

## North Cerney Parish Council

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 8th September 2022 at 7.30 pm at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

**Present:** Councillors Adam Stoten, Cathy Martin, Nigel Wilkes and Clare Cannock, Barry Koch as RFO, Neil Brown (prospective Councillor) and 1 member of the public

**Presiding:** Councillor Adam Stoten

**Clerk:** Valerie Hancock

**Apologies:** Councillors Mark Tufnell and Linda de Carles, County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, District Councillor Jenny Forde, and PCSO Susan Fellows

A minutes silence was observed, the death of Queen Elizabeth II having been announced earlier in the evening

#### 1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at The Memorial Hall North Cerney be approved and signed.

#### 2. Matters Arising:

2.1 The Clerk had asked PCSO Fellows if action could be taken to deter speeding motorcycles on the A435 on Sundays, but had not yet received a response

2.2 Councillor Wilkes said that the salt bins had not yet been refilled. The Clerk would pursue this.

#### 3. District and County Issues:

3.1 **County Council:** Councillor Hodgkinson had sent a written report on the following:

3.1.1 **Public Health:** A booster vaccination would be offered to adults over 50 and a number of other groups of vulnerable individuals and those in contact with them. All those over 50 would also be offered a flu vaccination.

3.1.2: **New Road Safety Policy:** The County Council had issued a new road safety policy to deliver safer roads; healthier streets, lowering speed limits where people live and building more crossing points, to achieve the Vision Zero road safety ambition by 2050. An online survey was available and responses will influence the final version of the policy.

3.1.3 **NHS Dentists:** There is a shortage of NHS dentists across the country, and currently no dentists in the Cotswolds are accepting new NHS patients. He would like to hear of the experiences of individuals.

3.2 **District Council:** Councillor Forde had sent a written briefing on the following:

3.2.1 **Clean & Green:** The team were working across the District dealing with environmental crime. She asked that the public report any littering, fly-tipping, graffiti, etc

3.2.2 **Crowdfund Cotswold:** This platform had won a Local Government Award for Community Involvement. Since its launch in February 2021 it had helped local communities raise over £420,000 for a range of projects. The Council was keen to encourage ideas that aim to support people through the cost-of-living crisis, or support

communities and vulnerable residents through the winter. Cirencester Open Air Pool was currently campaigning for funds to install solar panels.

**3.2.3 Leisure Centres:** The Council was investing £380,000 in improvements to its Leisure Centres. The gyms will be fully refurbished, with new flooring and equipment, and the centres will be redecorated. The new fitness equipment will be more energy efficient. The Cirencester gym will be closed for refurbishment between 13<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September

**3.2.4 Planning:** In common with most of the UK, the Planning Department was dealing with a huge backlog of applications, and processing was taking much longer than usual

**3.2.5 Rendcomb Airfield:** The Application would no longer be going to committee in October. The applicant had been given a further three months in which to provide further information regarding noise levels. She set out the procedure that would apply if the application was refused and the applicant lodged an appeal.

#### 4. Financial Matters:

**4.1 Reconciliation Statement:** The reconciliation statement was presented by the RFO and it was **resolved** that it be approved. The first precept payment of £4,500 had been received, and there was a current balance (after payments authorised below) of £5,824.67

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

GAPTC	Annual membership	£148.46
Play Safety	RoSPA Report	92.40
V Hancock	Clerk's salary April-August	735.00
Village Hall	Hire of hall	20.00
George Stone Gardeners	Plants	93.24

**4.3** The Council had been asked whether it wished to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements. It was **resolved** to continue with these arrangements. The Clerk mentioned that no Internal Auditor had yet been appointed. This would be dealt with at the next meeting.

**5. Report of the Memorial Hall Committee:** Daryl Hamlett, Chair of the trustees, would attend the next meeting, but left a brief Trustees' report. Due to Covid-19, it had been difficult to achieve the trustees' aims, but during the lockdowns the interior had been redecorated and a roof leak repaired. The focus for the coming year would be the refurbishment of the kitchen up to food hygiene standards, and of the bar, so these facilities could be used to their full potential. The committee was determined to develop the Hall as a welcoming community hub. The Hall was now hosting an increased range of "Your Community Fitness" classes, and thanks were due to Ollie Wakefield and Lynne Curtis-King for their continuing support. Dave Clark's boxing classes and Rev. David Minns' Community Choir were two new regular users of the hall.

Accounts were produced showing that at 30 June, there was £23,078 in the hall's account. Councillor Martin, the Parish Council's representative on the committee, said that they were seeking reasonable estimates for refurbishment of the kitchen.

#### 6. Highway and footpath Issues:

**6.1** The Clerk reported that the winter grit and salt form had been received and sent to Councillor Tufnell to deal with.

**6.2** There was a problem with water overflowing from a property in Broad Close past a blocked highway drain and down through the village. This had continued for some months, despite reports to Bromford Housing and Thames Water. Councillor Hodgkinson had been asked to help, and it appeared that this some action was now being taken..

**6.3** A leakage of oil from a vehicle down the full length of Chapel Lane had been reported

and dealt with.

6.4 Notification had been received of a number of temporary road closures

6.5 The Clerk had reported the leaning finger post at Granny Mabbett's corner, and the need for re-fixing of the "Woodmancote" sign on the road into the village from Bagendon. The former had yet to be dealt with. GCC Highways said that the village sign was the responsibility of the Parish Council. This was questioned, but Councillor Stoten said he would deal with it.

6.6 Councillor Tufnell had suggested that application might be made for a pelican crossing at the North Cerney crossroads on the A435. Councillor Hodgkinson had said that he thought this had been raised and rejected a few years ago. There were mixed views on this, but the Clerk was asked to find out from GCC Highways whether this might be a possibility.

6.7 Footpaths: A complaint had been received that the gate near the river on the Monarch's Way footpath had been padlocked. The Clerk had referred this to Bathurst Estates, and the padlock had been removed.

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

7.1 PCSO Fellows had sent a report of crimes in North Cerney and Woodmancote during the period 31<sup>st</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> August. There had been 1 burglary (business and community), 3 thefts, 3 cases of criminal damage, and 5 of violence. Of the 5 crimes of violence, one related to verbal abuse, one was historic, there had been one case of malicious communication, and the remaining two were non-injury. Both criminal damage cases involved vehicles.

There had been one non-dwelling burglary and she asked that residents reported any suspicious people, behaviour or vehicles.

7.2 A new Community Speedwatch Safety Fund had been created by Gloucestershire County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Councillor Wilkes had applied for a vehicle activated speed sign, and he said the application was supported by Councillor Hodgkinson.

## **8. Woodmancote:**

8.1 **Playground:** The RoSPA Report had been received and circulated. There appeared to be no need for any immediate works. Former Councillor Butler had obtained an estimate for the resurfacing of the asphalt area. At some £35,500 plus VAT this was clearly not feasible. Neil Brown said that he thought the main problem was the weeds growing through the surface. The Clerk would ask Ross Collins to deal with these.

8.2 Woodmancote Planters: These had been planted by Tom Sham, but many of the plants had died, and they were lacking any summer colour. Councillor Martin and the Clerk had re-planted them with plants that should produce some colour until the autumn, and Denise Ewbank had offered to ensure they were kept watered. The Clerk had notified Tom Shaw, and asked that, when he received the replacement plants he was awaiting, he deferred planting them, and, when they were planted, left sufficient space for colourful annuals.

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

9.1 **Planning Applications:** The following had been notified to the Council:

The Meeting Room Woodmancote – erection of a dwelling

Scrubditch Farm – demolition of extensions, new rooflights and other works

Nordown Barn – prior approval notification for solar PV equipment on the roof of the grain store

Scrubditch Farm – conversion of main barn and stable block to a dwelling  
Scrubditch Farm – to determine whether prior approval needed for erection, extension or alteration of a building for agricultural or forestry use

**9.2 Decision Notices:**

Scrubditch Farm – determination that prior approval was needed for an agricultural building for crop and machinery storage

4 Robinson Lane Woodmancote – erection of single storey front and side extension

50 Dark Lane North Cerney – construction of drop kerb and hardstanding

52 Dark Lane North Cerney – Certificate of Lawfulness re demolition of shed.

**9.3 Rendcomb Airfield:** The present position was as set out in Councillor Forde's report as above (3.2).

**10. Co-option of Councillor:** Neil Brown introduced himself and outlined his residency in Woodmancote, and work. It was proposed by Councillor Stoten and seconded by Councillor Martin that he be co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Council, and the Council unanimously **resolved** that he be co-opted.

**11. Correspondence:**

The following correspondence was reported by the Clerk:

11.1. Emails concerning an altercation between a North Cerney resident and Roy Savory, regarding the parking of his vehicle while he mowed the village green. As it had been reported to, and dealt with by, PCSO Fellows there appeared to be no need for the Council to become involved.

11.2 An email exchange with Purple Productions regarding the use of a drone to film for Channel 4 and enquiring how they obtained a permit for this. They had confirmed to the Clerk that they had a CAA licence, consent of the landowner from where the drone would be launched, and that they would be filming only countryside landscapes. It was agreed by the Council that no consent of the Council was needed, or could be given.

11.3 From NALC regarding a survey of views about holiday lets.

11.4 Notice of a Flood Resilience meeting at CDC offices on 21<sup>st</sup> October

11.5 Press releases from CDC regarding the matters referred to in Councillor Forde's report above, and concerning a scheme to help with energy costs for those not supported by the Government rebate, regeneration works at Brewery Court, the proposal to bring the old station in Cirencester back into use, and proposed action against anti-social behaviour, in partnership with (inter alia) Bromford Housing.

11.6 From GAPTC regarding action to be taken by the Council on the death of a public figure

**12. Any Other Business:** None

**13. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting(s)**

The next meetings would be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023, all at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, North Cerney.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed .....

Date: .....