

## North Cerney Parish Council

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00 pm by “Zoom”

**Present:** Councillors Mark Tufnell, Adam Stoten, Cathy Martin, Nigel Wilkes and Libby Butler, RFO Barry Koch, County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson and District Councillor Jenny Forde

**Presiding:** Councillor Mark Tufnell

**Clerk:** Valerie Hancock

**Apologies:** Councillor Linda de Carles, PCSO Andy Biddell and Peter Clegg

1. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020:** The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 by Zoom be approved and signed.

2. **Matters Arising:** None

#### 3. **District and County Issues:**

3.1 **County Council:** Councillor Hodgkinson reported on the following:

3.1.1 Public Health: There had been a total of some 16,000 cases of Covid 19 in Gloucestershire, with 2,400 new cases in the past week (an increase of 67%). In the Cotswold District there were currently 303 cases per 100,000, putting the District in the lowest 10% compared with the rest of England, where the rate was 678 per 100,000. Many thousands of Gloucestershire residents had been vaccinated. The police had been monitoring activity and had issued a number of warnings, mainly to people from outside the area.

3.1.2 . All County Council services were still running

3.1.3 He had spoken to the new Area Highways Manager about extending the 40 mph speed limit on the A435. He was aware of the repeated requests, and had committed to carrying out a speed survey.

3.1.4 The Woodmancote to Bagendon road had recently been patched. Councillor Butler raised some issues concerning the quality of the work and Councillor Hodgkinson said he would look into this.

Councillor Tufnell referred to flooding issues at Calmsden, where drains and culverts were blocked. He had been told this had been inspected, and no work was needed, Councillor Hodgkinson said he would meet with Councillor Tufnell, and would pursue the matter.. Councillor Stoten asked if action could be taken to alleviate the regular flooding on the A435 by the bend and layby.

3.2 **District Council:** Councillor Forde reported on the following:

3.2.1 The police had received a number of reports of breaches of the lockdown rules – mainly use of second homes and meetings in houses.

3.2.2 The Council was reminding residents of the severity of the situation, and she urged all Councillors to spread the message about complying with the lockdown rules.

3.2.3 All Council services were continuing, although the flooding had upset some bin collections. The Council was continuing to administer grants to local businesses.

3.2.4 There were very few requests coming through the Help Hub. It appeared that all those needing support were being helped.

3.2.5 In February, the Council would be launching on-line crowd funding, to replace the Community Grant scheme. Organisations could set up a project, and seek pledges from local businesses and individuals. Cotswold District Council would also provide funds, and the funds would be released when the target was met.

Councillor Stoten said his experience of crowd funding was that a great deal of marketing was necessary through social media. Councillor Forde said this would be dealt with by Cotswold District Council, and the infrastructure was already in place.

Councillor Tufnell asked whether Cotswold District Council had supplied sand bags during the recent flooding. It was commented that this did not appear to be the responsibility of the Parish Council. Councillor Stoten said that he and his neighbours had been able to put together enough defences to keep the water out of their properties.

#### 4. Financial Matters:

4.1 **Reconciliation Statement:** The reconciliation statement was presented by the RFO and it was **resolved** that it be approved. There was currently some £4.560 in the bank and he anticipated that the balance at the end of the year would be in the region of £3.000.

4.2 **Authorisation of Expenditure:** The following expenditure was authorised:

Passion First Aid Ltd	668	Defibrillator	1974.00	-
V Hancock		Clerks salary and PAYE Oct-Dec)	441.00	

4.3 **Budget and Precept for 2021-2022:** The RFO presented a draft Budget. The only major additional expense in the coming year was the cost of fencing and tree works at Woodmancote playground. After discussion, and having regard to the balance held by the Council, it was **resolved** that the precept for 2021/22 would be set at £6,000.

5. **Defibrillator:** Councillor Stoten had received delivery of the defibrillator, and would arrange for it to be installed when the telephone kiosk had been redecorated. The cost of installation would be in the region of £200.

#### 6.1. Highway Issues:

6.1.1. The Clerk had been notified that Daniel Tiffany is now the Deputy Area Highways Manager for the area, and the point of contact

6.1.2 Notice of closure of various roads had been received – Dark Lane, Fosse Way and Cutham Lane (all now re-opened), and the road from Fields Road to Calmsden between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February.

6.1.3 The potholes in the upper part of Chapel Lane had been reported by the Clerk (and 23 of them had now been marked for repair). GCC Highways had been asked again to re-fix the sign on the “gateway” on the A435 near Broadbridge.

6.1.4 The Clerk had completed and submitted the Safe and Social Roads Survey following a Zoom meeting with Councillors Stoten, Wilkes and Butler.

#### 6.2 Footpaths

A resident had raised a query concerning the use (and churning up) of footpaths by horse riders. Geoff Ramshaw had taken advice from the Ramblers Association. In the absence of byelaws made by the District or County Council, horse-riding on footpaths is not a criminal offence, but it is a trespass against the owner of the land. In the case of any particular path, Geoff's colleague would be willing to contact the land owner to see if they

were sufficiently determined to prevent horses using the footpath, and would be willing to pay for (eg) a kissing gate.(which the Voluntary Wardens would install).

### **7. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:**

Councillor Wilkes had asked PCSO Andy Biddell for a crime report for the parish, but had not yet received this. The only incident of which he was aware was of a pedestrian bitten by a dog on a footpath in the village. This was reported to the police.

A vehicle had recently left the A435 end ended in the hedge. It was not known whether this was due to road conditions or speeding.

Community Speed Watch was on hold due to the pandemic, but he hoped this could start again in April.

Councillor Tufnell said there had been poaching and hare-coursing around Calmsden. In one incident the police caught the perpetrators and had their car crushed, In another, the police sent the culprits home. Damage was caused by these activities and there is a current national campaign to increase sentences for the offences. The Clerk was asked to request, through Churn News, that the public report any incidents they see, and use 999 if firearms are involved.

Councillor Butler reported that the abandoned vehicles had been removed from the Woodmancote car park, and the business that had been carried on there had moved.

### **8. Woodmancote Playground:**

**8.1 Inspections:** Councillor Butler said she was willing to take on the regular inspections. At present, there appeared to be a lot of mole activity.

**8.2 Grass cutting:** After discussion it was **resolved** to ask Ross Collins to carry on with cutting the grass during the current year, at his quoted cost of £850.

**8,3 Fencing:** Councillor Tufnell had spoken to Henry Robinson, who had said he had no intention of taking back the playground when the present lease expired. It was **resolved** to accept Tim Adams' quotation of £700 for repair of the fence. Councillor Butler said she would look again at the overgrown tree to see whether his services were needed to cut it back.

**9. Flood Prevention:** Councillor Stoten said that, although they had found sufficient defences this time, he thought it worth having sand bags available for distribution to the owners of properties at risk. It was **resolved** that he would purchase a bag of sand and a supply of bags for the Parish Council. He would store and distribute these as necessary.

### **10. Vacancy on the Council:**

Councillor Tufnell thanked John Ewbank for his work during his time as a Councillor. The Clerk reported that there had been no request for an election, and the Council could co-opt a Councillor, There was no obligation to do so, as Council elections were currently scheduled for 6 May 2021. The Clerk was asked to publicise the vacancy in the Churn News, and invite applications, preferably from residents in Woodmancote.

### **11. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders**

#### **11.1 Planning Applications:**

The Old House Calmsden: Conversion of existing out building to provide ancillary accommodation. Erection of a canopy roof light and parapet and creation of two vehicle accesses.

And related application for Listed Building Consent – including internal alterations

Calmsden Manor: Felling of sycamore tree and reduction of multi-stem sycamore

**11.2 Planning Consents**

Barn at Scrubditch Farm: Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development for change of use. Conversion and alteration of stone barn and stables to provide a dwelling and new garage  
48 Dark Lane: reduction of crown of prunus cerasifera "Pissardii".

**11. Correspondence:**

The following correspondence (excluding Newsletters, Councillor briefings, Covid reports etc) was reported by the Clerk:

1. Response from Bromford Housing regarding the car park at Woodmancote
2. From Scottish & Southern Electricity regarding support through their Priority Services Register for vulnerable people during sustained power cuts. An item for the Churn News has been provided, and leaflets will be available. It was agreed these should be available through the Clerk at present
3. Notification that the Cotswold Tree Wardens Group has been dissolved
4. Notification from GAPTC that the subscription rate for 2021/22 will be 33.42p per elector (an increase of 0.22p).
- 5 The Committee on Standards in Public Life has launched a consultation as part of its review of institutions, processes and structures in place to support high standards of conduct.
- 6 Cotswold District Council has appointed Robert Weaver as Chief Executive
7. Information regarding the Ash Dieback Project, replanting scheme.

**12. Any Other Business - None**

**13. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Signed .....