



2020/06

**Minutes of a meeting held on Zoom on
Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7.30pm.**

PRESENT

Cllr Mike Booth (Chairman), Cllr Steve Dyer (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Rosemary Dymond, Cllr Gabriella Gabbitas, Cllr Margaret Haig,
Cllr Matt Mason, Cllr Mat Peterson-Pearce, Cllr Robert Pryor

In Attendance

Cllr Tony Rice (GBC), Mrs Tina Sampson (Clerk)

One Parishioner

1. **Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Ben Smith - due to work commitments.
2. **To agree the minutes of the meeting of 5th October 2020.** The minutes were agreed as a true record and were proposed by Cllr Pryor and seconded by Cllr Dymond.
3. **Declarations of Interest** - None
4. **Working Group Reports**
 - **Planning** – Lead Cllr Steve Dyer
 - **White Post Farm** – Response sent to the planning inspectorate.
 - **Norbond Site** – Cllr Tony Rice has responded to the application with the Parish Council also responding with strong objections. The chairman asked if the council would consider any particular development of the site and it was agreed that as the site is on Green Belt it is not suitable for development. The matter of possible contamination on the site was raised although there is not any evidence of any, the unsuitable access was also highlighted.
 - **Neighbourhood Plan.** A meeting took place with GBC and it was decided that Cobham would not put their own plan together but would await the GBC's local plan. The consultation is now open and the Parish Council should respond and encourage parishioners to respond also. Concerns have already be raised on local social media forums and the Parish Council will try to provide a summary of the consultation so that there is a clearer understanding on what is proposed. Deadline for responses is 10 December.
 - **ACTION-** Cllr Peterson-Pearce.

Other planning applications

REFERENCE NO. 20200963

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Formation of a vehicular access onto a classified road

LOCATION Rosemount, Sole Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent **OBJECTION**

20201064

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Application for retention of existing boundary walls, fences and gates. Erection of clock tower on existing outbuilding.

LOCATION Hanworth, Sole Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent DA12

OBJECTION

0200914

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Retrospective application for change of use of the land for the stationing of up to 93 storage containers for self-storage.

LOCATION Former Varnish Factory at Norbond Site, Sole Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

OBJECTION

20200994

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Erection of a wooden gazebo and a patio area in the rear garden. LOCATION I Crockers Place, The Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

DA12 3BZ

No Objection

20201005

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Demolition of existing two storey rear extension and erection of a new two storey rear extension.

LOCATION Holly Lodge, Battle Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent DA12
3DB

No Objection

WHITE POST FARM 2020 - Appeal response was sent to the planning inspectorate by the deadline. The appeal process can take up to 4 months to be decided.

- **Playing Fields** – Lead Cllr Mike Booth –
 - Landway - the repair work is almost complete with only the white road markings to be finished.
 - Japanese Knotweed –Cllr Booth reported that the Japanese knotweed, the broken fence and bushes have been dealt with. A new fence will be fitted in the gap.
 - Sports Assoc. A copy of the lease is still proving difficult to find.
ACTION- clerk to contact the clerk who dealt with the re-drafting of the lease in 2008.
 - Public Toilets – remain closed
- **Local Traffic** - Cllrs Matt Mason & Tony Rice
 - SID – Cllr Smith moved the SID today (2/11) so that it is now collecting data at Scratton Fields from cars coming from the Meopham direction. Councillors are interested to see if the new road surface has increased the speed of traffic and what impact the new lockdown will have on traffic flow.
 - HIP – A meeting took place earlier today (2/11) with the KCC traffic schemes manager. The Parish Council and Cllr Tony Rice provided KCC with a copy of the consultant’s traffic report, the highway improvement plan and photographic evidence of some of the traffic issues being experienced. The meeting concluded with the schemes manager agreeing to pitch the parish’s requests to senior members of KCC in the hope of getting some items agreed. The KCC meeting takes place once a year and all managers get

an opportunity to pitch various programmes. It is hoped that a couple of temporary trials might take place in Cobham; including traffic lights for use in peak periods, a possible one way system and the possibility of narrowing the road. The safety of the parish is the primary issue, it was emphasised that there has been very positive engagement between the parish and KCC and KKC managers are appreciative and knowledgeable of the problems being experienced. It is hoped that if the pitch is successful trials may begin early in the New Year.

- **Lower Thames Crossing**

Statement of Common Ground – Cllr Dyer is still working on the statement, he also returned the feed-back to LTC regarding the effectiveness of their communications.

5. Other Reports

- **KCC Matters** – Cllr Bryan Sweetland – not present
- **GBC Matters** – Cllr Tony Rice reported that the Covid levels in the borough are on the increase
- **Kent Association of Local Councils** – Cllr Dymond reported that KALC had met with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Items covered related to Covid monitoring, more visibility of police in parishes. The Brexit team which will oversee the processes, the International Crime prevention team will still be in place. Kent police will be managing traffic with lorry parks at Manston and Sevington (Ashford). The lorry parks will be where the police will be checking the Red, Amber and Green access passports, with fines starting from £10,000.

A problem with speeding cyclists has been identified in the A258 area, the police cyclists will be seen more often on Kent roads.

There is to be action taken by the police on illegal encampments.

Cllr Dymond said that Gravesham should have Policy protocols in place regarding illegal encampments and recommended the Maidstone protocols.

PCSOs are to get new job descriptions and a list of Neighbourhood watch wardens is to be circulated.

KALC also sent a letter to the Secretary of State regarding housing needs and developments in Kent.

ACTION- Clerk to invite our local Area inspector to a parish meeting and also invite the local police Sergeant.

- **Crime Report** – it is felt that the report we receive from the police is lacking in information and not a true reflection of what is happening locally.

There are other websites where parishioners can obtain crime statistics: <https://www.police.uk/> or iLiveHere.co.uk.

A working group will be set up so that the parish council can monitor local crime and ensure that a record is kept, the group would also be the parish council's contact point for the police and PCSOs. The group will initially consist of Cllr Pryor and Cllr Dymond.

6. Other Village Matters

Matters arising from previous meeting

- **Defibrillator for Sole Street** – the post is still to be put in place for the new defibrillator. **ACTION** Cllrs Mason and Smith
- **Community Assets** – local pubs and shops to be informed that the Parish council are seeking to make them community assets – **ACTION** Cllr Peterson-Pearce.
- **War Memorials** – cleaning & new inscription update – Masons have successfully carried out the work on the Ifield memorial and the tablet behind the parish pump. Cllr Rice asked if anyone knew the story behind the 1934 carvings on a couple of the bricks in the wall behind the pump.
- **Remembrance Sunday** – The small service will take place at the memorial, Cllr Haig will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Dymond will be laying a wreath on behalf of Kent's Lord Lieutenant, a former chairman will be laying a wreath on behalf of the Royal British Legion a box of crosses will be placed by the memorial, it has a QR code to allow people to make a donation before placing the crosses around the memorial.
- **Web Site survey** –Cllr Peterson-Pearce has devised a survey which will be placed on the website and face-book which will ask parishioners to indicate which issues, within the parish, are of most concern to them. Cllr Peterson-Pearce asked for any changes to the survey to be conveyed to him within the week after which the survey will go live.
- **High Fence** on footpath from Manor Rd to Whitepost Lane. GBC responded that –as it is not adjacent to a highway it can be 2 metres in height, no action being taken.
- **Halfpence Lane** – Sink Holes. Clerk has requested report from Southern Water. The clerk is now chasing with a 2nd customer services operative.

Other Reports

- **Meadow Rooms** – Cllr Gabriella Gabbitas –No major updates. The Meadow Room is open with users following government advice, usage is primarily/only child related groups i.e. preschool and toddler groups. To support social distancing and the safe use of the Meadow Room we are maintaining the hand sanitiser stations and one way system, along with information posters and additional COVID-19 T&Cs. Cash reserves remain healthy and the grants process is still being progressed. We are in the early (tentative) stages of reviewing our approach to Munchies for 21.
- **Footpaths** – Cllr Rosemary Dymond – Nothing to report
- **Church & Church Rooms** – Cllr Margaret Haig- Our church will close on Thursday in line with the national lockdown, although the church will be open on Wednesday for private prayer.
- **Jeskyns, Ifield & Henhurst** – Cllr Ben Smith has asked Jeskyns for an update, Cllr Mason asked if the car park would be open during lockdown as there is likely to be an impact on local roads in they are closed during lockdown. **ACTION** clerk to check with Jeskyns.

Meeting Suspended for

- **Parishioners Comments**

A parishioner stated that he was disappointed to hear that GBC would not be taking action regarding the tall fence along the footpath off White Post Lane. The parishioner

also enquired whether the road signs left behind when Manor Road was resurfaced could be removed –

ACTION Clerk to inform KCC

Meeting continues in Private

7. Correspondence

Business Stream – still an ongoing issue over the bill for the public toilets.

An email was received regarding the amount of dog fouling in Manor Road and the state of the pavement along Manor Road and on the corner of Sallows Shaw at the junction with White Post Lane –**ACTION** Clerk to make GBC aware.

Cllr Rice reported that many parishioners have received a letter from KCC asking them to cut back trees along Sole Street, The Street and other areas in the parish. It transpired that the request originated with a local bus company who raised concerns about the trees damaging their stock.

It is not clear why the parish council or County Councillors were not aware of the correspondence being sent out.

The matter of two weeping willows at the end of Sallows Shaw were also raised by Cllr Dymond as they are hanging too low and impacting the footpath and road side.

8. Items raised by Councillors

Cllr Haig raised the issue of dog waste bins at the playing field, Cllr Booth explained that a meeting was to take place with GBC in relation to relocating the bin to a more suitable location.

Cllr Dymond highlighted the successful pumpkin trail in Cobham Village over Halloween.

The usual Gravesham nativity will take place in Cobham this year and will be recorded and shared more widely in December.

Cllr Dymond also raised concern about the number of empty houses around the parish and asked councillors to keep a note of any empty properties.

9. Finance / Cheques

Recently signed cheques.

Meadow Room hire (Sept)	£30.00
Clerk repayment (Postage)	£37.49
Remembrance Wreath	£18.50
Donation to Royal British Legion	£50.00
NPC Tree Surgery (knotweed and bushes).	£780.00
Clerk's Pay (Standing Order)	£438.13

The finance report was agreed, proposed by Cllr Dyer and seconded by Cllr Mason

The clerk left the meeting at 9.40pm

10. Clerk replacement

Meeting Closed

Next meeting will be the yearly closed budget meeting to take place on 30th November.

Note: It was agreed that the date of the yearly budget meeting would take place on 7th December.