

Coberley Parish Council

Minutes of ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY Meeting followed the Annual General Parish Council meeting Held on 19th May 2016

		Action
1	<p>County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson addressed the audience and presented his report on issues concerning the County Council over the past 12 months.</p> <p>Subjects discussed were:</p> <p>Broadband – most parishes are now able to access Gigaclear but there are still some pockets of rural communities who are not able to. Please let Cllr Hodgkinson know of any issues.</p> <p>Roads – safety of A435 and A436 is still being looked at and sign cleaning and cutting back of vegetation has taken place. Pot holes remain a large concern in the County and motorists are advised to contact the Gloucestershire Pot Hole line to report these or contact Cllr Hodgkinson.</p> <p>Air Balloon – any work on this would not be likely to start until 2020/2021. The County Council has given Highways England £1m to kick start the process of a feasibility study, agreement and design of the solution.</p> <p>Coxit is no longer an idea being pursued and it is hoped more work will be done to devolve power to local level.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the A435 (Cirencester Road hill) which has been coned off to one lane for many months. It was suggested that land surveys are continuing due to a landslip. Cllr Hodgkinson offered to find out more information.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding road safety concerns at Ullenwood Manor Road as this forms part of the Cotswold Way and is used by riding school customers on horseback and also by the residents of the National Star College. Cllr Hodgkinson offered to follow this up to see if a speed recorder could be arranged for the road.</p>	
2	<p>District Cllr Nicholas Parsons addressed the audience and presented his report on issues concerning the District Council over the past 12 months (see below). He added that CDC and other Districts are expecting to receive the County Council's response to the Government's 2015 policy statement in the form of a revised Gloucestershire Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GGTTSAA) It is scheduled to be published in August. CDC is not expecting a reduction in the number of pitches required.</p>	
3	<p>The Chairman, Duncan McGaw, summarised the activities of the Parish Council during the year (separate reports)</p>	
4	<p>Litter Clearing in the Parish</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the national 'Clean for the Queen' campaign and it was agreed that any voluntary clearing on major roads is not safe.</p> <p>Fly tipping, when reported to CDC, is dealt with quickly and can be reported via the Cotswold District Council website.</p> <p>Cllr Parsons reminded everyone that smaller roads which are badly affected can be requested for clearing via him and bags and equipment are available from Ubico for individuals and communities for litter clearing.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding an 'unofficial' litter bin in Coberley village and it was agreed that Dan Powell would email Cllr Parsons with detailed location information.</p>	<p>DP to inform Cllr Parsons of bin location</p>
5	<p>Matters arising from Parishioners.</p> <p>Thanks were given to Jo Thurnham for the refreshments which were served. Meeting concluded at 8.30pm</p>	

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report by Cllr N J W Parsons

2016-2017

1. Finance

CDC has managed to freeze Council Tax for 2016-17, mainly as a result of further efficiencies made in the operation of Council services. This is combined with the projected savings coming from the Council's 2020 Vision Programme, involving the further pooling of back office functions between neighbouring Councils. In particular:

- The efficient use of Ubico in dealing with the waste services has resulted in further savings, and
- The cost of providing car parking and planning services has reduced.

The Council's budget continues to provide £100,000 towards flood defence projects and the Council has also allocated £500,000 to support the provision of rural broadband across the district. It is worth noting that these savings and the freeze of Council Tax have been possible despite a cut in Central Government grants and reduced receipts from Business Rates.

Cotswold District Council remains debt free with net assets of over £34.8 million.

2. Planning

The preparation of the new Local Plan has advanced to the stage where the final public consultation will be made during June/July 2016. The Council will then send the proposed Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate. A public Examination will then follow and, when approved by the Inspectorate, the new Local Plan should be adopted in 2017. The current version of the new Local Plan includes a policy to enable small scale local development outside the main towns, provided that it can be accommodated without harm to the countryside and can be shown to be in the best interests of the particular settlement or village.

8400 houses - 2031

3. Environmental Schemes

The Council has allocated funds for environmental works within each Councillor's Ward. The scope of this scheme is very broad and, in the majority of cases, the award will be made if supported by the Ward Councillor. To date awards have covered litter picking, litter bins and flood protection/prevention.

4. Youth Projects

The Council is still able to support youth projects for those aged between 11 - 17. Such projects tend to be run during school holidays, but any project will be considered. In the past, in the Ermin Ward, the Council has managed to support diverse projects such as cricket coaching, theatre production, and the provision of play equipment. Again, the Council will support most projects which are endorsed by the Ward Councillor.

5. Community Projects

The Council will continue to support local/community projects with the provision of match funding with other organisations, such as GRCC and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Within the Cotswolds, this scheme has been particularly useful in the provision of, or maintenance of, village halls and other community facilities.

N J W Parsons

Ward Councillor, Ermin Ward

Coberley Parish Council Annual Assembly May 2016 Chair's Report

Significant events

- **Queen's 90th Birthday Beacon event, 21 April:** Very successful, well-attended; many thanks to George & Margrit and Dan & Vanessa for hosting on their land.
- Sadly, **Sarah Webster** resigned as a Councillor in March, due to work commitments. Sarah had been a member of the Council for two years and we thank her for her valuable contribution. In the absence of a call for election by parishioners, the Parish Council is now exercising its power to co-opt a suitable person. Deadline for applications is tomorrow, 20 May and a decision will be by vote at the next Council meeting in July.

Planning & Environmental issues

- **Hartley Lane Traveller site:** Development extended beyond parameters approved in temporary 3-year permission granted in December 2014. Applied for variation to accommodate. After initial withdrawn proposal, application was modified with development area slightly reduced. This was approved by Planning Committee in March. 3-year temporary permission expires on 1st, southern site in August. However, emerging **Cotswold District Local Plan** seeks to identify this site as a preferred site and 2nd site to north as reserve site. We objected in the last round of consultations in December 2015, with particular emphasis on the possibility of increasing the number of pitches on these sites, and will have opportunity to comment in next round of consultations this year. In meantime, CDC continues to seek other more suitable locations on public authority-owned land
- **Other developments permitted in parish include Minotaur Barn** (Lambing shed conversion), **Seven Springs Lodge** (extension), **Outline planning permission at Ullenwood Court** (20 residences + replacement riding centre), **New Farm Bungalow** (Demolition of existing house and outbuildings, erection of new house and ancillary accommodation), **Westbury Barn** (Barn conversion), **Close Farm Barns** (conversion of existing buildings into one dwelling and garages). **The Rise** (3 tourist accommodation units). **Coach House** (Change of use from educational institution to residential unit and extension of existing outbuilding), **4 North Terrace** (extension) **Outside Parish** (but impacts residents) **Korrin Farm** Appeal granted for residential caravan (however now advised that noise levels from generator decreased) **Current application:** Conversion of building from offices to a dwelling with external alterations at **Spring Well Barn** Close Farm Lane
- **Salad Bowl** on Leckhampton Hill Road has continued to be a source of frustration due to its unsightly appearance. CDC continues to monitor but it appears little can be enforced.
- **The Paddock** continues to be monitored to ensure compliance.
- **Consideration of Neighbourhood Plan:** More local control over local planning decisions. Will involve considerable time and expense. Cannot override Local Plan or NPPF. Await next consultation round on Local Plan before deciding how to proceed
- **Sun Dial Memorial on the Green:** Unable to obtain grant for repair work, but now have very reasonable quotation and work is due to be carried out imminently.

Finally confirmed (thanks to Nick Parsons) that **parish boundary changed** as requested. Now follows A435, south from Cowley/Upper Coberley junction (not Churn)

Highways & Road Safety issues

- **Continue to monitor parish roads. Working with GCC Highways** to achieve solutions. Gradual progress. (flooding on A435, A436 Cowley/Ullenwood junction signing & visibility, sinking road in Upper Coberley, signage on A435 for junction at Slacks Barn, drain covers on A436, general sign cleaning and cut-back of vegetation)
- Pressing Gigaclear contractors & Highways to **restore verges and Green in village** to original quality

- **Winter resilience:** Continued programme of upgrading grit bins throughout parish to more efficient lidded bins. 2nd year of GCC match-funding has enabled programme to be carried out in shorter time scale. Due to complete last few upgrades in FY2016/17.
- **Road Safety:** Hugh involved in **No Crash campaign** with Paul; DSM involved with CDC **Respect campaign** and GRCC **CARS** working group. Looking into possibility of PCC funding for road safety initiatives – A436 (Cowley/Ullenwood crossroads) and Leckhampton Hill Road are possibilities to be considered. Community Speed Watch group occasionally monitors Leckhampton Hill Road.

Finance

- **Ended year 2015/16 with small surplus and in line with our budget. Reserves risen marginally and remain at adequate level (£4,383)**
- **Precept for 2016/17 set at £5,000** (2015/16 was £4,950). Maintained at this level to support cost of professional services on Neighbourhood Plan
- **Budget for 2016/17: in line with Precept (£5,039)**
- **Significant financial activity: Professional services** (to assist Council decisions on traveller site application, Local Plan consultation and Neighbourhood Plan consideration), Continuation of **winter grit bin** upgrade programme
- **Council has spent some time updating its Asset Register** to ensure compliance with recently adopted **Transparency Code** (financial information, specified statements and reports for each year to be published on website). **Risk Assessment** also reviewed and updated
- **Full set of accounts** can be viewed on website or on request to Clerk.