

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 Powell for hosting on their land at Hartley Farm.
- 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 After initial withdrawn proposal, application was modified with development area slightly reduced.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.