

**Cobham Parish Council Meeting.  
Monday 3rd February 2020 at 7.30pm  
The Meadow Room Cobham.**

Present

Cllr Mike Booth (Chairman), Cllr Steve Dyer (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Rosemary Dymond, Cllr Gabriella Gabbitas, Cllr Margaret Haig  
Cllr Robert Pryor, Cllr Ben Smith

In Attendance

Cllr Tony Rice (GBC) PCSO Jo Hartley  
Mrs Tina Sampson (Clerk)

1. (78)**Apologies** received from Community Warden, Paul Hassell and Cllr Elliott
2. (79)**Declarations of Interest** - None
3. (80)**Minutes:** to confirm the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. These were agreed as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Dyer and seconded by Cllr Rosemary Dymond.
4. (81)**Report from the Community Warden** Paul could not be present but our PCSO, Jo Hartley gave a report and explained that things had been quiet in the Parish in relation to crime. Jo highlighted the problem of scammers preying on the elderly and vulnerable. A recent scam saw men pretending to be investigating a problem with drains and asking for a deposit for future works. They obtain cheques and bank cards taking large amounts of money. Sevenoaks has been hit badly by these scams and there has been a report of someone in Higham being defrauded in this way. Cllr Mason asked if there was a record of what action taken as there seems to be little if any feedback on crimes reported. **ACTION** Clerk to find website
5. (82)**Matters arising from the previous meeting.**

(a)Water Leak outside Sole Street House.

The Clerk explained that it had been established that the water on Sole Street was emanating from a natural source and KCC are looking to install a pipe to drain the water into one of the nearby drains/gullies, however further investigation is required due to the BT equipment and utilities in the ground.

(b)War Memorial – Yew Trees. The Chairman considered the two quotes received and has made a decision to go ahead with Estate and Field Management who also undertakes work for the National Trust.

(c)Lap top purchase – The Clerk now has a new lap top, the old lap top will be used for the retrieval and storage of statistics generated by the speed indicator device. This information will be utilised in discussions about the LTC and the local traffic plan.

(d)Notice Board for Cobham – The Clerk has confirmed the purchase of a new notice board for Cobham to be installed in May.

(e)Planters (Cllr Dymond, Cllr Elliott) Cllr Dymond brought an example of the planter – KCC and GBC to be invited to comment on their suitability and positioning. Volunteers will be needed to plant out the troughs. **ACTION** Clerk to contact KCC highways and GBC planning.

(f)The Village Pump Reservoir –It has yet to be established if Lord Darnley still owns the reservoir and further investigations are ongoing.

(g)Buses -Cllr Booth explained that any action in relation to the size and frequency of buses should be integrated in Local Traffic plan.

(h)Neighbourhood Plan The chairman hopes to hold a meeting with GBC about what they are trying to achieve. Meeting to be arranged.

(i)Sink Hole. Repaired No Further Action

(j)Repairs to tablet inscription and wall behind pump. Cllr Smith has been speaking with a local tradesman and hopes the work will be undertaken in the summer. The Chairman highlighted that it was important that the correct procedures were used and requested a plan of action to be provided. Cllr Dymond mentioned that Parish Council are responsible for the war memorial and that a decision needed to be made on adding an additional name as the individual is already mentioned on the memorial in Chatham. The man lived in Stone House Yard. **ACTION** Cllr Dymond to enquire further.

(k)Dickens anniversary Cllr Gabbitas is working closely with GBC tourism team to commemorate 150 years since his death. Characters from Dickens novels will promenade along The Street; starting at 11am and will last most of the day. Cllr Gabbitas is still working on the arrangements but is likely to require the assistance of the Parish Council, it will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

(l)VE Day commemorations. Cllr Dymond explained that plans were taking place for the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> May she has received many suggestions for events including a memorial service at the war memorial, a bonfire, the Sole Street WI will be providing a themed afternoon tea and there will be an exhibition in the Meadow Room it was also suggested that people could decorate their houses. The Leather Bottle will be throwing a party.

The Chairman raised the matter of the Gate on Dadd's path still not being in place. **ACTION** -Although reported the clerk will follow up with GBC. Cllr Dymond will speak with Cobham Hall regarding their gate to the path.

Fly tipping the clerk confirmed she had sent a list of fly tipping hot spots to GBC and will provide Cllr Rice with a copy.

### **Hotspots for Flytipping.**

Cobhambury Road- by Railway Bridge  
Watling Street /Scalers Hill/Scotland Lane  
Batts Road  
Battle Street  
White Post Lane (Sole Street)  
Round Street/ Dabbs Place  
Jeskyns Road/Henhurst Road  
Halfpence Lane  
Church Road, Ifield

(j)Signage will now be incorporated in the Local traffic plan.

The sign for the Playing Field has been requested and the clerk will follow it up.

Poplars Trees – not on the agenda, however the Chairman gave an update as he had heard from the land owner that they have applied for a licence so the work can be undertaken.

### **(83)Group Reports**

**Planning Group** – Cllr Dyer worked through the recent Planning Applications & Recommendations.

20200033 22 Manor Road, Cobham, Gravesend, Kent DA13 9BN - **Objection**

20191325 Burleigh, Sole Street, Gravesend. **Awaiting comments**

201911941 Owletts Cottages, The Street, Cobham, Gravesend – **No objections**

20191204 Cranbourne Farm, Cophall Road, Cobham, Gravesend Kent -**Objection**

### **Cobham Playing Fields Group – Cllr Dyer**

Update on repairs, some minor work still to be carried out, but there is no urgent action needed according to the yearly report. The car park is getting rutted; quotes for repairs will be needed once the work on the bowls club has been finished. KCC are responsible for the entrance to the carpark.

### **Local Traffic Working Group – Cllr Mason**

Cllr Mason explained that RGP consultants have been appointed to prepare a local traffic plan and there on going conversations. He hoped the report would be ready within 10 days.

**Lower Thames Crossing** – Cllr Tony Rice and Cllr Booth met with LTC. LTC are under pressure to ensure they get everything in place to be ready to move the process on to DCO (Development Consent Order) by the end of 2020. Cllr Booth stated that the changes to the recent plans in the Supplementary Consultation are to do with the utilities & Cobham being within the boundary is still not a definite at this stage. Another meeting should be taking place within two to three weeks with the Parish Council.

SID (speed indicator device). This had been mentioned earlier in the meeting and the fact that Cllr Smith will be taking on the role of collecting data and preparing the stats to be used in discussions about LTC and the traffic plans. Cllr Rice mentioned the fact that GBC are currently monitoring air pollution in The Street with an Air Monitoring Device but it will not measure peaks in air pollution.

Cllr Rice, Cllr Sweetland and Cllr Booth met with the Director of Kent Highways and his colleague. The meeting was very positive and constructive and they seemed to understand the situation and will be looking at what might be done to deal with the problem.

LTC–this item had been covered earlier in the meeting but the chairman pointed out that there were maps and plans on display in the room.

**Cobham – Lead Councillor. Cllr Rosemary Dymond**

Britain in Bloom will cost £50 to enter, the parish councillors agreed to fund the entry fee.

The bollard opposite the school has been repaired

Cllr Dymond also mentioned that Lodge Lane has been damaged along the verge. The Chairman said that KCC is aware of the matter and are considering what can be done.

**ACTION** – The Clerk to send a reminder to KCC.

Public telephone - the Clerk circulated information about the removal of the public telephone in Cobham Village feed-back suggested the kiosk be used as a tourist info point.

**ACTION-** Clerk to request that the village retains the kiosk as a tourist point.

**Sole Street - Lead Councillor. Cllr Steve Dyer**

Cllr Dyer asked if there was any further news about a bus stop for the school children, the clerk relayed that it was considered to be an unsuitable place for a stop so close to a junction.

Nothing to report on St Mary's Church Room

**Other Village Matters**

**Meadow Rooms** – Cllr Gabbitas reported that a clean was due to take place in Feb/March with re-decoration starting in the summer. The window project is still progressing. The Meadow Room is still proving popular for hiring. Events are also in the pipeline with Munchies on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and movies on the meadow on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

A car recently drove into the hedge and a new hedge is being planted. Cllr Rice asked if the incident had been reported to the police for the crash map.

**ACTION** Cllr Gabbitas will check.

**Footpaths** – Rosemary Dymond

Walking over the concrete bridge at footpath 192 she noticed a large amount of rubbish including concrete had been dumped in the field just off White Post Lane, a parishioner also raised concerns about this too. The clerk explained that this had been reported, but as the rubbish was not on the highway or footpath GBC were unable to remove it. It is down to the landowner to get it cleared.

**ACTION** –clerk to report the additional rubbish to GBC

The problem of cars parking on Church road has also been reported to GBC.

**Church & Church Rooms** – Margaret Haig had nothing to report.

**Jeskyns** – Ben Smith – nothing to add from last month's information about the car park work.

**(84)Other Reports**

KCC Matters – Bryan Sweetland not present

GBC Matters – Tony Rice nothing to add to the matters he raised earlier.

Chairmen's Group – Cllr Booth attended the meeting and had a good discussion with the leader of the council about planning chat and the Local Plan. It was suggested that the council is not keen to build on Green Belt and they want to intensify urban development with 8,000 homes in urban areas but there is to be a green belt review. In relation to producing a local plan, the chairman said that councillors should keep in mind where, as a parish, development could be considered.

KALC – Rosemary Dymond attended the meeting for the Gravesham area. She highlighted that there will be further Dynamic Councillor Courses in the future and a Planning Conference.

£60 will be the renewal cost for remaining a member of KALC.

The matter of a ban on lorries to be trialled in rural areas and this was the subject matter of a Kent messenger article. The housing crisis in Kent was raised with the need for infrastructure to be reviewed. Maidstone Borough Council submitted a letter and KALC also produced letter.

Cllr Dymond asked Cllr Rice if he knew whether GBC has produced a green infrastructure programme in the same way Folkestone and Hythe have done. Cllr Rice was unable to confirm whether they had.

Cllr Dymond will be attending the Police Commissioners meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> March – please let Cllr Dymond know if you wish her to raise something on your behalf.

Defibrillator training was provided at the Bowls Club and Cllr Dymond would like to know who the provider was so a further training session can be organised for the college and council. **ACTION** Cllr Booth to speak with the Bowls club to find out.

Rural Parishes Forum – Nothing to report, no recent meetings.

### **Meeting Suspended for parishioners comments**

A parishioner suggested that the bollard opposite the Darnley Arms be replaced with a collapsible post that goes up and down – Clerk to make enquires.

Footpaths –a parishioner mentioned that she would be interested in helping to devising a definitive footpath map.

**ACTION** Cllr Dymond said she would enquire with GROWC.

### **Public meeting closed. 9.10pm**

### **CPC Meeting Continues in Private:**

Sadly Jessica Elliott has tendered her resignation from the PC due to increasing work commitments.

**ACTION** Clerk to arrange for the Notice of Vacancy to be posted.

Cllrs Smith and Mason are still having difficulties with the new Email set up.

**ACTION** Clerk to organise an IT/Email support session.

Correspondence – a letter was received regarding the retirement of the internal auditor. The clerk is looking to appoint a new one and is working on a list provided by KALC and other local clerks.

Training – the clerk attended a course about ensuring web sites are fully accessible –other training courses were mentioned in the KALC report.

Items raised by Councillors –

Cllr Dyer highlighted that there had been a problem with the Country Eye app, but it has been resolved.

The GDPR process and policy was reviewed and agreed.

**FINANCE REPORT -February**

Account Balances as at 24 January 2020

*Business account - £25,034.91*

*Current account £11,655.66*

£206.53 - Repayment to Parish Councillor for the cost of Timber for the Village Planters

£80.00 - 2 cheques @ £40 Repayment to Parish Councillor for computer consultant call out.

£338.77 – Clerk’s Salary for January

£97.19 – Clerks expenses since June 2019.

£281.86 – Maintenance man pay for Dec and Jan.

£470 – New Parish Council Laptop (£390) and including set up (£40), and email set up for 3 Parish Councillors (£40)

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE 2 MARCH  
2020 AT 7.30PM IN ST MARY’S CHURCH ROOM.**

**The meeting closed at 9.40pm.**