



Minutes of Cobham Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 28th April 2022 at 7.30pm

Meeting took place at the Meadow Rooms

Present

Clr Steve Dyer (Vice Chair), Clr Matt Mason, Clr Ben Smith
Clr Margaret Haig, Clr Robert Pryor, Clr Rosemary Dymond,

Present

Charles Amis (Clerk), 2 Parishioners

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Clr Mike Booth, Clr Mat Peterson-Pearce, Clr Gabriella Gabbitas, Clr Tony Rice (GBC), Clr Bryan Sweetland (KCC)
- 2. Minutes** – The minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2022 were confirmed and proposed as a true record of that meeting by Clr Dyer and seconded by Clr Pryor.
- 3. Declarations of Interest** – None
- 4. Matters arising from previous meeting of 8th February 2022** – These were discussed in the main part of the meeting.
- 5. KCC Matters** – KCC will be carrying out a site survey to site official bus stops on both sides of Sole Street. **Action:** Clerk to chase KCC Bus Stop team to carry out a site visit for moving the bus stop from Cobham Church to opposite the Leather Bottle PH.
- 6. GBC Matters** – GBC Clr Tony Rice
 - **Boundary Commission Report** – The changes will be taking place from May 2023. Cobham will share two borough councillors with Istead Rise and Luddesdown. The overall number councillors in GBC will reduce from 44 to 39.
- 7. KALC/NALC** – KALC are trying to encourage Kent Police to enforce the 20 mph speed limits in the villages of Kent.
- 8. Planning Group**
 - **Norbond Site** – GBC are serving an enforcement notice to the site owners.
 - **White Post Farm** – This is still with the Planning Inspectorate. Clr Rice is following this up.
 - **Orchard Cottage, Round Street** – This is still awaiting determination by GBC

- **Bluebell Barn, Copthall Road** – Temporary approval has been given which will be reviewed on the expiry of the temporary approval in June 2023.
- **Bower Cottage** – CPC are objecting to the considerable changes to the building.
- **Battle Street** – GBC have turned down the planning application which has now gone to the Planning Inspectorate.
- **7 Manor Road** – with CPC Planning Group
- **Black Horse Cottage** – with CPC Planning Group

9. Traffic Group

- **The Street – Traffic Calming Scheme** –
- KCC Highways need to reinstate the wooden bollard opposite The Ship PH.
- All of the nine plastic bollards need to be removed from The Street.
- The pavement outside the Darnley Arms needs to be re-profiled as water is collecting when it rains and water runs into the Darnley Arms front door and also into the cellar. This did not happen before the bollards were put in and the pavement was widened.
- There were some views on the new bollards that should be visible for motorists particularly when they need to reverse. The short bollards would not be seen and could damage vehicles.
- Bollards need to be installed outside Wisteria Cottage where the pavement narrows to protect the building from vehicles mounting the kerb.
- **War Memorial Roundabout** – KCC have agreed to fund the bollards along the hedge in front of Pilgrims and these should be installed in the next three months. The road signage is still waiting to be rearranged at the same time by KCC. The new white lining has been refreshed apart from Lodge Lane.
- **Village Gateways Features** – There was no update on the Village Gateway at Halfpence Lane. Cllr Mason asked about the proposed village gateway sign for Sole Street by Sweeps Hole Pond. The estimated cost is £2000.
- **Speedwatch Group** – The Speedwatch Group are about to restart the speedwatch sessions during the morning and evening peaks. Meopham Parish Council had asked if CPC wanted to share the costs of using a body camera when running the Speedwatch sessions but this has been stalled because the Meopham Speedwatch Group do not have enough volunteers to run their sessions.
- **Speed Indicator Device** – The data needs to be downloaded from the SID and this could be compared with last year's figures. It was proposed that the SID be moved from The Street, Cobham to Sole Street.
- **Weight restriction on Halfpence Lane** – Nothing to report
- **Flooding on Halfpence Lane** – CPC are still waiting for KCC to install bunds to the pond at Halfpence Lane. **Action:** Clerk to chase Earl Bourner.
- **Jeskyns Road – rainwater run off to Jeskyns Pond** – CPC are still waiting for KCC to carry out a site visit. Cllr Smith said the resurfacing that was completed a year ago may be causing the rainwater runoff. **Action:** Clerk to chase Earl Bourner.

10. Lower Thames Crossing – The LTC were waiting to submit a planning application/development consent order in spring 2022.

11. Village Crime Group – The Sole Street Neighbourhood Watch continue to circulate their monthly newsletter. Cllr Dymond and Cllr Pryor will be holding a meeting with local residents. The March

newsletter from our new PCSO, Simon Mummery, said no crime had been reported. There had been an issue with off road motorcycles.

11. Playing Fields – Cllr Peterson-Pearce had applied to several grant funding organisations and was waiting for a reply. CPC are still waiting to hear back for the funding of the electric vehicle charging points.

12. Public Toilets There are three quotes for £2000 to install timed locks. It was felt that the public toilets are expensive to run and it was asked if a local person could be employed to open and clean the toilets. The toilets are useful when an event is running at the cricket club and the bowls club.

13. St Mary's Church Rooms – The funding group had not given the architect any funding.

The garden safari will be taking place on 12th June and there will be a garage sale on 28th August.

14. Social Media – It was suggested that CPC use a company to maintain the website. It was felt that social media is viewed more often. CPC gave a grant towards two free issues of the parish magazine at Easter and Christmas. An extra volunteer had offered to deliver the parish magazine.

15. Other Village Matters

- **Youth Club** – CPC recently given The Grand £225 for equipment for use by the youth club. The invoice with a list of equipment had been circulated amongst the parish councillors. The Youth Club's bank account has been closed and new account needs to be reopened **Action:** Cllr Mason agreed to help set up a new bank account for the youth club.
- **Village Sign** – Nothing to report
- **Meadow Rooms** – March was quite busy with bookings. Over the next month the management committee will be undertaking some basic works to the roadside verge and entrance that will include replacing the wooden bollards on the grass verge by The Street, replacing the gate post to the right of the entrance and repairing the dropped kerb stones. The Management Committee have asked TDG Garden Services to carry out the mowing of the Meadow and tidy up the grass verges around the car park. Munchies on the Meadow is taking place on Saturday 4th June and the management committee are actively seeking volunteers to help make the event a success. Cash reserves are at a solid level and sufficient to maintain the operations, with bookings and enquiries continuing to be healthy
- **Footpaths** – The brambles are spreading across Footpath NS178 and pushing walkers towards the stumps. **Action:** Cllr Smith to remove brambles from the footpath.
- **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – Cllr Dymond had spoken to the playschool and primary school regarding the childrens tea on the Friday afternoon. The programme of events had gone into the parish magazine. Cllr Peterson-Pearce was working on the poster.
- **Assets of Community Value** – Nothing to report
- **Defibrillators** –
 - Gravesham Life Saving Club have been unable to find a replacement battery for the Cobham College defibrillator. It was asked if the Cobham College residents know the location of the nearest alternative defibrillators if there was an emergency. **Action:** To leave on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - The defibrillator at the St Mary's Church Rooms has had the power supply restored. The clerk had obtained a quote for around £1000 for replacing the pads and batteries for the defibrillators and adding accessories. **Action:** Clerk to order pads and batteries.

- **Rural Kent Coffee & Information Point** – The pop-up café will be taking place every four weeks at the St Mary’s Church Rooms on Thursday mornings. The refreshments are provided free of charge and it is an opportunity for residents to meet up. Local organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch or the PCSOs will often attend to provide advice.
- **Owletts & The Darnley Mausoleum** – The Baker family have been meeting with the National Trust. Owletts will be opening on the last Sunday of the month and a series of events have been organised. **Action:** Poster to go on to the Facebook page and website.

16. Parishioners Comments – A parishioner said there was a water leak on Round Street. The leak had been reported to Southern Water but said it was nothing to do with them as it wasn’t drinking water. **Action:** Report the issue to KCC Highways.

Meeting continues in Private

17. Correspondence & Announcements

- The Clerk had received a letter from Victim Support asking for a donation. CPC decided not to take this any further.
- Luddesdown & District Rights of Way Group had asked for a grant of £50 to publicise their group. **Action:** Clerk to send a grant application form and to ask if the walking group are still able to maintain the public rights of way and if they require new tools.
- CPRE Kent had said that the London Resort at Swanscombe Peninsular was not going ahead for now. The developer may come back with a revised proposal.

18. Finance – The cheque report was proposed by Cllr Dyer and seconded by Cllr Haig

19. AOB – Cllr Dymond said the newly painted double yellow lines along The Street had been painted yellow but should have been painted in a primrose colour. **Action:** Add to the list of actions for KCC Highways.

20. Next Meeting – Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25th May 2022 at the Meadow Rooms