

**Minutes of the Cobham Annual Parish Council Meeting
Held in St Mary's Church Room, Sole Street
on 13 May 2019 at 7.30pm**

Present

Cllr Mike Booth, Cllr Steve Dyer, Cllr Rosemary Dymond
Cllr Gabriella Gabbitas, Cllr Margaret Haig, Cllr Matt Mason,
Cllr Ben Smith, Mrs Tina Sampson (Clerk)

In attendance: Councillor Tony Rice, Gravesham Borough Council
10 Parishioners

1. **Apologies for absence** – Mrs Jessica Elliott sent her apologies as she will be travelling at the time of the meeting.

2. **Election of the Chairman** – The chairman Cllr Rosemary Dymond asked for proposals for the role of Chairman. Cllr Steve Dyer proposed Cllr Mike Booth for chairman. Cllr Matt Mason seconded the proposal.

Cllr Rosemary Dymond handed over the chairmanship to Cllr Booth and said that she had enjoyed her time as a parish councillor in Cobham, over the past twenty years and her time as both vice chairman and most recently as chairman for the past four years. Cllr Dymond also said that it was right that the council had a new person as chair with some fresh input. She will remain an active member of the council.

Cllr Booth thanked Cllr Dymond for everything she had achieved as chairman and wanted a note of all her hard work put on the record.

3. **Election of Vice Chairman** - Cllr Mike Booth proposed that Cllr Steve Dyer continue as Vice Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr Margaret Haig. Cllr Dyer agreed to continue.

The Clerk collected from the councillor's their 'Declarations of Acceptance of Office'; signed in her presence.

4. **The co-option of new Parish Councillors** – The Chairman introduced two of the candidates that were present.

Firstly, Mr Robert Pryor who told the meeting that he has lived in Cobham village for three years. He explained that he had become increasingly concerned over the volume and speed of traffic through the parish and the threat it poses to its future. Vehicles mounting the pavement is a big problem in Cobham, additionally the safety of the young people waiting for transport in Sole Street is also a concern. He would be honoured to serve on the council.

Secondly, Mr Russell Nichols introduced himself as a resident of Sole Street who was born in Dartford and then moved to Gravesend, always hoping to settle in the parish of Cobham. He feels that his family have gained so much from the parish that he would now like to give something back by serving on the Parish Council. He has concerns around the A2 becoming a car park at certain times during the day with Sole Street becoming a cut through. With rush hour traffic he feels that residents are taking their lives into their own hands if they need to walk to the station, visit friends, go to the shop etc.

He is also said that he is concerned about the speed of vehicles leaving the village where the young people congregate to catch the bus in the mornings. He would therefore like to stand on the PC to become more active in these matters.

Mr Nichols also mentioned a few communal areas around the parish that could do with tidying up.

The Chairman explained that Mrs Jessica Elliott also wanted to be considered for co-option and he felt that it would be more appropriate to defer the co-option process until the next meeting on the 3rd of June, to allow her the chance to speak.

The Chairman addressed the candidates and explained that he hopes they would not be disappointed by the speed at which some parish council work happens.

The chairman asked the Clerk to contact Gravesham Borough Council to enquire about increasing the number of Councillors from 9 to 10.

ACTION – Clerk to take forward.

5. **Elections of the Sub Committees** – The Chairman felt that following the recent elections and the changes to the composition of the Parish Council, it would be sensible to defer the setting up of the sub-committees with a view to setting up new and additional ones.

ACTION to be completed at the next Parish Council Meeting 3 June

6. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly** – Cllr Dymond raised a couple of typographical errors, but the minutes were then agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Booth.
7. **Declaration of Interests** -The Clerk reminded Councillors that they needed to complete the notification of disclosable pecuniary interests and collected those forms that had been completed.
8. **Community Warden** – Paul Hassell was not present, but the surgeries are still taking place with a steady number of parishioners attending.

9. **Parishioners Comments** –

A parishioner from Greenlands raised her own concerns about the amount of traffic along Sole Street, she said that the traffic is bad and will only get worse with the Lower Thames Crossing plans. She has difficulty in pulling out of Greenlands which is made even more difficult by the cars parked opposite the shop. The Chairman explained that he hopes that a traffic planning group can be set up to work on a traffic plan for the Parish in addition to the local traffic group.

Another Parishioner, from The Beeches said that she was concerned, following a recent meeting, to hear that a former Chairman of the PC held some very historic parish council documents and felt that these documents should be preserved as a historical record of Parish Life. The wife of the former chairman explained that the documents were being held safely but agreed that it is important for them to be saved, she explained that a former member of the Parish Council had been working through them but that it was a very time-consuming process. The clerk explained that she had been in contact with the Kent archives and it is hoped that the documents will be sent to the archives, but other parish councils had raised concerns about the transfer of their documents.

ACTION- The clerk to re-visit the matter of archiving the documents and will feed back to the Parish Council.

10. **Matters Arising from the meeting of the 4th March** –

Parking in Greenlands - Cllr Dymond said there was nothing to add to the info she provided at the Annual Parish Assembly meeting. Gravesham BC has concluded their review of permits in the town and will be consulting the rural parishes in the future, the questionnaires will be going out to rural parishes in the summer. A parishioner has said that vans and lorries have caused problems while residents were having work carried out.

Traffic and speed through Cobham village - A parishioner asked about the Wingham traffic plan. The parish Wingham produced a traffic plan and because it is a more professional process Kent County Council will take more notice of it. The matter of fundraising and grants to get a plan done for Cobham. The Wingham plan is 80 pages long and an external consultant was involved. The matter of speed checks was raised and the Meopham checks were referenced. The Clerk explained the way the speed checks are organised and that a discussion with the PCSO was ongoing to arrange further checks around the parish.

Gravesham Borough Councillor, Tony Rice said there needs to be a strategic plan that takes in to account the traffic flow and the forthcoming the Lower Thames Crossing. He feels there is a good opportunity to make a difference. Cllr Dymond raised a concern about LTC funding not being distributed to the parishes. Cllr Rice said that he and the KCC Rural Councillor and Cllr Bob Lane would be interested in contributing to the traffic planning.

Playground repairs - Cllr Booth had seen a wonderful playground whilst visiting another part of the country and contacted the people who had undertaken the work; a company called HAGS. A meeting took place at the playground and the visitor explained what could be done. The playground was last updated about 15-17 years ago. A grant had been acquired in the past for the work. Cllr Dymond explained that the safety matting is often damaged and money is being used to keep repairing it, when it would be better to renew the whole playground, Cllr Mason asked whether the playground could be moved, but it was agreed that there was not enough space to change its location.

11. Committee reports

Playing fields – Nothing further to be reported.

Footpaths – Cllr Haig explained that the treatment used on the Japanese knotweed near the Ship pubic house had been successful but is ongoing . Cllr Dymond also said that Dadds path is clear.

Transport – Cllr Booth said that he would like to take the opportunity to create two committees; one to consider local traffic matters and another to look strategically at the impact of LTC etc.

Planning Committee -Cllr Dyer read through the list of planning applications being dealt with recently:

20190316

Erection of single storey side and rear extension with a new wood burner flue to the south elevation, erection of larger front bay to replace existing and new pitched roof to 5 Sallows Shaw, Cobham, Gravesend, Kent DA13 9BP

An earlier request had been received last year see 2nd attachment -CPC did not have any objection.

20190371

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate in respect of the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension. 5 Greenlands, Cobham, Gravesend, Kent DA12 3AT

20190299

Erection of a triple garage. Rest Harrow, Round Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT **AMENDED DESCRIPTION AND REVISED PLANS** 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 slope and a first floor rear extension to facilitate the conversion of the roof space into habitable rooms, and the creation of a front entrance porch. Hayes Meadow, 2 Sarsens Close, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

20190294

Installation of an artificial bowls surface and floodlighting.

Cobham Bowls Club, Recreation Ground, The Street,
Cobham Gravesend NO OBJECTION

20190439

Erection of a single storey rear extension to form a study
and family room. 2 Chapelwood Place, Cobham, Gravesend, Kent DA13 9AG

The matter of the development at White Post Farm is still with GBC.

Cllr Smith asked about Blue Bell farm and the development there- Cllr Dyer explained that GBC had given permission for the owners put some outbuildings there.

Rural Community Forum- Cllr Dymond explained that there had not been a meeting recently. Meetings usually take place every other month and matters such as the Lower Thames Crossing and greenbelt developments are discussed. Cllr Bob Lane is involved with the Group.

12. **GBC Matters** – Cllr Tony Rice explained that he had been elected a Gravesham Borough Councillor and that he and Cllr Bob Lane were responsible for Cobham, Luddesdown and Shorne between them. Cllr Rice will be handling matters South of the A2 and Cllr Lane will look after the North side. There will, of course, be some crossover. Cllr Rice will sit on the finance and audit committees dealing with commercial matters.
13. **KALC matters** – Noting to report. Cllr Dymond explained that the KALC committee meets quarterly.
14. **Matters raised by Parish Councillors** - Cllr Haig raised the matter of charges for using the tip and the problem of fly tipping locally she asked Cllr Rice to investigate the matter. From the 6th of June you will need ID to use the Cuxton tip and small vans will not be able to use the tip.

Cllr Gabbitas attended the opening of the Cobham Wood tree trail – it was attended by the Mayor and it was a nice day. The National Trust Ranger had one a brilliant job in developing the trail.
Action – Cllr Gabbitas will contact the ranger about arranging a tour.

Cllr Mason mentioned the development and planting of Vines at Luddesdowne Farm. The vineyard is expected to be the largest such facility in the UK.

Cllr Dymond raised the matter of Britain in Bloom; the parish will be judged on the afternoon of 4th July afternoon. She will be looking for volunteers for litter picking. She hopes that the villages, gardens will look bright and tidy. Both the Britain in Bloom and the Front of House competition has been advertised on the boards, website and the Parish Magazine, but further promotion will take place with letters going out. Cllr Gabbitas said there is a plan to decorate the square in front of the Meadow Rooms.

The Chairman asked Cllr Dymond if she was happy to continue to take the lead on this and she agreed. Cllr Dyer mentioned the Plant sale that is held at Dark Sallows each weekend during the month of May A Parishioner also mention the Local Funding Groups garden safari being held on June 16th with 20 gardens being opened.

The telephone box in Cobham is looking untidy and needs clearing of weeds, a parishioner suggested that the school children could decorate it.

Action- The clerk to check with BT about the maintenance of phone boxes.

15. **Training** – The clerk reminded councillors of the 'Dynamic Councillor Course' that will be taking place in the next few months.
16. **Finance** – the finance report was inspected by the Parish Councillors and acceptance was proposed by Cllr Dymond and seconded by Cllr Dyer.

Finance Agenda May 2019.

Maintenance Man April payment	£120.00
Fastnet Domain renewal	£12.00 (Local Gov't Act 1972 s142)
Clerk May Salary	£338.77
Smooth and rugged (April grass cut)	£30.00 (Public Health Act 1875 s164)
Luddesdown RoWG (GRANT)	£150.00 (Highways Act 1980 ss43,50)
Meopham Welfare Committee (Grant Bus)	£250.00 (Local Gov't and rating act 1997 s 26-29)
Parochial Church Council (Grant Mag)	£600.00 (Local Gov't Act 1972 s42)
Cobham and Luddesdown Youth Group	£700.00 (Local Gov't Act 1972 s145)
Total	£2,200.77

The Chairman closed the public meeting at 20.50

Minutes agreed and signed by the Chairman.....