

**Meeting on Monday 8th June 2020 at 7.30pm
A Virtual Meeting held on Zoom due to Coronavirus Lockdown**

PRESENT

**Cllr Mike Booth (Chairman) Cllr Steve Dyer (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Rosemary Dymond, Cllr Gabriella Gabbitas, Cllr Margaret Haig,
Cllr Matt Mason, Cllr Mat Peterson-Pearce, Cllr Robert Pryor.**
In attendance
**Cllr Tony Rice (GBC) Mr Russell Nichols (Parishioner, member of the local
traffic working group) Mrs Tina Sampson (clerk).**

- 1. Apologies for absence received from Cllr Ben Smith.**
- 2. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting of 4th May. Proposed by Cllr Dymond and seconded by Cllr Dyer.**
- 3. There were no declarations of interests.**
- 4. Matters Arising from the last meeting –** The chairman provided a briefing note before the meeting on items to be revisited.

PCSO.

The Chairman raised concerns about policing in Cobham & Sole Street is completely inadequate. A question has been put to GBC. Cllr Dymond said that KALC would be releasing the rural crime report, Cllr Rice has a copy of Kent police's updated Rural Crime Strategy. The matter of PCSO's powers were also raised.

ACTION- Clerk to circulate list of powers.

Waste Disposal Skip – Pepper Hill Waste Site now open and currently using an appointment only system. The bottle bank is now being cleared every other week and the frequency will be reviewed and if the overflow continues more frequent visits will be considered. NFA

War Memorial Cleaning/ Yew Tree – Cllr Booth - The work has been delayed due to Covid 19.

War Memorial – Cllr Dymond has obtained 2 quotes one from a company based in Hampshire £230 and another from a Gravesham company at £150 – it was also suggested that the memorial did not need cleaning.

ACTION- Cllr Dymond to arrange for the lfield memorial to be looked at too.

Bonham Hayes- no decision given yet, clerk to report once received.

Direction Sign/playing fields –KCC explained that there had been a delay in visiting the site due to lockdown, however they have agreed to install a new post with a sign and will be paying for it. NFA

Grass Cutting- Cllr Dymond stated that the judges for South East in Bloom would not now be visiting the parish due to Covid 19. Photographic evidence will be gathered to assist in deciding the quality of the parishes participating.

ACTION- clerk to provide dates for grass cutting so that Cllr Dymond can take a photograph.

Public toilet business rates – A small business rate relief was given by GBC and a rebate of £1,917.79 dating back to 2018 was given with nothing to pay until 2021. When the decision to open the toilets is taken the clerk will investigate legionella testing on the facility.

Defibrillator for Sole Street – Cllr Mason has agreed that electricity from his garage could be used to power the defibrillator, it was decided that moving the old telephone box from Cobham to Sole Street was unnecessary. The council agreed although, the money had not been set aside in the budget, to take this forward.

ACTION -Clerk to get some quotes for a defibrillator and box. Actual position in the area of corner cottage is to be decided.

Community Assets – The Meopham collective have successfully achieved ACV status for the Railway pub Sole Street, but it is unclear who the group is. Cllr Rice provided an explanation of the scheme: A community interest group can nominate a local asset to be granted ACV status, such as a parish council. It then means that if the asset is put up for sale, the community has first call. Or if there is an application for change of use, it will probably be more difficult for the owner to get it. There are only 7 ACVs in Gravesham, 2 are in the parish, the Railway and St Mary's Church Room.

https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/145439/List-of-Assets-of-Community-Value-in-Gravesham.pdf

A nomination can be made online here -

<https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/community-and-leisure/community-powers/community-right-to-bid>

ACTION- Cllr Rice will make enquiries regarding the process and the engagement of the property owner.

Landway to the Playing Fields – The Chairman has obtained a quote to repair and lay 30mm depth of new tarmac – 385 sq mts. Cost £9677.85 plus VAT. This item has not been included in this year's budget. Last time it was done KCC paid 50% and the other 50% was paid by Parish Council. KCC took over responsibility from the education service GBC and Cllr Sweetland suggested that KCC would pay 50% of the cost with the Parish paying the rest.

ACTION- Cllr Booth to follow up with Cllr Sweetland.

Children's Corner – The chairman highlighted the need for fund raising for new playground equipment, he has one quote for re designing and updating the children's corner which will cost in the region of £40k. A

volunteer was requested to take the project forward. Cllr Peterson-Pearce volunteered along with Cllr Gabbitas.

Poplars – adjacent to the landway at the back of Meadow House.

The Chairman explained the Poplars were brought to our attention as being potentially dangerous, however ownership is yet to be determined

Poplars behind Meadow Rooms – An application for a felling license was lodged with GBC recently and there have been a number of complaints.

The Chairman has written to GBC and has spoken with the owners.

The application for a felling license is to be withdrawn and in conjunction with the arboriculturist a management plan will be put in place for this area.

5. Street Closure / Batts Road One Way

The Street is due to be closed on the 1st June for 12 days to allow the connection of Cobham Church to the main sewer. CPC suggested that Batts Road be made temporarily a One Way street from West to East. This was seen as an opportunity to monitor the effect if The Street were to be closed permanently. The diversion signage, however has been unhelpful and it is difficult to gauge whether the scheme was successful.

6. Maintenance man - a new contract/route is being drawn up.

ACTION- clerk and Chairman to take forward.

7. Working Group Reports

Planning – Cllr Mason had received an enquiry about the work carried out at Cranbourne farm, Cllr Dyer checked but there was nothing new on the recent applications, it is thought the work relates to a 2014 application. Cllr Rice will speak with GBC planning to obtain the latest info.

Local Traffic – The traffic consultation survey has received 66 responses along with some emails, Cllr Rice had undertaken some initial analysis and on the whole parishioners from across the parish were pleased that something is being considered. Once the consultation is concluded a HIP (highways improvement plan) form will be completed.

Cllr Matt Mason referred to a meeting held on 4th June with KCC regarding the resurfacing of Sole Street, this is due to take place on the 13th August, however it is yet to be decided on whether work will take place during the day or night.

The colour of the new road surface was discussed and the reasoning behind a new black surface was explained – it is considered easier to repair, white road markings have been deemed more effective on black, the new black surface is also less noisy and safer. Other suggestions included Side lines narrowing the road, painted footpath/cycle lane, painted chicanes, rumble strips and 20 MPH limit.

The water leak on Sole Street will be addressed before the new surface goes down.

ACTION- Clerk to circulate the notes from the meeting.

Parking Charges

Inappropriate car parking is causing a safety hazard and a social nuisance in and around Cobham & Sole Street Parish.

This is mostly as a result of parking charges at Jeskyns and Shorne Country Park. The Chairman has asked what GBC propose to do about this by submitting a question via the parish chairman meeting. NFA

The matter of moving the SID post to a new position was proposed, there may already be a post available in a suitable position, the chair has already discussed with Cllr Sweetland; the clerk explained that KCC would wish to be consulted in the moving or installing of a post. NFA from clerk.

Lower Thames Crossing – The chair had spoken with LTC and a spread sheet is to be sent identifying common issues; these are to be agreed before the DCO (development consent order) process starts. The purpose here is to produce a Joint Statement of Common Ground between LTC and CPC.

Cllr Mason suggested that the consultation around LTC should be put on hold during the Covid 19 emergency to allow people to fully participate.

LTC Legacy Funding –

There are several workshops taking place online to discuss the allocation of legacy funding.

Cllr Dymond will represent CPC at the Heritage workshop.

Cllr Gabbitas will represent CPC at the Environment workshop

Cllr Peterson-Pearce will represent CPC at the Communities workshop

Cllr Mason will represent CPC at the Transport workshop

8. Communications. Cllr Peterson-Pearce provided a brief on a communications strategy for the PC, which councillors are asked to comment on.

Cllr Peterson-Pearce also explained how an adjustment could be made to the website to allow people to report minor traffic incidents and anti-social behaviour. This change was agreed.

The chairman proposed that Cllr Peterson-Pearce take the lead on a communications working group and he also suggested that he and Cllr Dyer be part of it. This was agreed. The instruction to Hugo Fox has been put on hold.

9. Other Reports

KCC Matters – Nothing to report

GBC Matters – Nothing to report

Kent Association of Local Councils – Cllr Dymond mentioned that Cobham was not featured on KALC's list of parishes and their lockdown achievements, unfortunately the clerk had not received any responses to her request for examples.

ACTION- Cllrs to provide examples for the clerk to send to KALC.

Cllr Dymond enquired whether the parish needed to publish reports following the cancellation of the APA (Annual parish assembly). The audit has already been published.

ACTION- Clerk to contact KALC re other reports

10. Correspondence –

The Clerk has received contacts from parishioners regarding Dog Fouling, blocked gullies and activity at the old Norbond site. The clerk has actioned these concerns and is awaiting responses.

The Clerk has also received some comments regarding the traffic survey.

- 1. Finance / Cheques** the chairman thanked the clerk for the conclusion of the Audit. The finance report was accepted by the parish council.

Cheques signed since May's meeting.

Clerk's salary May - £537.69 (pay increase and backdated to include April.

Independent Auditor – £80

Smooth and Rugged – £60 (16th/27th March cuts

Singlewell Printers - £82 (traffic update leaflets)

Awaiting signature

Smooth and Rugged - £30 (18th April cut)

Awaiting Invoice – Maintenance Man

Rebate from GBC/toilet business rates - £1,917.79.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm

Next meeting will take place on 6th July 20. (If possible in the Meadow Rooms. although work is still taking place on the building)