

Coberley Parish Council

Minutes of ANNUAL ASSEMBLY meeting 14th MAY 2015

	21 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE	
1	<p>County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson delivered his Annual Report.</p> <p>Paul Hodgkinson told the Parish about the new contractor for Gloucestershire Highways – Amey – and remarked that their service had been disappointing although it seems to be improving now.</p> <p>A417/Air Balloon road improvement scheme – it is expected that consultation will commence soon on this project.</p> <p>Active Together Public Health funding– there is a fund available to communities for anything that will improve the wellbeing of whole communities such as keep fit classes. Any requests should be sent to Paul Hodgkinson.</p> <p>Paul Hodgkinson is working try to improve rural broadband in the area</p>	
2	<p>Introduction and report by new District Councillor (Ermin Ward) – Nick Parsons</p> <p>Nick Parsons introduced himself to the Parish and answered questions from the audience. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coberley is not designated for development in the Local Plan. The current outline planning application for redevelopment of Ullenwood Court could therefore, provide additional housing in the District and assist in achieving the required target• Contact Nick Parsons if support needed regarding litter issues in the parish. Particular trouble spots noted are on the Air Balloon roundabout and the Leckhampton Hill Road.• Emphasised that the A417 improvement project needs strong support to ensure government remains committed.• Youth project fund available for ages 11-18 <p>Discussion took place regarding the Traveller Site at Hartley Lane: Note from this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Parish Council has strongly opposed the traveller site and submitted comments to the Local Plan consultation about this○ During the call for sites from CDC, only 3 sites came forward from landowners (travellers) – all in Hartley Lane○ The planning appeal has allowed the first site (one pitch) for 3 years. The Planning Committee in December gave temporary 3 year permission to the second site (two pitches) It was noted that if CDC finds alternative sites elsewhere in more appropriate locations, there could be a stronger case for removal after the temporary permissions expire.○ Nick Parsons agreed to work with the Parish Council to look for more suitable sites. The content of a recent e-mail from Cllr Parsons on the subject is attached as an Appendix.○ Neighbouring properties are entitled to contact the District Valuer to have rateable value reviewed <p>Dan Powell did not participate in the above discussion and reminded the Parish of his interest as adjoining landowner and leader of the Leckhampton Hill RAID group.(Residents Against Inappropriate Development)</p>	
3	<p>Chairman’s Report. The Chairman summarised and commented on the activities of the Council during the year and invited discussion – (attached as Appendix)</p> <p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Housing Needs survey – details to be circulated to Parish and put on website○ Speed issues along Coberley Road brought up by resident, particularly on the stretch past Bookers Cottage – Paul Hodgkinson to raise with authorities.○ Stocks of grit will be ordered in August/September and grit bin upgrade programme will continue.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Litter in the parish can be reported via contact information to be found on the CDC website ○ Issues raised by parishioners ref highways: Road is poor outside Oxford Cottages on the A436 and the drain is blocked again there; The A435 is prone to flooding between the Coberley turn and the Coberley Mill turn. Cllr Hodgkinson to raise with GCC Highways. 	
4	<p>Neighbourhood Plan – summary of discussions and proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was agreed that having a Neighbourhood Plan in place would strengthen the Parish Council voice on planning applications but all comments should be positive such as keep green fields area, desired dwelling design – it should not become a list of what is NOT wanted in the parish. ○ The Neighbourhood Plan will go through a public enquiry and run alongside the Local Plan. ○ It will be reviewed after 5 years ○ Down Ampney have undertaken a Neighbourhood Plan and Coberley is encouraged to consult them. ○ Phillipa Lowe and Joseph Walker at CDC are contacts who can help to formulate Neighbourhood Plans ○ It is led by the Parish Council but anyone from the community can contribute to it ○ £5000 is an estimate for external professional services 	
5	<p>Volunteers to support maintenance of green space in Coberley village</p> <p>Brief discussion took place regarding requirement but no volunteers were immediately forthcoming. Cllr Sarah Webster will be point of contact for any subsequently able to volunteer.</p>	
6	<p>Matters arising from Parishioners. An opportunity for Parishioners to ask questions of the Council and share ideas and comments</p> <p>Mike Cuttell took time to thank the Parish Council for its continued hard work on all matters in the Parish.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Jo Thurnham for providing the refreshments.</p> <p>Refreshments were served</p>	

Coberley Parish Council Annual Assembly May 2015 Chairman's Report

General highlights

- Successfully applied for share of **WW I commemoration funding** from CDC – plaque installed on base of sun dial in memory of all parishioners who fought in WW I listing the 32 names. Dedication ceremony 11 November 2014. Also acquired **2 Black Poplars** from Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group in project to commemorate centenary of Great War. Planted at Seven Springs by Cotswold Voluntary Wardens in Feb.
- **Housing Needs Survey** carried out Feb 2015. Identified one family with local connection with affordable housing need in parish. Summary to be circulated by e-mail to parishioners on list and posted on website. Full report available for viewing from Clerk.

Major planning & environmental issues

- **Hartley Lane traveller site:** Despite strong objection from the Parish Council, individual parishioners and an independent campaign group, application for 2nd traveller site at Hartley Lane was given temporary 3-year permission last December. Consider this **harmful to AONB and Cotswold Way environment. Unacceptable suburbanisation.** In permitting this, Planning Committee went against its own previous decisions and also against rulings made by Planning Inspector at appeal on 1st site in August 2013. Appears to be driven by need to have emerging Local Plan adopted to identify housing development supply and provision of 26 traveller sites by 2031 is integral requirement to get this Plan accepted. We remain in contact with CDC regarding work on site to ensure it conforms to permissions granted.
- **Local Plan consultation:** Parish Council made strong representation for all traveller sites at Hartley Lane to be removed from the Plan on grounds of harm to AONB and Cotswold Way + unacceptable suburbanisation. (1 pitch being identified by CDC as 'preferred site'; other 2 pitches being identified as 'reserve sites'). Furthermore, WS assessment report/evidence base suggests that more pitches could be supported on these sites – 7 pitches by 2022. Also reference to the 2 sites as broad locations in the 2023 - 2031 period.
- **Korrin Farm:** In Cowley Parish, but generator noise impacts Coberley residents. Following refusal of retrospective planning application for residential caravan, applicants have appealed to Planning Inspectorate. Outcome of appeal still awaited, but pursuing noise issue through environmental office.
- **1 Oxford Cottages:** Application to establish dog boarding kennels refused.
- **Ullenwood Court:** Application for redevelopment to residential site – 20 high quality homes + retention of Riding Centre. Parish Council made comprehensive representation to CDC. Opposes contemporary design proposed, pressed for retention of riding centre, requested clarification on funds available for relocation of businesses to ensure reasonable, seeks confirmation on future plans for remaining acreage and assurance it will be restricted to agricultural/pastoral, Section 106 funding for primary education should be settled on Coberley School and any needs in Coberley for affordable housing should be given priority on funding proposed.
- Other applications where PC has submitted comments: **Seven Springs Lodge, Minotaur Barn** (Hartley Lane), **Honeyacre** (Ullenwood Manor Road).

Highways issues

- Regular communication & meetings with local Highways' representatives addressing: **road surfaces** - potholes, sinking road at Upper Coberley, Hartley Lane resurfaced, Ullenwood Manor Road – patching, still to be completed. **Visibility and safety measures at junctions**

- road signage (A435/Upper Coberley, A436/Cowley/Ullenwood (approach signage & street sign), Leckhampton Hill Road/Salterley Grange); vegetation/foliage cut-back throughout parish.

- **Community Speed Watch group established at Salterley Grange** (only 40 mph limit in parish) resulting from local concerns at speeds exceeding limit and Police speed data recorder survey.

Finance highlights

- Year-end 2014/15: **Increase to Budget approved during year** to take in additional maintenance costs of parish assets and need for support by professional services (planning consultants etc) on issues key to parish
- **£100 Grant for WWI memorial plaque from CDC**
- **50:50 match-funding from GCC Highways for grit bin upgrades**
- **Surplus in Bank & Building Society accounts**
- Significant activity: **Engaged professional services** to assist key Council decisions (expenditure on planning consultancy support on traveller site and Local Plan issues); Continuation of **winter grit bin** upgrade programme
- **Precept amount raised to £4950** for 2015/16 (increase of £600 over last year due to increases in asset maintenance, staff costs, continuation of grit bin upgrade programme and need for professional support on current major planning issues in Parish)
- **Budget for 2014/5 £4950** (in line with precept)

Full accounts can be viewed upon request to the Clerk to the Council

Other issues

- **A417 Missing Link:** confirmed in December that DoT would include in national funding for road improvements. Assessing to develop solution.
- **Winter resilience:** Increased number of grit bins around parish and continued upgrade to lidded bins (still have large back-up stocks of grit). Mild winter again meant little of stocks used.
- **Litter:** Have continued to combat litter problem around Parish, working with CDC, which has been responsive to alerts. Main problem areas have been Leckhampton Hill road, A436 lay-by, Air Balloon area, Coberley lane. Need residents to monitor and report direct general littering and fly-tipping.
- **Sun Dial Memorial on Green:** concerns at poor condition of base of column. Working with Col. Mike Bennett (War Memorials Trust) to obtain assessment and estimate for repair + possible grant
- **Restoration of A&E provision at Cheltenham:** PC has given support to letters sent to authority by REACH
- Continue to participate in **GRCC-facilitated community approach to road safety**, working with other parish & town councils and GCC Cabinet Leads, RoadSafety Partnership, Highways to address concerns on highways maintenance, speeding & other road safety issues around County. Also working with **CDC on road safety initiative in the Cotswolds**

Dear Both,

I am writing as one of the candidates for election to the Cotswold District Council as the Member for the Ermin Ward which now includes Coberley. I am standing as the Conservative candidate. Your group will wish to know my views on the 3 Gypsy and Traveller pitches on Hartley Lane which now have temporary planning consents, personal to the applicants and which have been included as possible permanent sites in the draft Local Plan.

I agree with one of the findings of the planning inspector (Appeal D), namely that the application site was detrimental to the AONB. The same applies to the pitches permitted by the Council in December 2014. If elected, I will work with the council, the local communities and landowners to see whether other more suitable sites can be found so that it will not be necessary for the Council to grant permanent planning permission on any of these sites. I appreciate, however, that the Council has to identify sufficient sites in its new Local Plan to meet its obligations under national planning policy, but wish to assure people living in the Ward that I will work to safeguard their interests and represent them robustly in any decision making process.

Regards,

N J W Parsons

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