



Minutes of Cobham Parish Council Working Group Meeting

Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting took place at the St Mary's Church Rooms

Present

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

Cllr Rosemary Dymond, Cllr Bennet Smith

Present

Charles Amis (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Russ Nichols, Cllr Robert Pryor, Cllr Matt Mason, Cllr Mat Peterson-Pearce
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None
3. **Precept for 2024/25 – To confirm and discuss the precept figure** – CPC had asked GBC for a precept of £85,000 which is an increase of 90.2%. In the past the CPC precept was relatively small but CPC were taking forward several projects which included:
 - Sole Street traffic calming measures
 - Two new village signs for Sole Street and Cobham
 - Village gateway sign on Halfpence Lane
 - The installation of an all-weather path from the playing field car park to the children's corner and replacement of chain link fencing at children's corner
 - Repairs to the flint wall by the village pump
 - the replacement of the white wooden posts by the war memorial

It was agreed by all of the parish councillors present that the precept for 2024/25 will be £85,000. **Action:** Clerk to prepare a briefing note to update parishioners on why the precept has increased. Cllr Smith had offered to complete the all-weather path at a cost price.

4. **AOB – Items from Councillors –**

It was suggested that the Sports Association could take over the running of the public toilets from CPC. CPC could give a grant on an annual basis to the Sports Association. It was asked if the staff at Cobham Primary School could open the toilets although it was confirmed that

they are already busy with their workload. It was also suggested if the Parent Teachers Association could open the toilets. **Action:** Clerk to ask GBC how often the toilets would need cleaning. Cllr Dyer to ask Cobham Primary School if the school cleaners could clean the toilets.

Action: Clerk to write to the owner of Meadow House to ask for permission for the workmen to have access to the rear of the flint wall when carrying out repairs. Also to ask if the owners of Meadow House are happy for weed killer to be sprayed around the base of the flint wall to clear the brambles.

It was noted that Meopham Parish Council had a put up a list of their responsibilities on their notice board. It was asked if CPC could produce something similar.

It was also suggested that a parish council notice board be installed at Church Road in Ifield to keep the residents updated on activities in Cobham Parish. There is a church notice board at the entrance to the churchyard at Ifield Church.

Kirsty Lane has been put forward as a candidate to fill the parish councillor vacancy following Cllr Zoe Gee's resignation. Vacancy notices from GBC Electoral Services had been placed on to the notice boards and CPC website. The deadline for applications is 21st March 2024. If there are no other interested parties then Kirsty Lane would be co-opted to CPC.

Cuxton Parish Councillors have expressed an interest in meeting with Cobham Parish Council to discuss common issues. The clerk had written to the clerk at Cuxton to express an interest in meeting.

GBC Planning Department have admitted they made a mistake with the planning application for the vineyard at Gold Street. The planning application has been rescinded following a Judicial Review that was enacted by local residents. The local residents had a site meeting with the owner who was happy not to proceed with the current planning application. It was asked what the future held for the other nearby orchards.

A Speed Watch Co-ordinator needs to be recruited.

- 5. Next Meeting – Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th April at the St Mary's Church Rooms but may move to the Meadow Rooms if the refurbishment work at the St Mary's church Rooms has already started.**