

AMPNEY CRUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, AMPNEY CRUCIS.

Present: Councillors Rosanna Armitage, Doug Crook, David Hardy, Neil Holt and Tony Williams.

Presiding: Councillor Neil Holt

Clerk: Jayne Webster

Also present: Tracy Oosthuizen, Benedict Eccles, Janet Campbell, County Councillor Shaun Parsons (part of meeting) and District Councillor David Fowles (part of meeting).

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Raphael

2. Declaration of Interests and gifts or hospitality given or received

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2017

Resolution 36/17 *The Chairman proposed and the Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2017, be signed and adopted.*

4. Matters arising from the meeting held on 10 July 2017

4.1 Casual Vacancy – two villagers gave short presentations to the Parish Council and the Chairman outlined the roles, areas of responsibility and work load involved in being a Councillor. The Parish Council will reach a decision over the coming days.

4.2 Area of grass along Riding Lane – GCC have confirmed that they will flail the area once a year for safety. The Clerk has advised Mr and Mrs Heudebourck.

5. Reports from County and District Councillors

County Councillor Parsons reported that there are plans to improve the crossroad junction at the intersection of the B4425 and the Fosse Way. In addition, GCC received a very unsatisfactory report from OFSTED for Children's Services and as a result the whole GCC team has resigned. OFSTED are currently inspecting the Children's Services Department every 3 months.

The highways management contract with Amey is up for renewal and there will be changes made to the terms of the contract. Problems appear to lie with the implementation of local work and it has been suggested that small scale work should be brought back under GCC's direct control, whereas larger projects throughout the County seem to be more successful when delivered by outsourced contractors.

Amey will be able to tender for the new contract. Councillor Parsons advised that with regard to potholes larger patching seemed to be improving and this resulted in less need for small patching, however, the Parish Council advised that there is still an ongoing serious problem regarding the repair of potholes and Councillor Parsons agreed to forward on these comments.

The Chairman asked whether it was worth the Parish Council expressing its concerns to CDC regarding the proposed Care Community Development at Siddington. Councillor Parsons urged the Parish Council to submit its concerns and advised that GCC wanted a more long term vision for Cirencester, with too many 'windfall sites' being developed without the necessary funding for increased infrastructure and services for the town. Councillor Parsons feels that central government sees Cirencester as a prime development area and he therefore believes that funding should come from a central source.

The Chairman also commented that with regard to the planning application for three residential dwelling at Backs Lane, GCC were consultees but advised that they would only respond if CDC had any concerns about highways issues. He went on to explain that the Case Officer had chosen to ignore the concerns of the Parish Council, which included access difficulties and the extra traffic generated from the new houses along a very narrow lane, and had not consulted Highways for their thoughts.

Finally Councillor Parsons advised that a highways resolution to the 'missing link' along the A417 at Nettleton Bottom is due to go ahead in 2020.

NH

District Councillor Fowles began by advising that there is a special meeting of the full council, open to the public, on 26th September at 1pm at the Cirencester Baptist Church regarding the proposed Chesterton Development.

He stressed that he believed that the proposal was not a done deal and that if anyone, including the Parish Council, wished to comment on the proposal they should send their comments to the case officer, Helen Donnelly, at CDC as soon as possible so that all the comments can be collated prior to the meeting. He briefly commented on the perceived lack of public engagement regarding the proposal and Councillor Crook felt that the proposed development was too complicated for most people to make an informed comment. The Chairman asked whether the imperative was to develop the site that CDC has identified as being of strategic relevance and importance or to build a certain number of houses to meet central government targets. Councillor Fowles advised that the number of houses was the most important issue.

The Chairman raised the planning application for 3 new dwellings at Backs Lane and the process by which the application had been permitted by CDC. There was no initial consultation with the Parish Council and when discussed with the case officer at CDC it was agreed that the Parish Council could comment before 15th September, however, in reality the decision notice was published on 5th September.

The Parish Council has not been able to express their concerns regarding the highways impact, insufficient off-road parking, or lack of outside space and also the access problems which may be encountered during the demolition of the grain store and concrete hardstanding, and construction of the dwellings, in particular, the weight limitations of the bridge by The Crown of Crucis.

Councillor Fowles suggested that a meeting should be arranged with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and also the Chairman agreed to write to Deborah Smith, a senior planning officer at CDC.

NH

6. Questions from the public

None.

7. Planning matters

7.1 Decisions

750	16/05249/FUL	Ampney Park	Replacement of 2 gates	CDC Permit
751	16/05250/LBC	Ampney Park	LBC for application 16/05249/FUL	CDC permit
752	17/00220/LBC	The Old Rectory	Glazed link extension	CDC permit
753	17/00314/FUL	The Old Rectory	Glazed link extension	CDC permit
762	17/02315/FUL	Bracken House	Building over existing garages and single storey extension	CD permit
765	17/03018/OPAN	Land at Backs Lane	Conversion of 2 agricultural buildings to create 3 dwellings	CDC permit

7.2 Outstanding applications

Applications previously discussed but still pending with CDC:			
731	16/02860/OUT	The Old Pump House, Siddington	Erection of 18 assisted living units
763	17/02631/FUL	44 Ampney Crucis	Two storey extension to rear gable end
New and revised applications:			
764	17/00076/OUT	Land at Siddington	Revised scheme for Care

		Park Farm	Retirement Community (see 15/02532/OUT)
765	17/03018/OPAN	Land at Back Lane	Conversion of 2 agricultural buildings to create 3 dwelling houses
766	C/17/01099/STC	Street trader	Mobile fish and chip van – No objection from Parish Council

7.3 Tree Applications

764	17/03340/TCONR	The Crown of Crucis	Various
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7.4 To review planning response procedure

The Clerk agreed to follow up with CDC to ensure that all Parish Council members can access the planning register and comment on applications so that the response is automatically shown as being from the Parish Council.

JW

8. Highways Matters

8.1 A417 Signage – The Chairman and Councillor Crook signed the legal agreement between Ampney Crucis Parish Council and GCC regarding the installation of mobile vehicle activated signs (VAS) units (see resolution 31/17). The Chairman explained that the final position of the sign near Ampney Park was yet to be finalised. The Clerk advised that the VAS units had been added to the insurance schedule and this was reflected in the annual insurance premium (see item 9.4).

Councillor Crook agreed to attend the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting to advise on the progress of A417 signage.

DC

Councillor Williams offered to change the VAS units as appropriate, once the units have been installed the Council agreed to discuss the details of moving and maintaining the units as required.

8.2 Kerb erosion on Village Street – The Chairman confirmed that he had filed an Expression of Interest for Community Match Funding with GCC and is awaiting a decision.

As part of the Lengthsmen Scheme the footpath between The Crown of Crucis and the main gates of Ampney Park, along the A417, has been cleared of self-seeded trees and shrubs. GCC has advised that the path has deteriorated to such an extent, through weed growth, that there is very little actual path left but GCC have no plans or budget to reinstate the path and cannot commit to regular weed killing. Councillor Crook felt that the work carried out was not satisfactory and the Chairman has contacted GCC who have cleared some of the debris which was left along the path.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 Current financial position

Resolution 38/17 *The Chairman proposed and the Parish Council resolved that the financial statements prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer should be adopted by the Council as an accurate reflection of the Council's financial position on 28 August 2017.*

Councillor Crook explained that he had started to investigate alternative bank accounts.

DC

9.2 Transfer of payments

Resolution 39/17 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that £100 is transferred from the Lloyds Treasurers Account to the Lloyds Imprest Account.*

JW

9.3 Approval of payments

Cottage Garden Services – August cut (£326.16 including vat), Came and Company – annual insurance premium (£741.73) and Grant Thornton – external auditor (£120.00 including vat).

Payments prior to the meeting were: Cottage Garden Services – July cut (£603.84 including vat) and

Fairford PCC – The Ampney Times printing costs (£99.03).

Resolution 40/17 *The Chairman proposed and the Parish Council resolved that the above amounts, totalling £1,890.76, be approved and paid, including retrospective approval of payments made prior to meeting*

JW

9.4 To consider annual insurance renewal

Resolution 41/17 *The Chairman proposed and the Council resolved that the Parish Council pay an annual insurance premium of £741.73 to Came and Company for the third year (1st October 2017 until 30th September 2018) of the three year long term agreement with Hiscox.*

JW

9.5 External Audit for the year ended 31 March 2017

Grant Thornton have completed the external audit and advised that the information in the Annual Return was in accordance with proper practices. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit was posted on the notice board and website together with associated papers.

9.6 To consider the purchase of Parish Council's computer

The Clerk advised that GAPTC had given a grant of £550 towards the purchase of a computer and necessary software. The Clerk to liaise with the Chairman.

JW/NH

10. Burial Ground

10.1 Lych Gate – exterior: the Chairman explained that previously the Council had agreed to organise a working party to remove the coating from the exterior wood. However, it was agreed to defer this work until Spring 2018 (Clerk to add to January 2018 agenda) and in the interim to obtain quotes for the repairs, any unbudgeted cost could be included in the 2018/19 budget.

NH

Lych Gate – interior: the Chairman explained that there were several old filing cabinets containing old Parish Council records and correspondence that require sorting for a) shredding, or b) retention/archiving. It was agreed to organise a small working party during the winter months and either arrange for the records to be lodged with the County Archives or sent for secure shredding.

ALL

10.2 The Council agreed that the final layout of the new extension should be deferred to the November meeting and in the meantime Councillor Raphael will take the lead and liaise with the Clerk.

AR/JW

10.3 Prior to the meeting the Chairman had circulated the proposed amendments to the Burial Ground conditions and increase in fees. There was some discussion regarding the revised fees, but it was agreed that the revisions were appropriate, recognising comparable rates in other civil burial grounds and cemeteries.

Resolution 42/17 *The Chairman proposed and the Parish Council resolved to increase the Burial Ground fees and amend the Burial Ground conditions, from 1st October 2017, as detailed in the document Ampney Crucis Burial Ground Conditions and Fees, as shown on page 1478 of the minutes.*

The Clerk agreed to publish the revised document on the website, effective on 1st October 2017.

JW

The Clerk advised that a request had been received for a memorial stone in the shape of a book. Councillor Williams confirmed that this would not cause a problem with mowing and the Council approved the design.

JW

10.4 The Council agreed that the Burial Ground clear up should take place on Sunday 19th November. The Chairman agreed to advertise in the Ampney Times and on the village network. Councillor Williams advised that at the clear up he would try and take away some of the soil at the sides of the entrance to the extension and lay some netting over it, as he is concerned that the side of the cut through will erode away.

NH

TW

11. Village Update

11.1 Playground

Councillor Armitage advised that the annual inspection had been ordered.

11.2 Ampney Times

The reserves at 28th August 2017 are £817.58 (excluding precept allocation).

11.3 Footpaths

Councillor Crook to send photograph of blocked stile just off Butchers Arms Lane to Councillor Hardy. Councillor Hardy agreed to contact Crucis Park Farm's contractor regarding the footpath behind Durncourt Cottages.

DH

11.4 Preaching Cross

The Council agreed to carry out the tree works in the new year, with the date to be agreed at the January meeting.

NH/DC
TW**11.5 Review Village Emergency Plan**

Prior to the meeting the Chairman had circulated an amended copy of the emergency plan which was agreed by the Council. In addition, the Chairman suggested that access to the Village Hall is reviewed and agreed with the Village Hall Committee over the coming six months. The Clerk agreed to publish amended plan on the website and send to CDC for their records.

JW

11.6 To consider the purchase of new litter bin

Resolution 43/17 *The Chairman proposed and the Parish Council resolved to purchase a waste bin from Ubico for £210 plus vat (includes supply and installation) to be located on the concrete plinth adjacent to the telephone box at the entrance to The Pleydells.*

JW

The Clerk agreed to contact Ubico.

11.7 To consider purchase of new notice board (location Cricket Ground)

The Chairman explained that in the 2017/18 precept £1,100 had been allowed for the purchase and installation of a new dual purpose notice board at the boundary of the Village Street and the cricket ground. Councillor Crook agreed to identify suitable suppliers and notice boards and Councillor Williams agreed to ask a representative from the cricket ground for permission. In addition, Councillor Williams advised that the cricket club was in danger of closing and as the land had been gifted to the village for the playing of cricket and other sporting activities he believed that efforts should be taken to save the club. He agreed to look into the Deeds of the Trust.

DC
TW**12. To note annual defibrillator training and awareness session**

A training and awareness session has been arranged with SWAST for 12th September at 7.15 pm in the village hall.

13. Correspondence received

- 13.1 Email from GAPTC advising the Commissioner's Fund is open from 31st July 2017. Noted by the Parish Council.
- 13.2 Email from CDC confirming that a special Council meeting will take place on 26th September (1pm) at Cirencester Baptist Church to consider the proposed Chesterton Development. Noted by the Parish Council – see report from District Councillor Fowles.
- 13.3 Email from GCC regarding winter maintenance. The Clerk has completed the form and returned.
- 13.4 Email from CAB requesting £474 towards funding. Neil has clarified this with CAB - £474 is the sum requested from the Ampneys and Hampton Ward in its totality. Based on our electoral roll, our share would be £110. Councillor Fowles agreed to confirm whether other Parish Councils within the Ward had been approached. Request to be carried forward to next meeting.
- 13.5 Email from CDC regarding dates for Local Plan independent examination. Councillor Fowles provided the following websites: www.cotswold.gov.uk/pexamination and www.cotswold.gov.uk/cilexamination. In addition he provided a copy of the Inspector's Guidance Note for Participants which the Clerk agreed to scan and circulate to all Councillors.

JW

JW

14. Matters outstanding

None.

15. Date, time and place of Annual Meeting

Monday 13 November 2017 at 7.15 pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 10.40 pm.