

**Minutes of a meeting on
Monday 4 March at 7.30PM
St Mary's Church Room Sole Street**

**Present
Cllr Blackett, Cllr Booth,
Cllr Dyer (Vice Chair), Cllr Dymond (Chair)
Cllr Elliott, Cllr Gabbitas, Cllr Haig,
Cllr Mason, Cllr Smith
Clerk Mrs T Sampson. 11 Parishioners**

1. Apologies for absence - None
2. Minutes: to confirm the minutes of 4th February. Agreed as a true record signed by the chairman.
3. Declaration of Interests – None
4. Parishioners Comments – *items not already identified on the agenda.*

A Parishioner raised the issue of multiple pot holes around the parish, including at Rookery corner and near the old bus stop, additionally Cllr Smith said there was another large pothole opposite his house on Sole Street. The clerk asked the parishioner to email her with the pothole locations and she will make a report to KKC.

Another parishioner said that an old fridge had been dumped at the top of Battle Street – this had already been reported and the clerk relayed that GBC had agreed to collect it.

Cllr Haig said that the old telegraph pole that had prevented vehicles crossing the playing field had been moved and needs to be replaced.

ACTION- Cllr Booth will take forward with the Sports Association.

A parishioner, who has been leading on the parish litter picks, suggested that we might set up a crisp packet collection point in the Parish. Crisp packets are not currently recyclable, but Walkers have started a scheme to collect them to protect the environment and prevent further landfill. **ACTION-** Clerk to find further details.

5 Matters Arising from previous meeting

a. Parking - Greenlands – update from Chairman and Cllr Blackett

A meeting took place with Mr N May, Parking Services Manager from GBC regarding parking around Sole Street - 26 Feb 2019 11am.

The Chairman, Cllr Blackett and the Clerk joined Mr May and a parking enforcement officer for a walk through the problem areas in Sole Street including Scratton Fields, Greenlands and Manor Road. These roads were very clear, and it was difficult for the visitors to gauge the problem at the time.

Mr May confirmed that parishioners without off street parking are entitled to 2 permits whilst those with a garage or off-street parking are able to apply for 1 permit.

Since January 2017 the permits are only issued for one year as opposed to 5 years as they previously had been. It was discussed whether the cost of the permits should be reviewed.

GBC have undertaken a review of restricted parking zones in the urban part of Gravesend and will be writing out to rural parishioners to ask for their opinion on the current restrictions, Nick will send the clerk a copy of the letter they used for the initial review in Gravesend.

The parking enforcement officer checked permits while we walked round and all were found to be legal, he did speak to one resident regarding parking across a footpath.

The police are responsible for dealing with obstruction on pavements caused by cars.

It was discussed whether those with multiple parking spaces on their property should be eligible for permits. It was also asked whether GBC were aware of the number of spaces available in relation to the number of permits given out - they were not. The GBC visitors were surprised by the amount of off-street parking available to residents.

It was explained by the enforcement officer how long they patrol the area for and how often. This is for half an hour in Cobham before moving on to Meopham for half an hour.

In conclusion - it appears that the matter will need to be re-visited when GBC have undertaken the review with parishioners.

The Chairman also referred to a campaign in Newquay regarding the parking difficulties they are experiencing. The campaign is being supported by NALC (National Association of Local Councils). Newquay Town Council is preparing to submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act in relation to allowing local councils the power to enforce civil parking regulations.

In Newquay there have been significant issues with anti-social on-street parking, which is compounded by a lack of enforcement in more remote or residential areas. This is creating serious safety issues, particularly at junctions or along narrow streets – preventing access to emergency services. Whilst a year-round issue, as a tourist destination, this worsens during the summer months where the road network is brought to a standstill.

ACTION- Cllr Blackett and the Chairman will complete the survey on behalf of Cobham Parish Council and will share the response with councillors.

Cllr Booth raised the matter of pavement parking and asked what could be expected when reporting to the police, unfortunately it was agreed that it was unlikely that any action would be taken.

b. Community Warden Surgery -update from Paul Hassell/Clerk

Community Warden Paul Hassell provided information about the arrest of two robbers following a snippet of information provided by a parishioner at December's parish meeting. The parishioner told the warden that she had some concerns about a car that had been cruising the area- the warden passed this intelligence on to the police. The car was pulled up and was found to contain a large amount of drugs and a crowbar. It was found that the crowbar had been used in a robbery. The two people were charged and have both received a 5-year sentence.

Paul said that any little bit of information can be helpful, and it is always worth mentioning any concerns parishioners may have.

The monthly surgeries are going well and following the last surgery new Neighbourhood watch signs were put up around Sole Street. The warden will also be showing a presence at the Ship public House to try and prevent any further conflict over parking.

The PCSO will be setting up another Speed check in Cobham and a parishioner asked if a speed check could also take place on Sole Street.

ACTION Clerk to contact PCSO for possible dates. The clerk will also invite PCSO Hartley to attend the APA meeting in April and give a report.

c. Speed Indicator Device- update Cllr Blackett

The SID has now been in Cobham, collecting data from those exiting the village, for about 6 weeks. After 8 weeks it will be moved in line with KCC guidance. Over the 6 weeks around 100,000 vehicles have exited the village with an average speed of around 29 mph; however, of the 100,000, 26,000 were doing 35 mph and another 9000 vehicles doing between 40 and 70 mph. Daily week days average

around 3000 vehicles and weekends, half that figure. The average flow rate during the day is around 100 cars an hour, but between 07.00 and 09.00 can reach nearly 1000 cars per hour. Add in the vehicles going in the other direction and you have a traffic jam!

A parishioner asked if the SID could collect data without flashing? The device does have a calming effect which means we do not capture the real picture of speeding but if the device didn't flash it might give a truer picture. Cllr Blackett wants to collate from the five different positions around the parish before considering next steps.

d. Traffic and speed through Cobham Village – update Chairman

Following a meeting with Cllr Sweetland KCC and Cllr Mike Whiting, cabinet member for Highways Kent on the 15th February. It was an hour and a half meeting, and they visited both Cobham and Sole Street before their final discussion in Cobham. Cllr Sweetland explained that a visit to two other Kentish villages would be worthwhile, one of the villages is Wingham, they had a survey undertaken and traffic plan drawn up. A couple of ideas they took forward were putting flower displays at traffic hotspots along with extra lighting and bollards; a general mixture of actions. Both Councillors said that there was a lot of support for Kent villages. There was no response regarding more bollards. KCC would have to be consulted regarding the movement or addition of bollards.

ACTION -Cllr Blackett to share the Wingham traffic plan with all Parish Councillors.

e. Playground repairs – update Cllr Dyer/Cllr Smith

Three quotes had been obtained and it appears it would be too expensive to re-surface the whole playground. It was agreed that the repairs should be undertaken and that the Parish Council would look at a bigger project in 2020. It was agreed that the patching of the playground should take place and the quote from Barge would be the contractor we would use. (The work will be undertaken under Local Government (misc. prov) Act 1976 s.19.

ACTION- Clerk to take forward/Cllr Booth to look at other specialist playground providers.

f. Forthcoming elections.

Cllr Booth asked if the Parish Council could reclaim election costs, Cllr Dyer didn't think it could.

ACTION Clerk to enquire. Chairman to raise at the Parish Chairman's meeting on 20th March

6 Group reports

- Playing Fields Group Report -please see earlier minute re: repairs.
- Footpaths Group Report – Good news overlapping trees have been cut back along the path opposite the Railway Public House.
- Local Traffic Group Report – see earlier minute re: SID and KCC meeting in Cobham. Nothing further to report regarding the Lower Thames Crossing as the consultation responses are still being considered.
- Planning Group Report Cllr Dyer:

Reference no. 20190144 Proposed development Erection of double open garage. Location The Galleons, Sallows Shaw, Cobham, Gravesend Kent.
OBJECTION.

ACTION Clerk to report lack of statutory notice on property. Chairman to raise at the GBC Chairman's meeting of 20th March

Reference no. 20190171 Proposed development erection of a single storey rear extension and a front porch. Location Pinetop, round street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent
NO OBJECTION

Cllr Dyer gave some feed-back on former applications: Many applications are still outstanding. The application to extend the car park at Jeskyns has been approved. White Post Farm is still pending.

- Rural Parishes Report – There has not been any recent meetings/ nothing to report.

7 GBC Matters – No representative

8 KCC Matters – No representative It's the pre-election period

9 KALC Matters- The Chairman will be attending the planning conference and the clerk will be undertaking CiLCA accreditation. There will a new councillor conference at Ditton Community Hall on 18th July for new or experienced Councillors—and a Meopham will also be holding a conference for new councillors.

Rural Police Inspector to attend one meeting a year. ACTION to send invite.

The chairman referred to the Tree charter, which is being supported by the Woodland trust.

ACTION the clerk to circulate info.

KALC will also be providing PSCO training for members to

explain what the PCSOs do and what responsibilities they have.

10 Correspondence/GDPR: Update Clerk

Following reports of a broken bollard the clerk reported it and KCC repaired it. The matter of Sole Street as a conservation area was raised.

The matter of overgrown trees by the Cobhambury Road- Southern Water substation was reported to the Chairman, the clerk contacted Southern water who would visit the area to ascertain whether any action was taken. It was suggested that GBC be contacted to see if the could help.

ACTION Clerk to contact GBC.

11 Matters Raised by Parish Councillors

The impact on the Parish of visitors to Jeskyns parking in the village. (Cllr Booth) To be raised with Forestry commission.

Yellow Lines the Street Cobham (Cllr Mason/Cllr Haig) are unnecessary and the wrong colour-should be conservation primrose.

The resurfacing patches along The Street has made the noise worse – Clerk to raise with KCC Who gives permission for contractors to dig in areas of conservation area near the village pump?

Clerk to check with Mr Mayfield and ask whether the reservoir is listed.

Cllr Smith wanted to mention the parishioner who is tidying the war memorial area- Chair to send a letter of thanks. The Chairman added her thanks to Cllr Smith for all the work he undertakes around the Parish in keeping it clean, tidy and in good repair.

It was suggested a meeting with the Forestry Commission through Denise but involving the whole Parish Council.

ACTION Clerk to email Denise.

Cllr Elliott said the hart beep sign is still there on Meadow Rooms fence.

ACTION Vice chair to speak to chairman again.

Cllr Mason asked that the footway along Sole Street is not forgotten.

ACTION Chairman requests it stays on the agenda.

Cllr Booth -asked if the money received from GBC for the maintenance of the toilets could be passed to the Sports Club for looking after the facilities, councillors agreed this.

Cllr Dymond mentioned that the 20 MPH roundel was still missing from the bollard at the entrance to the Village **ACTION:** Clerk to report again.

12 Any Other Business The Youth Club contacted the Parish Council regarding funding and provided a report.

Youth Club report- "CSL Youth Club would like to ask Cobham Parish Council for a grant for 2019-20 as the money we received in 2018-19 has been of great benefit and has allowed us to continue in safe and fun environment.

The youth club age range is from 10yrs upwards. The Youth Club (YC) meets every other Friday during term time at the Meadow Room. Each child is asked to contribute £10 annual membership (this covers insurance) and £3.00 per session (£3.50 for guests / non-members). Two Youth Workers are provided for each session by The Grand."

Cllr Booth sent his idea regarding making better use of dash cams to the Police commissioner and Adam Holloway- he received replies and the Police are looking at the technology behind the dash cams and how they can be used.

13 Finance

Laminator sheets (refund Clerk)	£9.99
Maintenance Man	£120.00
Clerk's Salary	£301.00
Total	£430.99

Agreed by Cllr Dyer and seconded by Cllr Haig.

End of Public Meeting 9.30pm

Councillors briefly discussed planning issues- Cllr Elliott read out the PC's response to GBC regarding the Galleons application. Objection agreed

ACTION-Cllr Elliott to draft an email to GBC regarding concerns about changes to Hanworth's out building.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 15 APRIL 2019 IN THE MEADOW ROOMS COBHAM STARTING AT 7.30PM