

North Cerney Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 31st October 2024 at 7.00 pm at The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

Present: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Cathy Martin, Clare Cannock, and Jonathan Dryland, County and District Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, PCSO Sue Fellows, Barry Koch as RFO and 3 members of the public

Presiding: Councillor Mark Tufnell

Clerk: V Hancock

Apologies: Councillors Adam Stoten, Neil Brown, and David Barrell

1. Minutes:

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st August 2024 and of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 28th August 2024 both at the Memorial Hall, North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

The Clerk reported that, as a result of the efforts of Councillor Martin and Councillor Hodgkinson, Bromford Housing had now confirmed that contractors had been instructed, and the repairs to the wall at Bankside should be dealt with very shortly.

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

3.1 County Council:

There was now a telephone number (08000 514514) for highway emergencies. Any other issues should be reported on FixMyStreet Gloucestershire. There was also a floodline. There was an ongoing issue with water flowing down the road at Bankside. He had been told this would be dealt with, but it was not clear when.

Work was progressing well on the A417 "missing link", and was on schedule.

The 40 mph speed limit past Chrumside was not likely to be dealt with until the next financial year.

He asked whether the trees had been cleared from the River Churn. Councillor Cannock said they had not, and that they were starting to be carried downstream. Councillor Hodgkinson would pursue this.

Councillor Martin said there had recently been what appeared to be an unnecessary closure of The Whiteway (for a single hole in one side of the road). Others mentioned concerns about the installation of temporary traffic lights and diversions when no work was being carried out.

3.2 District Council:

The Council aimed to boost new housing in the district, but it was not yet clear where.

He mentioned that Covid and flu vaccinations were now available for older and vulnerable residents.

4. Financial Matters

4.1 Reconciliation statement: The reconciliation statement was presented by the RFO

and it was **resolved** that it be approved. The balance of the precept (£1,500) had been received. The funds for Woodmancote Playpark were now in a separate account, and the balance stood at £24,866. At the end of September, there was £6,805 in the general account.

4.2 Authorisation of expenditure: The following expenditure was approved:

V Hancock	Salary August/September	294.00
Tom Mcdonald	Grass cutting (balance)	315.00
Annual Insurance		711.14
Roy Savory	Grass cutting - village green	210.00
Land Registry fees	Registrations (2)	60.00
Red Kite Solicitors	Registration of Woodmancote lease	300.00
Tom Mcdonald	Extra grass cut – Woodmancote	100.00
Signage	Woodmancote playpark	170.00

5. Woodmancote Playpark Project:

Councillor Dryland had circulated an update to Councillors before the meeting. All the equipment for the first phase would be installed by 7 November, the independent post-installation inspection would be carried out by 8 November, and the playpark would re-open on 9 November. Project update reports would be prepared for key funders, and ESP's invoices dealt with, and the VAT reclaimed by the RFO.

It was anticipated that approximately £10,000 would remain available. In addition, a request for support from the Bromford Social Value Fund had been successful, and £10,000 of materials would be available to enhance the community and environmental elements of the playpark.

Of the £10,000 funding remaining, it was proposed to hold £1,500 as a contingency to cover any issues identified during the installation phase and, if unused, to be released into the budget for the next phase.

The proposal for the next phase was to remove one-third of the tarmac area, and convert it to a grassed social and community event space; to instal two pergola seating areas, and additional seating and picnic tables; to instal a path from the main gate to improve accessibility; to instal a community notice board and lost property box; to plant additional trees and shrubs; to replace the roadside fence, ad basic refurbishment of the remaining surfaced ball game zone.

Councillor Dryland said that there had been a lot of community involvement to date, and the main elements of the proposal for the next phase had been shared with some members of the community to guage opinion and feedback. If the proposals were approved in principle by the Council, there would be a wider consultation with the community.

It was proposed that work on this phase would commence in February/March 2025 and completed by the end of April, with a Grand Opening Event planned for May to celebrate completion of the project.

Councillor Martin questioned whether grass was the best surface for the social and community event space. Councillor Dryland agreed to look into alternatives.

The Clerk mentioned that Tom Mcdonald had provided a quotation for next year's grass cutting, but this work might be different now all the equipment had been installed. Councillor Dryland said he was discussing this with Tom Mcdonald, and he woud be asked whether he needed to amend his quotation for next year.

6. Highway and Footpath Issues:

6.1 Village 20 mph speed limits: It was agreed that this was unnecessary in North Cerney, but might be relevant to Calmsden and the main road through Woodmancote. Councillor Hodgkinson said he would check, but thought this was no longer being considered by the County Council.

6.2 Councillor Cannock asked whether a paved path could be provided alongside the A435 from the Woodmancote road to the North Cerney bus stop, to avoid the need for pedestrians to walk on the rough verge. The Council agreed to support this, and Councillor Hodgkinson said he would raise it with Highways..

Councillor Dryland asked if the passing places on the road up to Woodmancote, many of which were treacherous, could be improved

6.2 Footpaths: A member of the public said that the Monarchs Way was impassable by the river in North Cerney, because of the deep mud created by the cattle. Councillor Hodgkinson would raise this with the Footpaths Officer.

7. Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention:

PCSO Fellows reported that there had been 14 offences notified to the police in the period April to September (one more than the same period last year). There were 7 reports of violence, 5 of theft, one sexual offence and one other. Of the reports of violence, 2 were domestic, one concerned a dog bite, one was road rage, one was verbal threats, and two were related to the same incident. The thefts were tools stolen from a work vehicle, an item stolen from a garden (but recovered and returned), a bicycle, and an item stolen from a large venue at a public event.

The Chairman thanked her for attending the meeting, and mentioned that items stolen from North Cerney church some 30 years ago had recently been returned anonymously.

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

8.1 Applications:

Calmsden Manor – conservatory extension

Chapel Farm – change of use of farmhouse and outbuilding back to residential

8.2 Decisions:

3 Hillview North Cerney – first floor extension, widening of garage etc – approved

1 Rookery Field – garden room, extension and double garage – approved

Halfway Cottage Woodmancote – extension and loft conversion – approved

Scrubditch Farm – change of use of barn to office and storage – application withdrawn

Church Cottage North Cerney – reduction and shaping of copper beech – TPO approved

Rendcomb Airfield – formal refusal of amendments to the s106 Agreement had been issued. Councillor Hodgkinson said there could be an appeal, but he understood that the owners were currently complying with the Agreement.

9. North Cerney Bus Shelter: A resident had asked if it could be cleaned, and the fence behind it repaired. It was agreed that a rail on the fence was missing and should be replaced.

The Clerk mentioned that she had cleaned part of the shelter, but a step-ladder was needed for the upper parts. Councillor Martin indicated that she would arrange for this to be dealt with.

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

10.1 From an organisation pressing for community energy to be included in the Great British Energy Bill. It was agreed this did not seem relevant to the Council.

10.2 From CDC with notification that the Public Spaces Protection Order made in January 2022 providing for fines for dog-fouling would be renewed for another 3 years.

10.3 From Cirencester Town Council with a report following the Cirencester Waterways Symposium in June.

10.4 From Gloucester County Council regarding the ash die-back replanting scheme.

10.5 From CPRE regarding the award ceremony for Chrunbridge Row. Councillor Martin confirmed she would be attending.

10.6 From GAPTC regarding new requirement as to website accessibility. The Clerk had referred this to Libby Butler, who had run some checks and reported that the Council's website appeared to be compliant.

10.7 From GAPTC regarding their new web portal

10.8 Various press releases from CDC including those regarding fines issued for fly-tipping offences, the opening of a new studio at the Leisure Centre, and the proposed sale of the Old Station building.

11 Any Other Business:

11.1 Councillor Martin said she understood that the company that had emptied the clothing bank in the car park behind The Bathurst Arms was no longer operating. This would be raised with the Bathurst Estate agent.

11.2 Councillor Cannock asked if the Clerk had heard anything more from Gigaclear. She confirmed she had not.

12. Date of next meeting: The next meeting would be on Thursday 16th January 2025

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed:

Date: