

**Minutes of a meeting of Cobham Parish Council on  
MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 7.30PM  
Meadow Rooms Cobham**

**PRESENT**

**Cllr R Dymond**

**Cllr S Dyer**

**Cllr M Haig**

**Cllr J Blakett**

**Cllr J Elliott**

**Cllr M Mason**

**Mrs T Sampson (Clerk)**

**17 Parishioners**

1. Apologies for absence,  
Cllr Mike Booth, Cllr Gabriella Gabbitas, Cllr Ben Smith
2. Minutes: to confirm the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> July  
Confirmed as a true record by Chairman.
3. Declaration of Interests – None raised
4. Parishioners Comments  
The Chairman asked that if parishioners had anything to raise they consider whether the item is covered by the agenda.
5. **Matters Arising from previous minutes**

**Parking:** Greenlands – update from Chairman

A resident of Greenlands provided the Parish Council a break-down of the cars parked in the road.

These were conveyed to Parishioners present.

10/7/18 7am - 12 cars. 19.00hrs - 17 cars parked on both sides of road

11/7/18. 8am - 10 cars. 19.00hrs -13 cars parked on both Sides of road

12/7/18. 9am - 7 cars. 19.00hrs - 13 cars parked on both sides of road

13/7/18. 8am- 11 cars. 19.15hrs - 9 cars parked on both sides of road

14/7/18. 8am- 12 cars. 19.30hrs - 15 cars parked on both sides of road

15/7/18. 8am- 15 cars. 18.50hrs - 11 cars parked on both sides of road

16/7/18. 8am- 10 cars. 19.00hrs - 14 cars parked on both sides of road

In total 44 cars were parked in Greenlands for most of the week.

The Chairman read out the GBC response to our previous enquiry, a parishioner raised the point that GBC had got the times of the restrictions incorrect, the Chairman said she will feed that back. It was also said that previously the PC had mentioned that in the recent Blue-light incident it was said that the ambulance could not get out of Greenlands, but the ambulance couldn't get from the drive. It was stated that Greenland residents are allowed one parking permit, but others in the village get two. It appears that some people believe they have an entitlement for spaces; additionally, it was said that the parking enforcement officer has never been seen, another resident asked if someone needed to die before something happens.

Residents said they would like to see double yellow lines right the way through the cul-d-sac.

Cllr Elliott advised that Manor Road is likely to take the brunt of the displaced the cars, and there are problems with parking there too and suggested that parking bays are considered. It was mentioned that the station car park could be used; that had happened in the past but was no longer viable due to the cost of GBC renting the space.

**ACTION:** The Chairman will meet with KCC to discuss the parking issues and the possibility of permission being given to widen drop kerbs. GBC will also be contacted in relation to reviewing the matter of permits.

6. The Cobham village pump. Efforts are underway to get the pump repaired, it had been hoped it could be repaired before the WW1 commemorations, but this is unlikely.  
**ACTION** - Cllr Elliott is still trying to find another blacksmith, so a comparison of costings can be made, permission is also required from English Heritage, which Cllr Gabbitas is taking forward.

7. **Speed Indicator Device (SID)**- update Cllr Blackett  
Cllr Blackett explained that the SID had been moved, from Sweeps Hole, Sole Street after being in place for 8 weeks, to The Terrace Cobham where it stopped working, Cllr Blackett arranged for the manufacturer to collect the device and it is due to be returned this week.

8. **Footway through Sole Street** – update Clerk  
The clerk explained a little of the history and how KCC had said that they would not support the installation of a footway (pavement) along Sole Street. The clerk had written to KCC to relay the Parish Council and parishioner's disquiet and is now in the process of arranging a further site visit from KCC Highway to discuss what alternative measure could be undertaken and asked for Parishioners input.  
Cllr Mason would like to see a copy of the studies KCC carried out before dismissing the idea of the footway.  
**ACTION** The clerk will request a copy of the Highways report and arrange the site visit with Highways.

## 9. **Planning consultation**

The results of the recent GBC consultation have not yet been published.

The Chairman brought up the subject of the work that had taken place on White Post Lane, GBC are aware of the situation and are undertaking investigations as the building should only be used for security purposes and would be interested to hear if that is not the case.

The planning application for changes to the Norbond site has now gone to appeal, GBC received about 180 letters from parishioners objecting to the plan, parishioners have until 27 September to send in new letters raising different objection points. A parishioner has been in contact with GBC who it appears are against the plan.

**ACTION** - Cllr Elliott will set up a meeting with parishioners to discuss how their objections can be coordinated.

10. **Lower Thames Crossing (LTC)**- update by the Chairman  
The Chairman explained that there will be a mobile information van located at the Meadow Rooms and Sole Street Station for a day during the months of October and December, this will allow parishioners to pose their questions and raise their concerns with members of the LTC team. The LTC team will be providing a questionnaire regarding traffic flow and the Chairman urged Parishioners to complete it when the time arrives. Parishioners were also asked to consider what they would like the LTC legacy to provide, the Chairman said that her request would be for the Sole Street footway but was interested in other people's ideas. One parishioner suggested a playground that the people of Sole Street could use another suggestion was for a village car park.

## 11. **Committee Reports**

### a) **Playing Fields**

Cllr Dyer said the fields were made good use of during the Cobham Fete and a good time was had by all. The musical play piece had been damaged in the children's playground, but the parts had been recovered in the hope that the piece can be repaired.

Cllr Haig mentioned that the rubber matting under one of the frames needed repairing.

**ACTION** Cllr Dyer will take a look at the rubber matting

b) **Footpaths**

The clerk explained that the bushes along White Post lane, opposite Sallows Shaw, had been cutback by KCC following a request from a resident. The footway/pavement along Sole Street that runs from opposite the Railway pub towards Camer was said to be overgrown. The Chairman also mentioned that the footpath from Sole Street to Sallows Shaw was still overgrown, the clerk explained that a request was made to a homeowner to cut back the overhanging trees at the beginning of the path which he did, the issue now appears to be further long the path.

**ACTION** Clerk to report the overgrown footway and Cllr Blackett to investigate the overgrown footpath.

c) **Local Traffic Report**

Nothing until the SID back in place.

It was asked whether the speed on Green Lane could be reduced from 60 to 30.

**ACTION** the Chairman said she would refer to the speed limit at her meeting with Meopham and at the Chairman's meeting.

d) **Planning Committee Report** Cllr Dyer read through the report:

20180750

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Alterations to the roof involving a 1 metre increase in overall ridge height, the hip to gable roof enlargement, the construction of dormer extensions in the front, side and rear roof slopes to facilitate the conversion of the roof space into habitable rooms, a first-floor rear extension and the creation of a front entrance porch.

LOCATION Hayes Meadow, 2 Sarsens Close, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

No objection

20180762

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Installation of new wood burner with a flue liner in the existing chimney

LOCATION Flat 1 The New College of Cobham, Cobhambury Road, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

CPC-No objection sent

20180672

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Application for a Lawful Development Certificate in respect of the continued use of land for open storage.

LOCATION Yard 1, Knights Place Farm, Watling Street, Cobham Gravesend

CPC - objected

20180632

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the continued use of building as a domestic workshop and storage.

LOCATION Dalginross, Jeskyns Road, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

CPC Objected

20180743

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Application for Listed Building Consent for the conversion of part of the main first floor bedroom into an ensuite shower room and alterations and replacement of the existing downstairs kitchen and bathroom.

LOCATION 6 The Street, Cobham, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3BN

No objection (but concerns regarding poss. changes to the front of the cottage raised)

20180808

Installation of a wooden building to create a granny annex.

Orchard Cottage, Round Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

Further clarification requested

20180622

36-38 The Street Listed- removal of rear UPVC window to be replaced by white timber window

No objection

20180578

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Retention of the single storey side extension to the main Dwelling house with an additional 3m roof extension and infill extension to the existing outbuilding.  
LOCATION Cobhambury Barn, Cobhambury Road, Cobham, Gravesend **No objection**

**APPEAL 20171274 Change of use to establish a vehicle depot for highway maintenance and traffic management. Former Norbond Site Sole Street.**

The Chairman also mentioned that she was aware of a planning application for some changes to take place at Jeskyns.

e) **Rural Parishes Report**

The Chairman said that work was still ongoing regarding the Green Belt planning consultation and the group is working closely with CPRE. The Chair said that they have evidence that proves the number of houses the Gov't has requested are not actually required.

f) **GBC Matters** - No representative No Report on this occasion. The Chair mentioned that the Queen's statue has been unveiled near the Borough Market Gravesend.

g) **KCC Matters** – No representative No Report on this occasion.

h) **KALC Matters** – the next mtg will be on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct and the AGM.

The Chairman attended a meeting with the Kent Crime commissioner and the asst Chief Constable. The Chief Constable wants all incidents and crimes reported so that the force is aware of each incident. They are recruiting more Lay staff to handle the communications. Between July 2017 and March 2018 there were 900 applicants to the force, 100 completed the training satisfactorily. She referred to a consultation that has been issued asking Parishioners how they want their area policed. The Chairman explained that the recruitment of additional Police had been discussed and it is hoped that another 150 police officers would be recruited next year. The Training time for new recruits has been reduced and it is envisaged that there will be more PCSOs in Kent. The rural police team are to have their staffing increased. The Commissioner also wants to ensure that police attend Parish meetings. Community Policing Volunteers is a new position and is being trialled in Maidstone and Sevenoaks. Obviously, Brexit is a big issue for Kent and the Police will be called on to help with customs etc.

**ACTION** Clerk to put details of consultation on website (this was done in July).

KALC are doing a lot of work on dementia support in parishes- it is understood that Meopham and Shorne are active in this regard.

KCC has put out a paper about the use of Drones which is on the KCC websites.

Paul Hassell- the Community Warden- spoke about his duties. And how he was aware of the parking issues in Manor Road, but parking matters are the responsibility of the police. The developments on White Post Lane are being and observed and reports sent back to GBC.

PCSO Joanne Hartley she has statutory powers and can detain people for up to 10 minutes. Cllr Elliott asked for details of crime figures and Paul said he would send the link to the Clerk. Paul also said that he did a surgery in other Parishes and could do one in the Church Room or the Meadow Rooms. Paul will ask the PCSO to come to our October meeting.

**ACTION** Clerk to discuss the possibility of a surgery with Paul.

12) **Correspondence/GDPR:** Clerk reported as follows:

Copthall Lane I received a question about possible development on Copthall Lane –there are two relevant applications;

Application 20150071 – Prior approval for the erection of an agricultural barn.

Application 20151015 - retention of existing mobile home and site office/store, this is a temporary permission until 31 December 2018.

White Post Lane Farm – I received many enquires about this, however the only information given is that an Investigation ongoing.

Oil Drums – Copt Hall Road

I received a visit from a parishioner who reported some oil drums on Copt Hall Lane, I reported these, and parishioner had volunteered to get them on the weekend 18/19 Aug to decant into his waste oil tank. Later it was reported to me that there had been a fire in that same area and only one drum was left.

Bollard 10 The Street -Reported as knocked down on 2 August - Reinstated 15 August

Play equipment damaged Collected from GBC 17/8 – so repair can be undertaken

Motorbikes –Copt hall lane /fields the matter of noisy anti-social Motor bikes were reported to me – the Clerk reported to Rural Liaison Officer and Community Warden the police were made aware 15 Aug.

Sole Street Man hole cover report received- I reported to highways for repair -

Overgrown Vegetation on road White Post Lane –The Clerk received an email of complaint about overgrown bushes reducing the width of the road – A site visit was undertaken on 16 August and KCC agreed to cut them back although ownership was not clear.

Greenlands Parking I visited the area twice- first visit- the road was clear, second visit was a Sunday morning and there were 15 cars in the road, but not on the grass verges- driveways looked clear on this occasion.

13) **Matters Raised by Parish Councillors**

Cllr Haig mentioned that the Cobbles on the corner of the Street and Halfpence Lane have still not been repaired, the clerk fed back that no one would take responsibility for the repairs. A wooden white post broken, near the roundabout -Cllr Smith to be contacted to see if he can repair it.

Cllr Dyer explained that the old Cherry Tree in the car park along with the Bees had been professionally removed at the cost of £275

There has been a water leak in Sole Street and several people have reported it.

14) **Any Other Business**

The Chairman mentioned the Apple Festival taking place on the 7<sup>th</sup> October at Sole Street House there will be Morris dancing and lunch and many other enjoyable attractions etc. The Chairman also reminded everyone about the WW1 Commemoration and would like the houses along Sole Street and the Street Cobham to decorate with red flowers/plants. There will be a barbeque and bonfire on the sports field. Additionally, CADs have written a special play which will be performed on 15<sup>th</sup> 16/17<sup>th</sup> Nov. Events start 10<sup>th</sup> Nov.

15) **Finance**

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

The Chairman closed at the meeting at 9.35 pm.....

The next meeting of the parish council is 8<sup>th</sup> October St Mary's Church Room Sole Street.