

**Cobham Parish Council Meeting.
Monday 2 March 2020 at 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Room Sole Street**

Present

Cllr Mike Booth (Chairman) Cllr Steve Dyer (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Rosemary Dymond, Cllr Gabriella Gabbitas, Cllr Margaret Haig,
Cllr Robert Pryor, Cllr Ben Smith

In attendance

Cllr Tony Rice, Mrs Tina Sampson (Clerk)

1. **(84)Apologies for absence** – Cllr Matt Mason
2. **(85)Declarations of Interest** - None
3. **(86)Minutes:** to confirm the minutes of the Meeting of 3 February 2020. Agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Dyer and seconded by Cllr Haig.
Report from the Community Warden - Surgery review, Paul Hassell not present.
4. **(87)Matters arising from previous meeting.**
 - (a) Litter pick (Clerk) The litter pick will be taking place on 28th March, meeting at Meadow Rooms at 9.30am.
ACTION - Cllr Smith and Cllr Dymond will be leading the groups and will have responsibility for the equipment which the clerk will obtain from GBC. The clerk will advertise on the notice boards, website and face-book and prepare the risk assessment etc.
 - (b) Defibrillator - training (clerk) Cllr Booth has obtained details for the training provided to the Bowls club.
ACTION - Clerk to contact provider with a view to setting up 2-3 training sessions.
 - (c) Sports Ground – direction sign (Clerk) The request for a sign was refused by KCC on the grounds that they do not think there is a need and do not want to clutter the area with more signs.
 - (d) New Parish Council Logo – It was agreed that Cobham Hall School should be asked to design a new Parish Council logo.
ACTION Cllr Dymond will approach the school with a scope of what is required.

5. (88) Working Group Reports

Planning Group – Lead Councillor Steve Dyer

Planning Applications & Recommendations – Cllr Dyer read out the most recent applications.

REFERENCE NO. 20200126

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Retention of outbuilding.

LOCATION 3 Chapelwood Place, Cobham, Gravesend, Kent DA13 9AG

No objections

20200138

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Erection of a single storey rear extension and pitched roof to replace existing flat roof.

LOCATION 4 Jeskyns Cottages, Jeskyns Road, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

No objection, but plans and details of application were poor.

20200081 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Demolition of existing field shelter and erection of double field shelter to comfortably accommodate two ponies in a better location which will be less prone to damage from the elements. Construction of a concrete base for better support, protection and to increase the shelter's lifespan.

LOCATION 1 Smallholdings, Round Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

No objection

20200198 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Removal of rear conservatory and erection of a garden room with internal changes; replacement of rear doors with additional side windows.

LOCATION Wedgewood, White Post Lane, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

No objection

Neighbourhood Plan & Local development Scheme (Cllr Booth)

Cllr Booth is hoping to hold a meeting with GBC to find out what is being considered in relation to a borough plan. ACTION Cllr Rice offered to follow up with GBC.

Cobham Playing Fields Group – Lead Councillor Steve Dyer

Playground equipment - Update on repairs - nothing happening currently. Cllr Booth will be meeting with the company, HAGS on Wednesday 4th March and will obtain to get recommendations on what is needed and costs to assist with any application to the LTC legacy fund. It might also be something that the community and local businesses can help with. What would Sole Street like from the LTC fund?

Southern Water – update on outstanding account (Clerk) Nothing to report.

Car Park & Landway repairs – Cllr Booth obtained a quote from R&S Ince regarding repairs this will also help in relation to the LTC legacy. Cllr Booth made enquires and established that the land-way into Cobham car park is the joint responsibility of the Parish Council and KCC 50/50. The Bowls club might be able to help after all their development work takes place.

Local Traffic Working Group – Lead Councillor Matt Mason

Cllr Matt Mason was not present, but GBC councillor Tony Rice explained that our consultant has produced a report in three parts.

The first part relates to analysis of the current situation and has identified significant problem with the high volume of traffic and KCC have now acknowledged the problem and has a better understanding.

The second part gives some options on what could be done and these will be taken to KCC. The local traffic group should complete their discussions on the report in next two weeks. Then rest of the PC will be given the opportunity to discuss how to move forward. It is hoped that a public meeting will be held in the Meadow Rooms.

Cllr Booth took the opportunity to thank Cllr Rice for all the work he has undertaken.

Cllr Smith confirmed that the SID is working and he is downloading the stats and changing the battery on a weekly basis, stats show an average of 600 vehicles on a normal day peak time, much higher when something happens on the A2.

Additionally, an air monitoring device has been placed in the village for two or three months but there have not been any stats generated yet.

Lower Thames Crossing – Cllr Rice mentioned the LTC events and Cllr Booth agreed that due to the amount provided at the recent Cascade event, the Parish Councillors were unlikely to gain much from having the planned meeting on Wednesday 4th so it would be postponed until after Easter.

Cllr Booth highlighted that parishioners were still able comment as part of the supplementary consultation. Cllr Rice explained that after the consultation, LTC will start the DCO (Development Consent Order) process in June 2020 which will allow the independent planning inspector to look at it before LTC can approach the Secretary of State for planning approval. Cllr Rice said that it is best if the PC, as a group, put in a written statement asking to be considered as an interested party. This means the group would be able to attend the meeting. Individuals who will be living with the effects can also put in a statement as an interested party and it is quite simple to do. A 200-500 letter expressing your input is what is needed. It is important that the Parish Council go in strongly in response to the consultation, concentrating on mitigation of the increased traffic problems, asking to see the LTC programme, what investment in technology like CCTV.

LTC had a meeting with GBC and Cllr Rice disagreed with the traffic models and they have agreed to make Cobham and Sole Street a model. Cllr Pryor asked about any service area development in Kent and the tollgate area had been mentioned as a possible site, although there wasn't and confirmation of this.

SID (speed indicator device) – discussed earlier in meeting nothing to add.

Air Monitoring – mentioned earlier in the meeting nothing further to add.

LTC - Meeting for Parish Councillors. New date to be confirmed for a month's time.

Cobham – Lead Councillor. Rosemary Dymond

- a) War Memorial and adding names, Cllr Dymond still needs to confirm the village history of the gentleman whose name is to be included, however she has arranged for a -company to visit the memorial to check the space and provide a cost.
- b) Planters – GBC are happy with the planters from a heritage point of view. The clerk has contacted KCC regarding the positioning of the planters and is awaiting response from KCC
- c) The Village Pump Reservoir – Following a discussion with the Land Registry it has been established that the reservoir belongs to Meadow House.
- d) Repairs to the tablet inscription and wall behind pump, Cllr Smith provided the chairman and the clerk with a plan of action & method of cleaning statement from the contractor.
- e) Dickens anniversary – Cllr Gabbitas said that details of events had been listed on page 11 of “Your Borough” The promenade starts at Owletts, but some details are still a work in progress.
- f) VE Day commemorations –Cllr Dymond reported that so far the arrangements are:
Friday 8th May – A memorial service will take place at the war memorial at 10.00 – 10.30.

At 19.00 the Cobham Bell ringers will ring a Quarter peel of the church bells.

Our beautiful church will be flood lit for the whole weekend.

The Leather Bottle will be holding a 1940's evening – 22.00-23.00

Visit the sports field for a bonfire and BBQ from 20.00

Saturday 9th May- Sole Street WI will be holding a 1940's Tea Party in the Church Rooms 14.00-17.00

Sunday 10th May – A display of village histories and memories will be on display in the College 11.00 – 17.00. A re-enactment group in costume will be there. The Kent Archaeological group will display their discoveries from WWI. A competition will take place for the best 1940's costume. Tea will also be available. The pump and School will be decorated and I hope that the houses along The Street and Sole Street will enter in to the spirit of the commemoration by decorating their fronts with bunting - and why not start preparing for this year's front of house competition; the theme of which is "WHITE, BLUE and RED".

ACTION- Clerk to advertise in magazine, website and face-book.

- g) Telephone Kiosk The clerk has requested that the kiosk remains in the village after the telephone has been removed. Cllr Booth suggested that in longer term another defibrillator be installed there, but will be discussed going forward.
- h) Dadds path gate and Cobham Hall gate to the Lime Avenue – GBC does not feel repairs are necessary as access can be gained to the footpath from various points along the route.
- i) Poplars behind Meadow House – the matter is still on going
- j) Parish Notice Board – the board has been ordered and due to be installed in the warmer weather, the Parish Council would like the board installed for all the upcoming events. **ACTION** – Clerk to ask if the board could be installed sooner. Cllr Smith to inform the council of the sign writer he is aware.

Sole Street - Lead Councillor. Steve Dyer

- a) Water Leak outside Sole Street House (Clerk) KCC said that it is not currently a priority as they are were dealing with flood threats to homes, but they do have this on a list and will get to it asap

6. (89)Other Reports

KCC Matters – Cllr Bryan Sweetland was not present however, Cllr Rice reported that – KCC will micro surface the area outside Meadow Cottage to try to eliminate the noise and vibrations on the listed building, the problem had been caused by previous patching of the road, but the whole area, for at least forty metres, needs resurfacing completely.

GBC Matters – Cllr Tony Rice – said that at the last full council meeting he attended the budget was set, which will mean that the council tax is due to go up the increase will be 3.9%. There are also plans for a new leisure centre, GBC will be looking to replace and upgrade play area across the borough. The council has undertaken a commitment to replace social housing and committed to keeping the level consistent. They are looking to improving the street scene in the town, improving cleaning and more street dressing together with promoting more events including Gravesham in Bloom, additionally they want to attract more people from the cruise terminal at Tilbury. Cllr Rice spoke about the work being done to promote events at the new market.

The Chairman mentioned the next Parish Chairman's meeting with GBC and asked if anyone had any items to raise at meeting on 18th March. A question about Broadband coverage was to be submitted. The matter of parking on Church Road is also to be raised. Cllr Booth will be attending.

Cllr Dymond made Cllr Rice aware of a cottage on Henhurst road that has been empty for some time, it is a council property and its dilapidated state is impacting on the neighbours. **ACTION** - Cllr Rice will make enquiries.

KALC – Cllr Rosemary Dymond reported that KALC had sent a forceful letter to MPs and will be lobbying about number of houses being built in Kent. KALC are being pro-active about air quality and HGVs inappropriately using small, local, rural roads vehicles police supporting a tracker system. Luddesdowne has a received a grant for CCTV.

Rural Parishes Forum. No longer exists remove from future agendas.

Other Village Matters

Meadow Rooms – Cllr Gabriella Gabbitas said that the car accident had not yet been reported. No further action FOR Parish Council. The Chairman and Cllr Rice said it was important to keep a list of road traffic incidents in the parish.

Footpaths – Cllr Rosemary Dymond mentioned that there is 5 years to get the list updated. And to create a definitive map. GBC has all the rights of way recorded, but there is a need to identify the footpaths that have been lost or areas that is being used can be considered for the map.

Church & Church Rooms – Cllr Margaret Haig explained that drainage works taking 8-10 weeks will be starting at the Church, it is hoped that The Street will not have to be closed. A cleaner will be starting this month at St Mary's Church Room.

Jeskyns – Cllr Ben Smith explained that work on the car park is still ongoing as there has been a delay in obtaining some of the aggregate which is coming from Norway.

Signage – review and update this matter is still with Cllr Rice and he needs to audit what has been done. When the PC has decided which improvements they want to make, a Local Highways Plan will need to be submitted. But this will be done after the traffic plan has been completed.

Fly Tipping – Hot Spots, Luddesdowne are getting some signage to assist with fly-tipping. ACTION- clerk to contact GBC to see what is happening with the hot spots we highlighted.

Grass & Verge Cutting –ACTION Clerk to speak with GBC about leaving the grass cutting at the war memorial to the volunteers. Also to ask if the grass could be cut before the Britain in Bloom judges visit.

Meeting Suspended for Parishioners Comments.

A parishioner said that as she walked along East Lodge on Sole Street she noticed white numbers on the path and asked if ... noticed them yesterday what are they?

ACTION- Cllr Rice will look into it.

Rubbish in the field update – The clerk reported that KCC are making investigations in to the matter.

A resident of Manor Road mentioned that there had been a lot of movement and noise at the old Norbond site at night. ACTION clerk to mention to GBC planning.

The matter of using some of the LTC legacy for a car park in Sole Street was raised.

Public meeting closed at 9.35pm

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY ON 6th APRIL 7.30PM MEADOW ROOMS.

CPC Meeting Continues in Private:

- Correspondence- The clerk spoke about the correspondence received which included a land ownership enquiry and a complaint about the removal of some trees.
- Internal Auditor – The Clerk confirmed that a new internal auditor had been found at the cost £20 per an hour.
- Vacancy/Co-option – the vacancy had been advertised and an election hasn't been triggered and two people have expressed an interest in the role, CVs and information have been requested from the two applicants so the Parish Councillors may speak to them and make an informed decision.
- Crime Report, the stats are not complete and Rosemary offered to raise this and any other matters with the Police Crime Commissioner at her forthcoming meeting.
- Annual Parish Assembly will be the next meeting 6th April – Format to remain the same, but specific reports are to be requested from the recipients of grants.
- Annual Parish Council Meeting 4th May
- Bonham Hayes the clerk is in contact with the Finance Officer Gravesham Borough Council – and names need to be submitted by 9th April.
- Email issues – resolved.

Items raised by Councillors

Crime Report Cllr Booth recommended that the Parish Council keeps an Internal List of Incidents

Finance / Cheques

Current Account as at 13 Jan - £11,655.66

Business accounts as at 9 Jan 20 - £ 25,034.91

Clerks Feb Salary	£338.57
Computer Consultant	£40.00
CPRE Subs renewal	£36.00