

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 7th September 2023 at 7.30 pm at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

Present: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Adam Stoten, Clare Cannock, Neil Brown and Cathy Martin (later), County and District Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, Barry Koch as RFO, and 9 members of the public

Presiding: Councillor Mark Tufnell

Clerk: Valerie Hancock

Before the meeting commenced, Nicholas Arbuthnott spoke about the present position regarding the Rendcomb Airfield application. The original application having been withdrawn, a new application was expected very shortly. Some residents had obtained Counsel's opinion, and had asked Cotswold District Council to proceed with enforcement action. He hoped the Council would support this. The Chairman responded.

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May 2023

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May 2023 at The Memorial Hall North Cerney be approved and signed .

2. Matters Arising:

- 2.1 The Clerk had written to Cotswold District Council regarding renewal of the playground lease, but had no reply as yet. Councillor Brown said he had spoken to Henry Robinson recently, and he had said again that he was happy for the use to continue.
- 2.2 On the issue of registration of the village green, the Land Registry had suggested an application could be made by the Council on the basis of adverse possession, and had suggested a meeting with the Chairman and Clerk.
- 2.3 The Clerk read out Vic Norman's response to the complaint about cyclists on The Whiteway being unable to hear vehicles behind them due to the aeroplane noise.

3. District and County Issues: Councillor Hodgkinson reported as follows:

3.1 County Council:

- 3.1.1 The part of The Whiteway near North Cerney would be resurfaced in the next two months, and the section from Rendcomb to Chedworth later in the financial year
- 3.1.2 Charlton Hill would re-open next week
- 3.1.3 Felling of diseased ash trees on the A435 was continuing
- 3.1.4 Some trees on the A435 had been pruned, and double-decker buses would be running again.
- 3.1.5 He had been asked to look into the flooding near Bankside, which appeared to be caused by a blocked drain. The Clerk said that on a previous investigation it was said to be caused by a spring under the road.
- 3.1.6 Work had now started on the A417 "missing link".

Councillor Cannock reported that there was still a tree in the river at North Cerney. Councillor Hodgkinson said he would find out why that had not yet been dealt with.

3.2 District Council:

3.2.1 A new provider, Freedom Leisure, had been appointed to run the CDC Leisure Centres. He would be interested to hear any feedback.

3.2.2 The new cabinet had been announced, and he was now the Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture

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 a current balance of £9,471.98 (which included the CIL funds received), and there had been an unexplained refund of £185.74 from HMRC.

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

GAPTC	Annual membership	£151.86
Play Safety	RoSPA Report	98.40
V Hancock	Clerk's salary May-August	588.00
GRCC	Annual Membership	25.00
Clear Insurance	Insurance	605.64
Defib Store Ltd	Defibrillator pads	80.39
Clare Cannock	Coronation expenses	52.45

4.3 **CIL Funds:** The Council had now received a total of some £4,000. Part of this would be allocated to the Woodmancote defibrillator. Woodmancote residents said they would like to see some updating of the playground equipment, and were making enquiries in the village as to what residents would like there. A request for funds had also been received from the Memorial Hall Trustees.

5. Highway and footpath Issues:

5.1 The Clerk had received the winter grit and salt form and had been passed it to Councillor Tufnell to deal with.

5.2 The Clerk had written again to Gloucestershire Highways regarding the extension of the 40 mph speed limit, but had received no reply. Councillor Hodgkinson said he would chase this up.

5.3 The Clerk had been told again that the crossroad sign at the junction of Dark Lane and The Whiteway had been ordered

5.4 The damage to the Robinson Road street sign had been reported.

5.5 The burnt-out caravan in the A435 lay-by had now been removed, and the damaged chevrons had been reported.

6. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

6.1 Following the resignation of Nigel Wilkes, new organisers were needed for Community Speedwatch and Neighbourhood Watch in North Cerney. Alex Murray indicated he might be able to help, and the clerk was asked to pass information about both to him (when she received it from Nigel Wilkes).

6.2 The Chairman said that he was still receiving reports about rural crime.

7. Woodmancote:

7.1 **Playground:** It was **resolved** to accept Tom Macdonald's quotation of £900/975 for the mowing of the grass next year. Councillor Brown asked if he could be requested to quote separately for dealing with the weeds on the surfaced area.

7.2 Defibrillator: Christopher Wise said that there were difficulties in providing an electricity supply, so it would be necessary to purchase a defibrillator which did not need this. Heartbeat UK (approved by CDC) could provide this, with 10 years of maintenance and insurance, for £3,000. The village had raised £1,000, and a grant of £625 was available from CDC. A site for the defibrillator had yet to be determined. It was **resolved** that the Council would pay the balance of the cost from the CIL funds received. The Chairman thanked those who had raised funds in the village.

8. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders

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

Cerney House; installation of PV panels

Scrubditch Farm: notice of intention to erect an agricultural building

Tally Cottage Woodmancote: replacement windows in front, side and rear

The Old Post Office Woodmancote: demolition of rear extension (retrospective)

Burcham, Burcombe Lane: replacement of conservatory with single storey extension

The Meeting Room Woodmancote: compliance with conditions and amended plans

2 Rookery Fields Woodmancote: erection of a detached garage

36 Dark Lane north Cerney: Reduction of yew trees

8.2 Decision Notices:

Scrubditch Farm – determination that prior approval was not needed for an agricultural building for crop and machinery storage

Scrubditch Farm: conversion of main barn and stable block to a dwelling, outbuildings and PV panels

Scrubditch Farm: replacement of agricultural shed with a car port and storage shed

The Grange Woodmancote: erection of ancillary incidental residential outbuilding

50 Dark Lane: rear dormer extension and front porch extension

Chapel Farm: conversion of barn and farmhouse to residential use – refused

The Old Post Office Woodmancote: erection of rear extension – refused

1 Chapel Farm North Cerney: erection of rear garden room

The Bathurst Arms: pollarding and felling of trees

9. Vacancies on the Council: Following the resignation of Nigel Wilkes, there were now two vacancies on the Council. The Clerk reported that notice of the resignation had been given, and, as there was no request for an election, the Council could now co-opt to fill both vacancies.

David Barrell said he would like to become a Councillor. His co-option would be considered at the next meeting

10. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was reported by the Clerk:

10.1. Invitation to CDC's Town and Parish Council Forum on 11 September

10.2. An invitation to councillors to a Climate Emergency Event on 21 September

10.3. Notice that Cirencester Housing was proposing a merger with West Oxfordshire-based Cottsway Housing

10.4. From Councillor Hodgkinson regarding Gloucestershire County Council's youth fund, under which he had been allocated £3,000 to support youth projects

10.5. From Gloucestershire Highways regarding the Ash Dieback Project replanting scheme

10.6. From Jess James who was intending to organise a Charity Village Fun Run on Saturday 19 May 2024

10.7. From GAPTC regarding the lighting of beacons to note the 80th anniversary of D-Day on 6 June 2024

10.8. From CDC regarding Crowdfund Cotswold; Mr Motivator; Cotswold Home Solar; the new Cabinet; the new leisure and cultural facilities provider; enhancement of the Council’s planning services and an award received by CDC from the Rural England Prosperity Fund

11. Any Other Business:

11.1 The owner of Corner Cottage Woodmancote reported that the property was going on the market with local agents

11.2 The Clerk reported that there was a lot of old information and documentation on the website, and asked for how long Agendas, Minutes and financial information should be included before it was archived. It was **resolved** that, if there were no statutory requirements, the information should be kept on the website for 7 years.

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

The next meetings would be held on Thursday 7th December 2023, Thursday 15th March 2024 and Thursday 16th May 2024, all at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, North Cerney.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Signed

Date: