

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 10th February 2022 at 7.30 pm at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

Present: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Nigel Wilkes, Linda de Carles, and Elizabeth Butler, Barry Koch as RFO, District Councillor Jenny Forde and 4 parishioners

Presiding: Councillor Mark Tufnell

Clerk: Valerie Hancock

Apologies: Councillors Adam Stoten, Cathy Martin, Clare Cannock and County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson. It was **resolved** that the Parish Councillors had acceptable reasons for absence

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th December 2021

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th December 2021 at The Memorial Hall North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

“20 is plenty” Campaign: the Clerk reported that she had written to Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP and Gloucestershire County Council, and had received acknowledgements.

Defibrillator: Training would be available in the Memorial Hall at 7 pm on 28th February. So far, only two local residents had indicated they would like to attend.

3. District and County Issues:

3.1 **County Council:** Councillor Hodgkinson had sent a note reporting as follows:

3.1.1 **Covid:** Cases had dropped from the highest levels in January, but had climbed again locally. They appeared to be plateauing. The rise was being driven by infections in schools, but was circulating to all ages. Hospitalisations were around 80, down from the highest level, and currently stable.

In the County 90% of those over 16 had received their first vaccination. Booster vaccinations were still available.

3.1.2 **Road Safety and Highways:** There had been two accidents in the past two weeks, on the A436 and A429, in which four people lost their lives and others were seriously injured. He had asked Highways to assess what could be done to improve road safety at the locations.

The patching of Chapel Lane was now scheduled and imminent.

He had again reported the fallen trees in the river.

3.2 **District Council:** Councillor Forde reported as follows:

3.2.1 **Local Plan:** There was currently a consultation on the Local Plan. Factors being considered were climate change and the need to provide sufficient homes for local people. They wanted to see quality building in the area. The public were asked to engage with the consultation, and there would be drop-in sessions.

3.2.2 **CrowdFund Cotswold:** To date, 19 local projects had been supported by 1,329 individuals and over £300,000 had been pledged so far to projects such as playgrounds, wild flower planting and community activities.

3.2.3 Council Meetings and Officers: There would be full Council meeting next week, Mainly to consider the budget. All Council meetings could be watched live.

A Sustainability Transport Officer had been appointed, who would be looking into cycling routes and traffic regulations.

3.2.4 Cotswold Community Safety Project: She was still chairing this project, which was about improving areas in which people live.

3.2.5 She was Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, and also involved with Leisure

4. Financial Matters:

4.1 Reconciliation Statement: The RFO presented the reconciliation statement. He anticipated that the balance at the end of the financial year would be approximately £3,000. It was **resolved** that the reconciliation statement be approved.

4.2 Authorisation of Expenditure: The following expenditure was approved:

Memorial Hall	Hire of Hall	25.00
GRCC	Annual subscription	25.00

5. Highway and Public Footpath Issues:

5.1 The Clerk had received advance notification of the closure of Chapel Lane for re-surfacing after 7 March

5.2 There had been no objections to the naming of the new house at Woodmancote as 1,2 and 3 Rookery Fields.

5.3 A “footpath” sign was missing near the cricket pitch. The Clerk would notify Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.

6. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

6.1 Susan Fellows, the new PCSO introduced herself, and said she expected to have a visible presence in the community. She had been PCSO in the Tetbury area for the past 15 years. She worked mainly alone and from her car, but carried a button to call the police if necessary.

The Chairman said he had recently met with the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner, and one issue was the response time for rural areas. PCSO Fellows agreed it should be better, and said that new people were being recruited to man the 101 telephone line.

She produced a report of crime in North Cerney and Woodmancote for the period 1st November 2021 to 1st February 2022. There had been two residential burglaries, two crimes of violence (both relating to vehicles) and two other notifiable crimes.

6.2 Community Speedwatch: Councillor Wilkes had looked into the purchase of a speed gun. A Bushnell speed gun, used by other CSW groups and the local Police, could be purchased at a price between £190 and £220 (plus batteries at around £6.50 each). It was **resolved** to purchase this.

7. Woodmancote Playground:

The Clerk apologised for having omitted to circulate Councillor Butler's recent inspection report, but Councillor Butler confirmed that there was nothing of concern at present.

8. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders

8.1 Planning Applications: The Council had been notified of the following:

Scrubditch Farm Bungalow: erection of a forestry building

8.2 Decision Notices:

The Gables North Cerney: reduction of copper beech tree

Pennings North Cerney: various tree works.

9. Woodmancote

9.1 Flower Boxes: Tom Shaw (a Woodmancote resident) said he was willing to maintain the three boxes at the entrances to the village. New planters were needed, as well as compost and plants, and there would be ongoing maintenance. It was **resolved** that a sum of up to £250 be provided by the Council. The Clerk mentioned that Councillor Martin's husband had offered to make the planters.

9.2 Burcombe complaints: Councillor Butler reported that a number of complaints had been made to Bromford Housing regarding the activities of their tenants at Burcombe. The complaints concerned noise, excessively bright exterior lights, parking, and the use of the car park for untaxed vehicles.. No action appeared to have been taken by Bromford Housing. The Clerk was asked to write to Bromford expressing the Council's concern and Councillor Butler would contact Cotswold District Council.

10. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was reported by the Clerk:

10.1 From Cotswold District Council (CDC) announcing an increase in car parking and season ticket charges

10.2 From CDC regarding a review on improving sustainable travel links between Kemble and Cirencester

10.3 From CDC regarding the Local Plan consultation to respond to the climate emergency and promote a carbon-zero Cotswolds

10.4 A lengthy note from NALC (via GAPTC) regarding Parish Council meetings. The Clerk recommended that all Councillors read it.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 It was reported that an ambulance had recently been unable to access the upper part of North Cerney because of cars parked in Chapel Lane, and had had to go via Dark Lane and the Whiteway. The Clerk would raise this again with PCSO Fellow, and with Councillor Hodgkinson, but the problem was that of finding alternative parking.

11.2 The Clerk raised the question of whether an event should be organised for the Jubilee. She would put a note in the Churn News.

11.3 A member of the public asked about a defibrillator for Woodmancote. The Chairman said that the Council would be willing to assist with funding if a suitable site was found.

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 5th May 2022 at 7.00pm, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed

Date: