

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 30th March 2023 at 7.30 pm at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

Present: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Adam Stoten, Nigel Wilkes, Cathy Martin, Clare Cannock and Neil Brown, Barry Koch as RFO, County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson and Christopher Wise

Presiding: Councillor Mark Tufnell

Clerk: Valerie Hancock

Apologies: Councillor Linda de Carles, District Councillor Jenny Forde and PCSO Fellows.

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th December 2022

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th December 2022 at The Memorial Hall North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

2.1 The Clerk reported that the work to the drains at Broad Close had been completed

2.2 Woodmancote Defibrillator: Christopher Wise said that fund raising was continuing, and money from a Coronation street party would go towards the defibrillator. It was hoped to install it in the bus shelter, but the Clerk had not as yet been able to obtain confirmation that the electricity supply could be taken from a street light. He did not know the likely cost, as he was not sure what type of defibrillator would be needed. It was suggested he obtain advice from CDC. If they were providing funds, they would almost certainly wish it to be purchased from a supplier approved by them.

2.3 Winter snow and ice: Councillor Tufnell said that there were a number of reasons why local farmers were unwilling to clear snow from the lanes – the cost, insurance, and the fact that red diesel could not be used. Councillor Hodgkinson agreed to ask whether the County Council might increase their rates of payment, but he was not hopeful they would.

3. District and County Issues:

3.1 **County Council:** Councillor Hodgkinson reported as follows:

3.1.1 Charlton Hill was now closed for six months, but buses would still run on the A435.

3.1.2 The contractors had started preparatory work for construction of the A417 link, and construction would start in September. The present road would remain open while the new road was built.

3.1.3 The whole of The Whiteway that was in poor condition was to be resurfaced over the next two financial years.

3.1.4 In response to a question from Councillor Cannock, he said he would check whether any more ash die back works were to be carried out along the A435

3.1.5 Potholes should be reported, and in the case of the worst roads, the County Council should be pressed to deal with them.

3.1.6 Councillor Stoten raised the issue of the flood near the bend on the A435. The sand bags on the verge were not a solution, and two cars had gone off the road on ice resulting from the lying water. Councillor Hodgkinson agreed to raise this again.

3.2 District Council: In the absence of Councillor Forde there was no report, but Councillor Forde had sent a letter saying that she would not be standing for re-election in May. The Clerk was asked to record the Council's thanks to her for her hard work, and for looking after the interests of the residents of North Cerney Parish over the past years.

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 £4,500 (including the CIL funds received). It was **resolved** that the reconciliation statement be approved.

4.2 Authorisation of Expenditure: The following expenditure was approved:

GAPTC	Annual subscription	151.86
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4.3 Appointment of Internal Auditor: Susan Power had indicated she was willing to take on the role, and **it was resolved** that she be appointed Internal Auditor. The Clerk was asked to write to Sara Telling thanking her for her work as Internal Auditor over past years.

4.4 Appointment of Additional Bank Signatory: The RFO said it would be helpful to have an additional signatory. It was agreed to leave this to the new Council in May.

5. Highway and Public Footpath Issues:

5.1 Rejection of extended 40 mph speed limit: Councillor Hodgkinson said that, although County Highways seems open to the proposal, the Police were opposed, apparently because they did not think it would reduce speed on a straight stretch of road. The Clerk was asked to write to the Police explaining why the Council considered the extension necessary.

5.2 The Clerk reported that repairs had been carried out in Burcombe Lane, and to a pothole in Chapel Lane.

5.3 Footpaths: Councillor Cannock said she had been told that the gate on the footpath from Conigree Wood to The Whiteway had been chained and padlocked. The Clerk would check this and report it to the County Footpaths Officer.

6. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

6.1 PCSO Fellows had sent a report on crime in the Parish during January and February. There had been one residential burglary, one business/community burglary, one case of criminal damage and two cases of violence. The reports of violence were separate incidents where the victim was verbally threatened.

A Beat Office, PC Harry Macpherson had now been appointed, and she hoped he would attend future meetings with her.

6.2 Councillor Tufnell said that there had been little recent rural crime.

6.3 Community Speedwatch: Councillor Wilkes said he was still considering a third site for the flashing speed sign. The Speedwatch group would start again soon.

7. Woodmancote Playground:

The Clerk had been told that the annual RoSPA inspection would be carried out in April. It was reported that, in the course of the development adjoining the playground, the "Playground" road sign had been removed. The Clerk would report this.

Councillor Brown and Christopher Wise suggested possible improvements to the playground, and it was agreed that these would be considered when further CIL funds were received.

The Clerk would again ask Ross Collins to treat the weeds on the tarmac area.

8. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders

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

The Grange Woodmancote: single storey extension and variation of conditions in an earlier consent

Tally Cottage Woodmancote: alterations (and Listed Building application)

8.2 Decision Notices:

Nordown Barn: (not previously notified to the Council) change of use of a buildings and yard to B8 and B2 use

The Meeting Room Woodmancote: construction of a dwelling

Pennings North Cerney: tree works.

9. Coronation Plans:

Woodmancote would be holding a Street Party in Hayes Lane (a private road) on 7th May

North Cerney would be holding a party in the Memorial Hall on the same date.

It was resolved that the Council would contribute £50 to the cost of each of these events.

Councillor Tufnell said there would also be a lunch in Calmsden.

The Clerk was asked to look into a commemoration bench for the North Cerney village green.

10. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was reported by the Clerk:

10.1 From Rt Hon Michael Gove MP regarding planning of events for the Coronation weekend

10.2 Various communications from GAPTC and CDC regarding the forthcoming election.

Councillors were reminded that, if they wished to stand for re-election, their Nomination Papers must be delivered by hand to the Returning Officer by 4 pm on 4th April.

10.3 From GAPTC regarding an online training course available to Councillors, intended to “raise the standard of civility in public life by improving the knowledge and competence of councillors and clerks”

10.4 From Gloucestershire County Council regarding a public engagement survey on how transport can be decarbonised in accordance with the County Council's climate emergency strategy

10.5 Numerous press releases from Cotswold District Council including the following:

The planning application process has been improved to help tackle the climate emergency and plan for a greener future

The Council is proposing to freeze car parking charges

A community energy social enterprise is being set up by Thames Head Energy

As part of the Council's commitment to stop fly-tipping it has joined with Gloucestershire Trading Standards and the Police to carry out a “stop and search” operation, and cameras have been installed in potential fly-tipping hotspots.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 The Clerk had received a message via Councillor Forde, from a resident in Churnside asking if a bus shelter might be installed at the bus stop opposite Churnside. The cost would have to be borne by the Parish Council, and it was thought it might not be justifiable for the limited number of residents using the stop.

11.2 Councillor Martin mentioned that at the recent Village Hall AGM Kathy Kerr-Rettie had been appointed Chair of the trustees.

14. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting

To be agreed

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

Signed