllr Matt Mason, Cllr Tony Rice, GBC, Russ Nicholls, Charles Amis, Clerk

2. The Chairman opened the meeting by reminding everyone that the Annual Parish Meeting must always take place in May and the main purpose of the meeting is to elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. The Annual Parish Meeting also is the time to review the working groups and the members of the working groups.

Cllr Booth was re-elected as the Chairman, proposed by Cllr Haig and seconded by Cllr Dyer. Cllr Dyer was re-elected as the Vice Chairman proposed by Cllr Booth and seconded by Cllr Gabbitas.

Cllr Dymond remains the lead councillor for Cobham with Cllr Haig, Cllr Pryor, and Cllr Booth.

Cllr Dyer remains the lead councillor for Sole Street with Cllr Gabbitas, Cllr Mason, Cllr Peterson-Pearce and Cllr Smith

The chairman stated that the introduction of working groups had successfully benefitted the work of Cobham Parish Council by spreading the work load which had made the council more inclusive, open and transparent.

The **Planning Group** consists of Cllr Dyer, Cllr Haig, Cllr Booth and Cllr Dymond. The planning group required another councillor from Sole Street as most of the councillors were Cobham based. Cllr Peterson-Pearce agreed to join the Planning Group. Cllr Mason proposed and Cllr Dyer seconded.

The **Playing Fields Group** consists of Cllr Booth, Cllr Dyer, and Cllr Smith. Cllr Peterson-Pearce was invited and agreed to join the group. Cllr Booth proposed and Cllr Dyer seconded.

The **Traffic Group** consists of Cllr Mason (Lead), Cllr Booth, Cllr Dyer, Cllr Smith, Cllr Pryor plus two residents of the parish, Tony Rice GBC Cllr & Russ Nicholls. Cllr Dymond requested that she be included. Cllr Booth proposed and Cllr Smith seconded

The **Footpaths Group** consists of Cllr Dymond, Cllr Haig & Cllr Gabbitas. No changes proposed.

The **Local Crime Working Group** consists of Cllr Dymond, Cllr Pryor and Cllr Peterson-Pearce. It was asked what the Crime Working Group wanted to achieve and how does the group report back to the parish council meetings.

Cllr Dymond said the Crime Working Group could meet with the local PCSOs instead of the PCSOs attending parish council meetings. Neighbourhood Watch was being revitalised and there were the Countrywatch and Ewatch initiatives. Cllr Pryor said he struggled in the past to get the crime figures for the parish and Cllr Dymond said the other nearby parish councils had similar experiences. Cllr Haig said in the past residents could report crimes at the village shop which were recorded in a book. Cllr Peterson-Pearce said that people could click on a button on the parish council website to report a crime and this would be taken up by the parish council. A Community Warden, who had police experience, used to hold a surgery at the St Marys Church Rooms before Covid 19 lockdown. Cllr Pryor suggested using the two village shops to hand out flyers and starting a Crime Working Group on Whats App. Cllr Peterson-Pearce asked who parishioners might want to report crime to. Are the parish councillors trying to catch the police out? How does the parish council gather the statistics and why are we challenging the statistics. Russ Nicholls said we need to look at the statistics to see what the issues are and why the observations are incorrect. Cllr Pryor had looked at Ewatch recently but nothing had been reported. Cllr Rice said that parishioners needed to be encouraged to report crimes. Ellie Middleton is doing a better job of reporting local crimes in the monthly newsletter. Residents can search the <https://www.police.uk/> site by entering an address or postcode into 'What's happening in your area' box that brings up the Shorne, Cobham and Luddesdown ward. The police's statistics are not showing the crimes that have been recorded and where there are trends for particular crimes over certain periods of time but we are not seeing any solutions. We are not seeing enforcement and prosecutions data despite the crimes taking place.

3. Conflicts of interest – Cllr Mason declared a planning application for his property.

4. Minutes - Approval of the minutes from the Annual Parish Assembly and April Parish Council Meeting. Cllr Peterson-Pearce had emailed the clerk regarding the wording in the footpath section that needed to be changed around the accessibility of the footpaths between Sole Street and Cobham. The Clerk had actioned this. Cllr Dyer proposed and Cllr Dymond seconded.

5. OTHER MATTERS

Sports Association Lease – Action: Cllr Mason to draft a letter to say that CPC are not responsible for the insurance. CPC need to set up a secure system for recording and storing documents within the web site. **Action: Clerk or Cllr Peterson-Pearce**

Neighbourhood Plan – Action: Cllr Mason will have the main points prepared for the next meeting.

Review of Standing Orders re Social Media – The Clerk had sent the Chairman a draft standing order for social media. **Action:** Clerk to circulate at the next meeting.

Assets of Community Value. – ACV's are land or property of importance to the community and subject to addition protection from development.

CPC submitted two Asset of Community Value forms to GBC for The Ship and Leather Bottle public houses both of which are owned by the brewers Greene King. The Railway Inn, Sole Street is already registered as an Asset of Community Value.

The council discussed registering the Darnley Arms, The Community Shop, and the Little Shop in Sole Street.

Village Sign – Cllr Smith had tried to contact Rods regarding the village sign. **Action:** Cllr Smith to chase Rods again. Cllr Smith to forward email from Rods.

Three village signs would be needed for Cobham, Sole Street and Ifield. Cllr Dymond asked if the locations had been decided. Cllr Booth said CPC had previously spent a lot of time discussing the design and proposed locations of the village sign in the past, without ever reaching a conclusion. The Clerk had circulated the papers from that time.

Road Fatalities – KCC Website/Data Retrieval Team – Action: Cllr Peterson-Pearce to search for road fatalities on the KCC Website

Norbond site – Cllr Peterson-Pearce had not yet received the diary from his neighbour regarding the noise from the Norbond site.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points – Cllr Booth said nothing was likely to happen until Autumn. The Meadow Rooms were also applying for their own charging points.

Sole Street Notice Board – Cllr Peterson-Pearce will refurbish the Sole Street notice board by sanding and re-treating the timber. Only a couple pieces of timber needed replacing. Cllr Smith had replaced the timber a few years ago.

6. **KCC Matters** – Cllr Sweetland was not at the meeting due to the forthcoming KCC elections.

7. **GBC Matters** - Cllr Rice had nothing to report.

8. **KALC/NALC** – Cllr Dymond had attended the KALC Gravesham meeting. There is a petition for fast food restaurants to imprint vehicles registration details on to the packaging. **Action:** Cllr Dymond to ask Charmaine Keatley to send a link about the scheme.

Cllr Dymond asked if CPC had applied for funding from the Government Welcome Back Fund which is being administered by GBC. **Action:** Clerk to investigate the grant funding from the Welcome Back Fund. It was asked if GBC were going to distribute the funding to the Parish Councils. Parish councils will not receive the money direct. Some parish councils had used the money to help families who were in need.

The Clerk had attended the All about the AGAR training course that was run by KALC but it had not been particularly helpful. Cllr Dymond asked if CPC will meet the 30th June deadline for the AGAR and if CPC had paid their subscription to KALC. **Action:** Clerk to arrange payment of KALC subscription.

9. Planning Report

Corner Cottage – no objections

3 Sarcens Close – no objections

Norbond – Cllr Rice said the target date for the determination of the application is 1st June 2021. Cllr Rice had written to Faye Hobbs, the determination officer, and escalated to Kevin Burbage and Wendy Lane. The Planning Officer is visiting the site next week. The site owners have applied for retrospective planning permission. This is unfair for local residents. Cllr Peterson-Pearce asked if CPC could make another statement on why the site owners should not receive planning permission. Cllr Rice said he has informed the case officer that if GBC is bonded to approve the planning application then he will call it in for determination by the Planning Committee and speak against the application.

White Post Farm – The owner had requested two site pitches in August 2020 and is still in the appeal process. There has been no enforcement from GBC when the extra pitches had been put in. Cllr Peterson Pearce said the site owner had planted Leylandii to obscure the view. Cllr Rice said no

enforcement would be carried out by GBC whilst the decision is pending appeal. If the decision is approved then there will be no enforcement. The Planning Inspectorate's response will be in writing and there will be no hearing.

Mast on Batts Road – This was refused by GBC in March.

10. Traffic Group – Mike Booth is meeting with Claire Venner from KCC Highways and Nick May from GBC on 17th May [this date for the meeting has been changed to 21st May]. Cllr Booth went through the list of areas of Cobham Parish to be discussed at the meeting. **Action:** Cllr Booth to supply an agenda. **Action:** Traffic Group to hold a meeting before 21st May.

Cllr Haig said the yellow lines should be extended from the zig zag lines outside the school to the Ship PH. Cllr Peterson-Pearce said he would update the parking strategy. Cllr Peterson-Pearce said there was nothing on the list that included Sole Street. Claire Venner had been dismissive of the roll out of 20 mph speed limits. Cllr Haig said the speed limits were not enforceable. It was suggested the traffic group meet to discuss the roll out of the 20mph limit but this had already taken place.

Cllr Dymond said the traffic along Halfpence Lane and The Street had been horrendous recently due to an accident at the Tollgate junction on the A2. Cllr Booth would ask Claire Venner for the traffic figures for the A2. Cllr Haig said give way signs needed to be installed along The Street so that motorists would know who had right of way. Cllr Peterson-Pearce suggested that Cllr Haig fed this back to the Traffic Group.

Cllrs Booth, Dyer and Dymond are attending a meeting with the Lower Thames Crossing Monitoring Team.

11. Crime Group – A third PCSO is due to start in our area.

12. Playing Fields Group – Cllr Booth had spoken to John Pelham, KCC Rights of Way regarding the new fence and the contractor will start work soon. The Japanese Knotweed was starting to grow again and the contractors will be returning to spray again. The playground repairs are on hold although two quotes have been received from playground companies. Cllr Peterson-Pearce is waiting for a third quote and will be looking for grant funding to off-set the cost of improvements to the playground.

13. Public Toilets – CPC are waiting for two more quotes from cleaning companies.

Cllr Booth said he would be looking for volunteers within the village to close the toilets on a daily basis. The appointed cleaning company would open and clean the toilets before 8am each day.

Cllr Dymond said NALC are trying to stop the business rates for public toilets. The Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill is on its second reading in the House of Commons. There had been no business rates for 2021-22 due to the toilets being closed.

Action: Clerk to find and circulate the business rates bill for 2021-22 from GBC to assure councillors.

14. OTHER VILLAGE MATTERS

Meadow Rooms - The Meadow Rooms are fully booked for every weekend until September.

St Mary's Church Rooms – Cllr Booth said the Funding Group are waiting for confirmation that the architect has lodged the building regulation.

Church – Cllr Smith had picked up the materials left by the contractor who had been resurfacing the churchyard path.

15. **Correspondence** – There was no correspondence

16. **Parishioners Comments** – No parishioners were in attendance.

Meeting continues in private

17. **Finance** – There was no cheque report prepared.

18. Parish Councillors Comments

Cllr Dymond was waiting for a passcode from **Lloyds Bank to set up internet banking**. The wait for Lloyds Bank to respond on the telephone was up to an hour. Cllr Booth had not received a bank card, card reader or pin number.

Cllr Mason asked about the **polite parking notice signs in the Sports Association Car Park**. The car park was very busy on Sunday morning partly due to a group of walkers parking their cars in the car park. The parking issues will increase as the football season has been extended and the cricket season will be starting soon. **Action:** Cllr Smith to speak to Jim Jackson to find out if there would be any clashes between the morning football and afternoon cricket.

The Meadow Rooms are booked every weekend so their car park is not available. The clerk said there was a public car park sign pointing towards The Landway at the junction with The Street and asked if this should be removed.

Cllr Booth had presented Sacha Dyer and Rob Wemyss with their **KALC awards certificates**. Cllr Dymond said she had a nomination for the KALC award for 2022- Cllr Dyer said he had just received an email from the volunteers who ran the youth club.

The Youth Club has been discontinued because it was struggling due to the lack of professional help. Cllr Mason said the next lot of parents needed to volunteer to help run the youth club and professional youth workers were also needed. The problem was finding professional help as the hours and pay were limited. Cllr Dymond said CPC had previously provided funding to the youth club and Cllr Booth said there was no shortage of funding from CPC to help the youth club.

Previously The Grand had provided professional help but they were now focused on youth clubs in Gravesend. **Action:** Cllr Rice to speak to GBC regarding available help for the youth club. Clerk to speak to other parish clerks in GBC regarding their youth clubs.

Cllr Smith raised the **Great British Litter Pick** which runs from 28th May to 13th June. **Action:** Clerk to arrange a date for a litter pick in Cobham Parish.

19. Next meeting will be on Monday 7th June in the Meadow Rooms.