

Coberley Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Assembly 17th May 2018

Cllr McGaw welcomed Parishioners and thanked them for attending

Present:

Cllr D McGaw (Chairman), Cllr J Marshall (Vice Chairman), Cllr J Thurnham, Cllr H Piggott & Cllr D Powell

Also present:

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson
Cllr Nick Parsons

12 members of the public

1 County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson – Annual report

Cllr Hodgkinson stated that the budget for GCC has been set at £420 million and that Adult Social Care & Children in Care account for 70% of that budget. He also stated that the remaining budget is immensely strained for demand on roads, buses, libraries and trading standards.

Highways issues continue to be a problem and reiterated that Parishioners must also report concerns directly to GCC via freephone 08000 514514. The current roads contractor Amey will lose the contract wef March 2019 and a new one will be selected this year.

Large sections of A435 & A436 will be resurfaced and a safety scheme is in place to improve visibility at the Cowley/Ullenwood junction.

Most residents now have faster broadband.

2 Cotswold District Councillor Nicholas Parsons – Annual report

Finance

Despite further reductions in Central Government funding, CDC has frozen Council Tax again for 2018-19, mainly as a result of continued efficiencies made in the operation of Council services and the establishment of the not for profit Company, Publica. Publica is owned by Cotswold, West Oxfordshire and Tewksbury District Councils and Cheltenham Borough Council. The following are also funded. The forecast Budget surplus will enable the Council to invest in/maintain:

Enhancements to Planning Services (£195,000) The New Waterloo Car Park (£260,000) Electric Car Charging (£300,000), while Green Waste charges remain **frozen** and "Free after 3" Parking will be **extended again**.

Cotswold District Council remains debt free with net assets of over £30 million.

Planning

The Draft new Local Plan has been examined in public. CDC have just finished consulting on the changes required by the Inspector. The present intention is to have the plan adopted during the summer. For **Coberley**, the proposed Local Plan includes a policy to enable small scale local development outside the main towns,

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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.

Youth Projects

The Council is still able to support youth projects for those aged between 11 - 17. Funding from the County Council has been withdrawn, but each District ward Councillor has an allocation of £1,000 available. Youth 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.

Community Projects

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

1st World War

The allocation announced last year remains available through Ward Councillors. The Fund is available to assist communities to commemorate the ending of the 1st World War. Please let me know if you may need support for a project.

Defibrillators

Funds remain available to support parishes with the installation of Defibrillators. Within Ermin Ward we have already used the initial allocation of £2,000, but I am able to extract funds from other Ward Councillors.

3 Chairman's report – Cllr Duncan McGaw will summarise & comment on the activities during the previous year and invite discussion

Focus of PC activity this year has, as usual, been predominantly on planning applications and highways issues

Planning & Environmental issues

PC has continued to robustly represent parishioners' views on planning and environmental matters, where appropriate employing the services of Evan Jones, Planning Consultants to ensure the optimum professional representation.

Full details of main planning applications, together with PC representations can be found on our web site <http://www.coberleyparish.co.uk>

Most significant issues for the parish this year have been:

- **Hartley Lane Traveller Sites:**

- First site to the south had been given permanent approval in previous year. Applied for additional pitch and facilities this year. Refused in view of emerging Local Plan and Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).
- Second site to north applied for permanent permission but in view of emerging Local Plan position, only granted 1-year extension of temporary approval in December 2017.
- Local Plan has progressed through Examination stage and further Consultation stage on Modifications prior to submission to Secretary of State for approval. The Plan now proposes exclusion of both sites as not being required, although Site 1 is, of course now

permanent anyway

- **Dowmans Farm**

- Conversion of barns into 4 dwellings. Broadly supported by PC. Permitted

- **Ullenwood Court** Revised proposal currently being submitted for 26 dwellings + retention of existing house but without previously approved riding stables. (Original approval was for 20 dwellings + replacement riding stables). Overview of pending application given at extraordinary meeting on the 23rd April. PC raised following concerns:

- Loss of replacement stables could raise objections from the community
- Access to the site is a major consideration. This must only be via the existing entrance on Leckhampton Hill Road, not via Greenway Lane.
- It would be necessary to re-visit Affordable Housing Provision as need has now been identified in the parish
- Section 106 Primary Education contribution. Case to be made for Coberley School (Nominated schools in previously approved application S106 were Coberley/Birdlip)
- Protected trees within the development
- Drainage issues. Current system to be assessed to establish whether adequate.

Parishioners will be notified when the revised application is published for consultation and will have the opportunity to raise concerns direct to CDC and at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

- **Other Planning Applications this year have included:** Various alterations to properties in the parish & extensions at the **Ian Coley Shooting School** (amendments have since been made following consultation with Parishioners and a comprehensive statement from the Parish Council).

Work commissioned on **new Parish Web site to satisfy Transparency Code**. Objective greater appeal, flexibility and user-friendliness

General Data Protection Regulations – 25 May 2018 All parishioners have been asked to confirm opt-in to receive Parish Council communications. If agreement or response not forthcoming, PC will be obliged to remove address from distribution and information will cease.

Parish Housing Needs Survey undertaken. 6 households within the parish have self-identified themselves as being in need of affordable housing. Discussions and investigations continuing. Survey Report & Summary can be seen on Council web site <http://www.coberleyparish.co.uk> 'Surveys & Questionnaires' page.

Defibrillator purchased by PC with part-funding by CDC. Installed in telephone kiosk. Accredited with SW Ambulance Service. Training provided. David Carlton kindly volunteered to undertake weekly checks to ensure compliance with SW Ambulance Service Accreditation Scheme. Reduced Book Share facility remains in the kiosk.

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Sun Dial Memorial on the Green: The Parish Council awaits work to be completed on the Memorial but is assured that work will take place shortly.

Appeal for volunteer to help with **Grass-cutting on the village green**

Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute & WWI Beacons of Light 11 November 2018. PC has agreed to participate. Cllr Powell kindly offered to host beacon event at Hartley Farm

Ultra-fast Broadband: Current work to provide service to Salterley Grange & Hartley House completes the coverage of Coberley Parish

Highways & Road Safety issues

- **The Parish Council continually monitors parish roads (maintenance & safety aspects). Working with GCC Highways** to achieve solutions. A bi-monthly **Highway Actions Report** is forwarded to GCC for updates. Each report is listed on the Parish Council website <http://www.coberleyparish.co.uk> and appended to PC meeting minutes. Cllr Piggott continues to represent Coberley PC on the NO CRASH campaign group chaired by County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson.
- **Winter resilience:** GCC Highways practice is to replenish grit bin stocks each Autumn and make available additional bags of grit to PC to hold as back-up during winter months when GCC priorities focused on gritting primary routes and dealing with seasonal issues such as fallen trees etc. Contact Parish Clerk if a bin is noticed to be empty. Parish Snow Warden is David Carlton.

Finance

- **2017/18 expenditure (£8,575) marginally exceeded income (£8,441).** Due to **professional services** on planning application and Local Plan consultations. **Increased spend** drawn from **reserves** which nevertheless remain at **adequate level** (£4,125)
- **Precept for 2018/19 set at £6,500** (2017/18 was £5,500). **Increase** due to anticipated necessary professional representation at CDC Planning Committee given Parishioners' concerns at the Hartley Lane Gypsy & Traveller Site and the impact of statements put forward in the Local Plan
- **Transparency Fund received** (£1314) to bring the Parish Council in line with Transparency Code requirements.
- **Significant financial activity: Principal expenditure Clerk to the Council; professional services** (to assist Council decisions on traveller site application); Installation & purchase of **defibrillator**, funding from CDC came in at less than the originally anticipated 50%.
- **Full set of Accounts and Transparency Code documentation** will be available on website upon completion or by request to Clerk.

4	<p>Matters arising from Parishioners – an opportunity for Parishioners to ask questions of the Councillors and share ideas and comments</p> <p>David Carlton asked who is responsible for obstruction of pavements by overgrown hedges, it was agreed to add to the Highways Action list.</p> <p>Cllr McGaw thanked all for attending and thanks went to Cllr Thurnham for the catering provisions</p>	

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

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