

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 1st August 2024 at 7.00 pm at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

Present: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Cathy Martin, Clare Cannock, David Barrell and Jonathan Dryland, Barry Koch as RFO and 5 members of the public

Presiding: Councillor Mark Tufnell

Clerk: V Hancock

Apologies: Councillors Adam Stoten and Neil Brown, and County and District Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 16th May 2024

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 16th May 2024 at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

None

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

3.1 General Election: He set out the result. The turnout in the constituency had been 68%. He thanked those who had supported him and confirmed that he would continue to serve the community as District and County Councillor.

3.2 Ambulance response times: He had been reacting publicly to the latest ambulance response times for the area. Despite all the great work of the paramedics and first responders he needed to see these figures getting much better so residents can all be reassured that if they fall badly ill a crew will be with them quickly:

Category 1 (emergencies): average target time to get to the patient is 8 minutes. The worst two areas in Gloucestershire are Bourton Vale and Northleach - both at 22 minutes.

Category 2 (very serious cases like strokes); average target time is 18 minutes. The worst times in Gloucestershire are Chedworth and Churn Valley and Bisley - both at 1 hour, 2 minutes.

This area is currently the worst in the county for category 2 response times. He had asked the ambulance bosses again for some answers and solutions but they acknowledged that without more resources this will not change.

3.3 Planning applications: The Rendcomb Airfield application to vary the Section 106 Agreement had now been decided by the Planning Committee. The Committee unanimously agreed with the Planning Officer's recommendation and refused the application.

3.4 Road signs and pavements: A number of road signs, particularly on the A435 are

obscured by vegetation.

He had twice reported the stretch of pavement between Churnbridge and the village, where growth needed to be cut back, and had asked Highways why this pavement was not on a list for automatic attention, as it becomes overgrown every year.

He asked that any problems be reported online to Fix My Street Gloucestershire, and that pressure on Highways be maintained to secure action.

4. Financial Matters

4.1 **Reconciliation statement:** The reconciliation statement was presented by the RFO and it was **resolved** that it be approved. The current balance was £7,060.82 plus £3,274.72 held for the Playpark Project.

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

V Hancock	Salary May to July	441.00
GRCC	Annual subscription	25.00
GAPTC	Annual subscription	148.38
Playsafety	RoSPA Report	103.20

5. Woodmancote Playpark Project:

51 The contract with Enover Community Trust had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **resolved** that its terms be accepted, and that Councillor Tufnell and the Clerk be authorised to sign it on behalf of the Council.

5.2 It was unanimously **resolved** that ESP Playpark's terms and conditions be accepted.

5.3 The initial work to be carried out by ESP as the preferred supplier would cost £33,675 (plus VAT), and the grant from Enover would be for £33,675. Councillor Dryland was authorised to submit the order to ESP.

5.4 Councillor Dryland had provided a schedule of the payments that would need to be made and had discussed this with the RFO. The third-party contribution of £3,368 payable to Enover would be covered by the funds held by the Council for the project (with some additional funds expected from the recent Fete). A deposit of 25% of the cost (£10,102 including VAT) would be payable to ESP, the net amount would be requested from Enover and the VAT would then be reclaimed by the RFO. No further payments would be due until completion of the work, when the balance of the grant would be requested of Enover. The VAT on the final payment would be paid by the Council and reclaimed by the RFO.

The Clerk raised the point that, if a deposit/advance payment was to be made to ESP, the Council had to consider whether there was any risk of loss of the money. This was discussed, and the Council was told that Councillor Brown had investigated ESP and any risk appeared minimal. This was accepted by the Council and the proposed payment arrangements were approved.

Councillor Dryland reported that the Crowdfunding campaign was progressing well, with contributions of £6,000 from CDC and £5,000 from the County Council's Build Back Better fund. An offer of £14,599 had also been received from the National Lottery Community Fund. It was estimated that the total available funding would amount to about £56,000, exceeding the initial target by about £7-8,000.

On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked Councillor Dryland and the others who had assisted for their work in connection with the project.

In response to a point raised by a member of the public, Councillor Dryland said that the cost of re-surfacing the former tennis court would be in the region of £20,000, and this was not part of the present project.

6. Highway and Footpath Issues:

The Clerk reported that there had been a number of road closures, mainly for ash die-back work. The kerbs around the village green had been repaired, and verged had been cut to improve visibility at a number of junctions on The Whiteway.

Councillor Martin asked when the wall at Bankside would be prepared. She would report this again. Councillor Cannock mentioned that the growth on the verge outside Churn Cottage needed to be cut down to improve visibility on joining the A435.

7. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

The Clerk reported that an organiser for Community Speedwatch had been found, and Councillor Barrell said he had found some more volunteers for this. The Clerk would notify Nigel Wilkes.

8. Planning applications and Tree Preservation Orders: The Clerk had been notified of the following:

8.1 Applications:

Scrubditch Farm: application to determine whether prior approval is required for change of use of a barn to storage and office use under the Permitted Development provisions. An objection had been lodged by the Council.

Scrubditch Farm: appeal against an earlier refusal of an application to determine whether prior approval is required to change the use of the barn to residential under the Permitted Development provisions

8.2 Decisions:

Coppers End North Cerney: single storey orangery rear extension – approved

Crump Broadbridge: installation of solar panels on barn – approved

8.3 Rendcomb Airfield: The application to vary the terms of the Section 106 Agreement had been refused. Councillor Tufnell said he had attended the Planning Committee meeting and spoken on behalf of the Council.

9. Correspondence: The following had been received by the Clerk:

9.1 From CPRE regarding an A417 Missing Link site visit on 24 September

9.2 From CDC regarding a Community Resilience Event on 11 September

9.3 An email concerning unwanted overhead fibre optic cable and pole installations

9.4 From GCC requesting details of winter action plans and orders for salt

9.5 From Councillor David Broad regarding the Cotswold Conservation Board

9.6 From the clerk of Mickleton Parish Council asking if the Council had passed a motion to support the “20’s Plenty “campaign. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting.

9.7 From CPRE Gloucestershire regarding their awards scheme and suggesting the Churnbridge Row housing scheme be nominated. This had been passed to Cirencester Housing Association. Councillor Barrell said the owners/tenants were opposed to this.

9.8 Various press releases from CDC.

10 Any Other Business:

10.1 The Clerk had received a complaint about the very dirty state of the North Cerney bus shelter. The RFO said a resident had now dealt with this. The bus shelter was almost inaccessible because of the weeds growing from the verge, and the bench on the other side of the road was now in nettles.

10.2 Tom Macdonald had sent a request for part or full payment for cutting the

Woodmancote playground grass. He had expected it to need 12-13 cuts during the season, but this year it had grown more quickly, and he had cut it for events there. So far, he had cut it 13 times. It was agreed to pay him £750 on account.

10.3 The Clerk had contacted Sovereign about the gap in the play tower referred to in the RoSPA Report. The guarantee had expired, but the defect had been repaired by Sovereign as a goodwill gesture.

11. Date of next meeting(s): To be arranged

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed:

Date: