



Minutes of Cobham Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting took place at the Meadow Rooms

Present

Cllr Mike Booth (Chair), Cllr Steve Dyer (Vice Chair), Cllr Kirsty Lane

Cllr Robert Pryor, Cllr Julie Wilder

Present

Charles Amis (Clerk), 4 parishioners

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr Rosemary Dymond, Cllr Bennett Smith, Cllr Russ Nichols, Cllr Bryan Sweetland (KCC), Cllr Samir Jassal (GBC)

2. Declarations of Interest – None

3. Minutes - The minutes for the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 were confirmed and proposed as a true record of that meeting by Cllr Dyer and seconded by Cllr Pryor. The minutes for the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th May were confirmed and proposed as a true record of that meeting by Cllr Dyer and seconded by Cllr Pryor.

4. GBC Matters – The bi-monthly Zoom meeting with GBC Planning Department staff that was due to take place on 3rd July had been cancelled.

5. Planning –

Cobham House Vineyard – The owner has submitted a new planning application where the agricultural building will be re-sited halfway down the field and further away from nearby properties. GBC Planning Department had rejected the previous planning application as the agricultural building was too visible and would impact the surrounding landscape. There had been 220 letters of objection and 3 letters in favour. Cllr Dyer had spoken with local residents who would like the buildings to be moved further out of sight and nearer to the railway cutting. Residents were also concerned about the extra traffic using Gold Street and the noise from the loading area. There was some mitigation regarding the noise from the chiller unit but there would be noise from the fork lift trucks. The planning application does not cover the future potential for visitors.

Norbond – The Planning Inspectorate had dismissed the site owner's appeal. The site was not suitable for storage units as it was next to green belt land. The Planning Inspectorate also rejected the planning enforcement notice issued by GBC as the wrong reasons for the enforcement had been used. GBC are deciding whether to enact a Judicial Review against the Planning Inspectorate's

decision or to reissue a revised Enforcement Notice to the site owner. GBC had 28 days to respond to the Planning Inspectorate's quashing of GBC's enforcement notice and were seeking legal advice on how to proceed.

White Post Farm – The Planning Inspectorate will be holding a hearing in September.

6. Traffic Group –

Sole Street – Update – Cllr Nichols had been talking with Cllr Brian Sweetland and Neil Baker at KCC plus Kent Police about the different options for controlling the speed of the traffic along Sole Street. Discussions were had about installing average speed cameras beside Sole Street plus the installation of chicanes using lighting powered by solar panels.

Otford Parish Council had used a firm of consultants who were able to persuade KCC Highways to install some speed cushions and a chicane despite the lack of street lighting. CPC had worked with KCC Highways to improve the safety of The Street at Cobham for local residents.

Speed Watch – The Speed Watch Group had up to seven volunteers, some of whom were from the previous speed watch group. Tony Rice had passed on the speed watch equipment to Chris Zgoda, the current co-ordinator. Chris Zgoda also has the details of all the Speed Watch sites. Alan Watson from Kent Police Speed Watch will be running a training session at the end of June. The Speed Watch Group plans to hold two sessions per week and the results are fed back into the police database.

Speed Indicator Device - Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Smith and Cllr Nicholls if they know the location of the batteries for the SID.

Missing Chevron signs at Henhurst Road/Jeskyns Road junction – Action: Clerk to ask KCC Highways when the chevron signs will be installed.

7. Village Gateways – CPC had been discussing the replacement of the village gateway at Halfpence Lane. KCC has a set of criteria for village gateways. **Action:** Cllr Booth to speak to Cllr Nichols about taking this forward. Clerk to send previous designs to Cllr Booth and Cllr Nichols.

8. Lower Thames Crossing – The SOS for Transport was due to give their decision on whether the LTC will be given approval by the end of June 2024 but this will be delayed until the middle of October. Some of the stakeholders had been asked for further information. The forthcoming General Election is likely to affect the deadline for the final decision.

9. Village Crime Group – Nothing to report.

10. Playing Fields Group – The drawings for the new patio are ready. CPC, as the freeholder, will be submitting a planning application for the work on behalf of the Sports Association. **Action:** Cllr Lane to prepare a planning application for the pavilion works which will go through CPC.

The England & Wales Cricket Board may not provide funding until planning permission has been granted. The wicket is currently facing North South but should facing East West. **Action:** Cllr Lane to ask Cllr Jassal if GBC can write a letter to the England & Wales Cricket Board.

It was asked if the CPC's insurance policy covers public liability and sports injuries for the Cricket and Tennis Club. The Football Club have their own insurance. A parishioner said they were unsure if the sheds and machinery are covered by the current insurance. **Action:** Clerk to speak to Zurich Insurance about public liability and sports injury insurance.

Action: Cllr Booth and Cllr Lane will be meeting Wicksteed for a site visit for a quote for the all-weather path and new fencing.

11. Public Toilets – Business Stream were still in dispute with CPC and refuse to acknowledge there is a problem and will not send an engineer.

Action: Cllr Booth to send a letter to the ombudsmen setting out the current situation and suggested resolution. Cllr Dyer to speak to Cobham Primary School who were facing a similar problem with Business Stream.

12. KALC/NALC – The next Gravesham Area KALC Meeting will be taking place on Tuesday 16th July at the Memorial Hall in Higham.

13. St Mary's Church Rooms – Gransden has started work on the refurbishment of the SMCR and £331,984 has been budgeted for the work. The Local Funding Group continues to raise funds towards the work.

14. Social Media – The CPC website had 491 page views over the past 30 days (Down 14%) and there were 287 unique visits over the past 30 days (Down 3%). There was an average of 1.6400 average page views per visit (Up 10%).

15. Other Village Matters

Defibrillators – Cllr Mason had asked the people working on his garage if the Round Street defibrillator could be reattached there. The defibrillator at SMCR will need to be moved when the refurbishment works start at the SMCR. **Action:** Clerk to ask Cllr Mason for an update for the Round Street defibrillator. Cllr Dyer to speak to Gransden about attaching the St Mary's Church Rooms defibrillator could be attached to the security fencing whilst the works is taking place.

Youth Club – It was said that CPC should not be running the youth club and a parent committee needs to be set up. The last youth club session for the summer term will be on Friday 19th July. Attendances had generally been disappointing. The Youth workers plan to speak at a school assembly at Cobham Primary School. It was asked if the youth club format needed to be changed. **Action:** Cllr Dyer, Cllr Lane and Clerk to write a note to say 19th July could be the last youth club to send to parents. Clerk to ask The Gr@nd for parents contact details.

Footpaths – The footpaths around Cobham parish had all been cleared of vegetation.

Village Sign – Cllr Lane had circulated the village sign designs to all of the parish councillors. Cllr Wilder agreed to help Cllr Lane with the design of the village signs. Each village sign is likely to cost £1,200 or £2000 including the post. It was suggested that a possible site for the sign could be the small green by Scratton Fields at Sole Street and on the corner of The Street and Lawrence Drive at Cobham. **Action:** Clerk to ask KCC's permission for installing the village signs at Scratton Fields and Lawrence Drive.

Meadow Rooms - Nothing to report

Village Pump – Cllr Dymond had organised the painting of the village pump. **Action:** Clerk to resend Cllr Booth the details of the three quotes for the repairs to the flint wall for Cllr Booth to review.

Children's Play Area checks – It was asked if the playground equipment is being checked on a weekly basis. GBC check the playground on a three month basis and report their findings to CPC. **Action:** Cllr Pryor agreed to check the playground on a weekly basis.

20. Parishioners Comments

A parishioner asked if two disabled parking bays could be painted at the Space Association car park and disabled bay signs be installed. The disabled bays would need to be self-enforcing. There are currently no marked bays in the car park. **Action:** Clerk to ask GBC if they could paint parking bays at the Sports Association car park. Cllr Lane to speak to Sign Shed regarding the disabled signs.

A parishioner asked if there were any plans for the installation of electric vehicle charging points. CPC had applied to KCC for grant funding in the past and had not been successful. KCC were not offering any grants for charging points at the moment.

A parishioner raised the ongoing roof repairs at Cobham College. The Cobham College trustees had met the previous evening. The previous company had stopped carrying out the repairs in December 2023 and had taken away all of their scaffolding. The new company had put up their new scaffolding. It was still untidy by the church. None of the residents appeared to be informed of the progress to the works. **Action:** Julie Wilder offered to follow up with GBC Planning Enforcement.

A parishioner asked if KCC Highways told CPC the repairs that had been carried out on Halfpence Lane. CPC just receive a road closure notice but no details of the actual repair work.

Meeting continues in Private

21. Correspondence & Announcements – None

22. Finance

Payments made since the 11th June meeting

Date of payment	Company	Reason	Amount
17/6/2024	Clerk	2 x Ryman Display Books for invoices and minutes	£13.98
17/6/2024	Clerk	Mileage	£13.77
	Karen Edwards Maintenance	Replace wooden posts around the green	£550
20/6/2024	MI Payroll & Bookkeeping	Payroll for April – June 2024	£60
28/6/2024	Clerk	Pension	£75.58
1/7/2024	HMRC	Clerk's Income Tax & NICS	£222.46
1/7/2024	Clerk	Salary, plus back pay following pay award April 2023-May 2024	£1477.93
1/7/2024	Kimberley Hagan	Children's Party for the King's Coronation. Cheque was not paid in and is now out of date.	£94.95
4/7/2024	Clerk	Reimburse for renewing licence for EM Client – Email Client	£54.95
4/7/2024	Matthew Lisney	Litter picking March – June 2024	£802.24

Payments to be made after the 11th June Meeting

Date of Payment	Company	Reason	Amount
10/7/2024	Clerk	Mileage	£12.87

Payments received since 11th June Meeting

Date of Payment	Company	Reason	Amount
19/6/2024	Gravesham Network The Grand	Youth Club Subs	£182

Cllr Lane proposed the payment report and Cllr Dyer seconded.

23. Items from Councillors – None

24. Next Meeting - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th September at the Meadow Rooms.