

**North Cerney Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30 pm  
at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney**

**Present:** Councillors Mark Tufnell, Adam Stoten, Cathy Martin, Clare Cannock, Neil Brown, David Barrell and Jonathan Dryland and Barry Koch as RFO

**Presiding:** Councillor Mark Tufnell

**Clerk:** Valerie Hancock

**Apologies:** County and District Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

**1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at The Memorial Hall North Cerney be approved subject to one minor amendment, and signed.

**2. Matters Arising:**

2.1 Registration of the Village Green: The Chairman enquired as to progress. The Clerk said she had recently visited County Archives to see if there was useful information there, and would prepare a statutory declaration shortly.

2.2 The owner of Corner Cottage was beginning to clear the growth, ready for the property to go to auction.

2.3 The Woodmancote defibrillator had now been installed. The Council thanked Christopher Wise and Alex Murray for their help with this.

2.4 Councillor Tufnell had not yet heard from the County snow plough engineer.

2.5 Churn News appeared to have been offered funding from a private charitable trust, and the immediate crisis was over.

**3. District and County Issues:** Councillor Hodgkinson had sent a written report on the following:

3.1 **The Whiteway:** The resurfacing of The Whiteway had now been completed.

3.2 **Speed Limit:** The extended lower speed limit along Churnside is with GCC's road safety team to progress. He had already allocated £10k for this in this financial year to lower speed limits in other villages too as a package for the TRO, so it will be carried forward into this new financial year.

3.3 **Local Plan Consultation:** Cotswold District Council has agreed to begin the process of a full Local Plan review. This is the blueprint for where housing will need to go in the period up to 2041. The Government sets targets for how many new houses need to be built locally and this new Local Plan will show where they will go. It is hoped that the new plan will be adopted in Autumn 2025 and it will then run to 2041. He asked that the public get involved and have their say, as this is when policies are made against which all new planning applications up to 2041 will be judged.

At the same time, there is also a public consultation on the Cirencester Town Centre Masterplan. The consultation period will be open for public comment until Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 for the Masterplan and until Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 for the Local Plan.

He strongly encouraged local communities and individuals to engage online via [your.cotswold.gov.uk](http://your.cotswold.gov.uk), the council's new consultation system. Should members of the public wish comments may also be made by email or letter.

**3.4 A&E Waiting Times:** New figures just released show that there has been a 137% rise in patients in Gloucestershire waiting more than four hours in A&E since 2019. 59,614 people waited over four hours in 2023. These delays are very concerning. He had raised the issue regularly with NHS managers at the County's Health Scrutiny Committee, and would be interested to hear of any experiences people had had – both good and not so good.

**3.5 Council Tax and Budgets:** Cotswold District Council had set its budget for the coming year. There is a £5 per year increase for Band D households, which he supported. The County Council had also set its budget and the ruling administration set a council tax increase of 4.99% which he did not support.

**3.6 Rendcomb Airfield application:** A new application had been lodged, and the period of consultation is still open. He had no indication yet from the planning officer as to his recommendation but he expected it to go to the Planning Committee in either April or May.

#### 4. Financial Matters:

**4.1 Reconciliation Statement:** The reconciliation statement was presented by the RFO and **it was resolved** that it be approved.

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

V Hancock	Clerk salary and PAYE (Dec/Feb)	441.00
Facsim Holdings	Printing	38.00
Littlejohn	Audit costs	48.00
Community Heartbeat	Woodmancote defibrillator	1720.00

**4.3 Requests for funding:** The Memorial Hall committee chair had asked for a contributions towards the repair of the chimney (likely to cost about £3,000) and replacement of the toilet heaters (about £2,400). There was currently £1,977 in their current account, and £10,000 on long-term deposit. It was **resolved** to make a grant of £1,500 to the Memorial Hall from the CIL funds. It was also **resolved** to allocate £1,500 for the improvements to the Woodmancote playground. This would use the balance of the CIL funds, with the remainder from general funds.

**5.1 Woodmancote Playground Project:** Councillor Dryland had provided the Councillors with a full report on progress. It was intended to hold an Open House at the playpark on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April so that residents could review and provide feedback on the plans. It appeared that a safeguarding policy would form part of any application for grants. The Clerk was asked to contact the PCC safeguarding officer, who would be able to assist. The Clerk mentioned that Tom McDonald had asked if access through one of the field gates could be made available to him. The Clerk did not have a key and both chains and padlocks were badly rusted. It was agreed the Council would pay for a new chain and padlock.

**5.2 Progress on the new Lease:** Following discussion with the Councillors, the Clerk had returned the draft to the Landlord's solicitors with some suggested amendments and corrections, and was waiting to hear further from them. She was asked to do all she could to get the lease completed by 12<sup>th</sup> April, as a copy would have to accompany the Spacehive application for funding. An Extraordinary Meeting of the Council (convened by the Chairman) was provisionally arranged for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, to approve and sign the lease.

## 6. Highway and Public Footpath Issues

6.1 The Clerk had been notified that Anne Johns had replaced Dan Tiffany as the Local Highways Manager.

6.2 Notification had been received that the road from Fosse Cross to Calmsden would be closed from 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April

## 7. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

7.1 The Clerk expected to receive the Speedwatch equipment for Niigel Wilkes shortly, but a new organiser for this was needed. She would put another request in the Churn News.

7.2 Nigel Wilkes had previously applied to the Community Speedwatch Fund for VAS equipment, but had not been able to progress that, as three sites were needed, and only two had been identified. In response to a recent reminder from the fund, the Clerk had asked if they could wait until the 40 mph limit was extended to Churnside, when there would be an additional site near Churnbridge Row.

7.3 Councillor Martin reported that there had been two recent burglaries in North Cerney, one involving the theft of two cars from a driveway after the thieves had gained access to the house and stolen the keys, and the other involving theft of tools from a vehicle. The Clerk was asked to enquire of the police whether there had been any progress in their investigations.

## 8. Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders

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

The Bull Cattle Barn, Calmsden: Extension and conversion to business use

Scrubditch Farm: Conversion of a former agricultural building to residential use

Land at Calmsden: Alterations to high voltage overhead lines

Rendcomb Airfield: Variation of Section 106 Agreement

8.2 **Decision Notices:**

The Old Post Office, Woodmancote: Replacement single storey rear extension  
(Certificate of Lawfulness)

Demeter House, Woodmancote: Erection of new front porch – approved

36 Dark Lane: Replacement of windows and door – approved (LBC)

Street Record, Woodmancote – upgrade from single phase to three-phase power supply – approved

Rendcomb Airfield application: Councillor Barrell declared an interest. The remaining Councillors approved the objection drafted by the Clerk, and asked her to lodge it before 19<sup>th</sup> March.

The Chairman left the meeting and the chair was passed to Councillor Stoten.

## 9 Correspondence:

The Clerk had received the following:

9.1 Copy correspondence between Councillor Hodgkinson, the owner of a property at Churnbridge and GCC Highways regarding flooding caused by the filling-in of a ditch behind the property.

9.2 Notification that Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty had now been re-branded as National Landscapes

9.3 From Gigaclear regarding their proposal to extend their broadband network to North Cerney

9.4 From Cotswold District Council relating to (inter alia)

- Seeking views from residents on parking in the Cotswolds
- Allocation of £296,450 from the latest round of UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding to seven local projects. These included the repurposing of the former House of Fraser store into a social enterprise department store
- Changes to Parliamentary boundaries now in effected
- Installation of CCTV in a Cotswold village
- Updating of its Green Infrastructure Strategy to ensure developments will provide more access to green space
- Repair of the Old Station building in Cirencester
- Completion of the Brewery Court regeneration project
- Extension of Council Tax Support for care leavers

**11. Any Other Business**

None

**12. Date of the next Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024, commencing at 7.00 pm at North Cerney Memorial Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed .....

Date: .....