



2020/05

**Minutes of a meeting held on
Monday 5th October 2020 at 7.30pm
Via Zoom**

Present

Cllr Mike Booth (Chairman), Cllr Steve Dyer (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Rosemary Dymond, Cllr Margaret Haig, Cllr Matt Mason
Cllr Robert Pryor

In attendance

Cllr Tony Rice (GBC) Mrs T Sampson (Clerk)
1 Parishioner

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr Ben Smith, Cllr Mathew Peterson-Pearce, Cllr Gabriella Gabbitas
2. The minutes of the meeting of 7th September 2020 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and proposed by Cllr Dyer and seconded by Cllr Pryor
3. Declarations of Interest - none
4. Working Group Reports

Planning – Lead Cllr Steve Dyer

White Post Farm - Cllr Mason explained that an appeal has been received by GBC in relation to White Post Farm's application (20200554) and the Parish Council have until the 20th of October to respond to the planning inspectorate. The matter of a previous injunction was raised and this is an important element of the PC's response.

Norbond Site – Borough councillor, Tony Rice updated the PC on this application, the retrospective application has been received but rejected as it contained errors. Cllr Rice explained that it had been beyond 3 months since the business arrived on the green belt as a planning breach. The applicant has established the business on this site. Cllr Rice has explained to GBC that Sole Street residents feel that the planning system is not on the side of those that follow the rules. He has asked when a deadline will be set with a change of approach to an enforcement action.

Concerns raised regarding two properties in Cobham that appear to be having work carried out without planning permission have been passed to GBC's planning enforcement team.

In response to a question, posed by Cllr Dymond, Cllr Rice explained that members of the public are able to attend meetings of GBC's planning committee and are able to speak for three minutes.

Neighbourhood plan – Cllr Rice and the chairman will be meeting with GBC on the 6th Oct to discuss the merits of putting together a plan when other local PCs have had their plans rejected by GBC. It was recognised that the parish would lose control of all planning if they didn't put a plan together. Cllr Dymond suggested that councillors take a look at Debenham

in Essex they had produced an excellent neighbourhood plan which had been accepted by their local borough council.

Two other applications have been received:

REFERENCE NO. 20200963

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Formation of a vehicular access onto a classified road

LOCATION Rosemount, Sole Street, Cobham, Gravesend Kent

Possible objection on safety grounds- TBC

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

Playing Fields – Lead Cllr Mike Booth

Landway – Repairs to the landway will take place 26th- 30th October, the car parks for the school and sports clubs will not be accessible ⁱ (see footnote)

Japanese Knotweed – spraying has taken place 3 times and has died back and will be cleared away. The fence has broken at this point and the chairman proposed that the parish council paid half of the repairs with the sports association, the matter of another area of broken fence was also raised and the chairman suggested that the parish council also pays half for that repair too. This would amount to around £700 being paid from parish funds- this was agreed by the rest of the parish councillors.

ACTION- The chairman to take forward.

Sports Assoc. Cllr Booth highlighted that a new lease was drawn up in 2008 and that he would need to obtain a copy of it from the solicitor.

Public Toilets – remain closed

Local Traffic - Cllrs Matt Mason & Tony Rice

Speed Indicator Device SID Cllr Mason will be moving the SID to Sole Street at Scratton Fields. The new site for the SID on Henhurst Road is yet to be prepared. Cllr Mason said that it will be interesting to discover whether the new surface on Sole Street has had an impact on the speed of traffic.

Report on recent Traffic Group Meeting – The minutes had been circulated, no comments were made.

HIP (Highways improvement plan) – The HIP has been well received by KCC. Cllr Dymond enquired how supportive KCC was of the plan, Cllr Rice said they are, but depending on cost as the money will need to be bid for. KCC will also need to consider their top priorities.

A meeting with KCC will take place on 30th October, however a decision will not be given on that day it is hoped, however that some workable solutions will be considered. There were no further comments on the plan.

Transport meeting – Cllr Booth had nothing relevant to the parish to report.

Lower Thames Crossing- Cllr Dyer will be taking discussions forward, regarding the statement of Common Ground – inc. BOATS, with Highways England.

5. Other Reports

KCC Matters – Cllr Bryan Sweetland- not present

GBC Matters – Cllr Rice has raised some concerns with GBC in relation to the way they handled the Bonham Hayes charity donations. The chairman would also like to know why the Parish Council had such little input in to the decision making process

ACTION- Cllr Rice to ask GBC.

GBC Parish Chairman's meeting – Cllr Dyer attended the meeting on behalf of Cobham, items raised included fly tipping and the lack of planning enforcement. There has been a slight increase in fly-tipping cases for the period April – August 2020 compared to the previous year, this is probably due to better recording of incidents by GBC street cleansing staff when they remove fly-tipping that is yet to be reported by the public. In relation to the Pepper Hill recycling centre it is currently working at 60% capacity, using the appointment system with heavier recycling loads being brought in.

Cobham also asked about planning enforcement.

Two hundred and eighty four enforcement cases were closed in the twelve month period:

106 cases- No breach identified

146 cases – Remediated

3 cases - Immune from enforcement

29 cases – Not expedient to pursue

GBC are no longer offering to maintain street lighting for parishes. Cobham has only two street lights and it is believed that these are maintained by KCC as part of the road calming measures they put in place. The chairman also suggested that they are there for reasons of road safety and therefore the maintenance should remain the responsibility of Kent Highways

Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) – Cllr Dymond reported that KALC was recognised as the top local authority association. KALC has sent a letter to the Secretary of State regarding planning targets and a lack of action in relation to ensuring the builders that have already been given planning permission actually undertake the build. The letter was supported by 50% of Kent's MPs. Cllr Dymond also highlighted the 'bite size' training courses that KALC is offering its members; the clerk has circulated the details.

6 Crime Report –

The Chairman highlighted the lack of information provided by the police in their monthly report. It was agreed that all parish councillors have a part to play in reporting crimes as they are made aware of them- ensuring the police are aware and logging on the parish website.

7. Other Village Matters

Matters arising from previous meeting

- Defibrillator for Sole Street – Cllr Mason has the defibrillator ready for fitting and is awaiting the posts to be positioned.
- Community Assets – BF to next meeting.
- War Memorials – It was agreed that work will be carried out to get lfield memorial cleaned. Cllr Dymond received two quotes and the cost will be

£745 +VAT. A name will be added to the Cobham memorial which will be paid for by the family. It was also agreed to pay the £155 to have the tablet behind the parish pump professionally cleaned.

- Remembrance Sunday- Cobham's traditional remembrance Sunday service will not be taking place this year due to Covid 19 restrictions. A wreath laying ceremony will take place at 10 am with the wreaths being laid by six people and prayers said. A service will then take place at Luddesdowne Church at 10.30 am ⁱⁱ (see footnote)

Notice will be given and it is hoped that people will pay their respects throughout the day as there is a danger that in an effort to socially distance people may be in danger of spreading into the road.

The police have been informed of the plan. Cllr Haig highlighted the fantastic work that is being carried out by volunteers in keeping the area around the memorial neat and respectful.

- Ifield Road – Old Rectory hedge had been cut back. NFA
- Sarcens Close – Details of the situation has been passed to the parking team at GBC- NFA
- Web Site survey –BF to next meeting
- High Fence on footpath from Whitepost Lane. The footpath officer has said that it is a planning matter. The council agreed that it is not in keeping of the area. GBC planning team are aware ACTION-Clerk to follow up.
- Halfpence Lane – Due to a number of issues in the recent past an incident log report has been requested from Southern Water. ACTION- Clerk to follow up.
- Trick or Treat safety in parish – signs to be made regarding child safety.

Other Reports

- Meadow Rooms – Cllr Gabriella Gabbitas – not present
- Footpaths – Cllr Rosemary Dymond – Nothing further to report.
- Church & Church Rooms – Cllr Margaret Haig reported that work to lay new pipes in front of Cobham Church led to bones from the 15th century being found, work has now been halted so an archaeologist can investigate. The Vicar has said that she will provide a blessing when the bones are reinterred. Cllr Haig also reported that a less expensive surveyor is to carry out work on the Sole Street church room the room is not currently being used.
- Jeskyns, Ifield & Henhurst – Cllr Ben Smith – not present.

Meeting Suspended for Parishioners comments.

- Parishioners Comments – a parishioner present asked a further question about the White Post Farm appeal process.

Meeting continued in Private

8 Correspondence

Business Stream sought a meter reading for the public toilets and this has been submitted, it is hoped that any further issues have now be resolved.

9 AOB & Items raised by Councillors

Cllr Dymond was delighted to announce that Cobham Parish has been awarded a Silver Gilt certificate by the organisers of Britain in Bloom and was one of only three small villages to achieve this level.

10 Finance / Cheques - the report was agreed – proposed by Cllr Dymond and seconded by Cllr Pryor.

Meeting Closed

Next meeting will take place on 2nd November; venue yet to be confirmed.

Addendum

ⁱ It has since been noted that the Landway works should be completed on 27th-28th October

ⁱⁱ It has since been noted that the morning remembrance service at 10.30 will take place in Cobham Church with a 5pm service of remembrance taking place in Luddesdowne Church.