

# Coberley Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Coberley Parish Council meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

**Present;** Cllrs McGaw, Powell and Piggott

**Also present;** Clerk to the Parish Council – Claire Mann, Incoming Clerk – Deborah Cook, Cllr Paul Hodgkinson (GCC), Cllr Julia Judd (CDC) & 3 members of the public.

A member of the public reported a potential accident spot on the A436/Ullenwood junction. A car reversing out of Barber's Wood car park blocked the road leaving another car stuck in the middle of the A436. Considering the speed of the road and likely vehicles using it, the car had been at serious risk of being hit. Concern was expressed with the upcoming Charlton Hill closure for 6 months that traffic is likely to increase on the A436 and increase the risk of such a serious accident.

Cllr Hodgkinson (GCC) will include this in his next site meeting of road issues with GCC Local Highways Manager. Representative from Woodland Trust (Barbers Wood) will be asked to attend. Cllrs Piggott and McGaw expect to attend from the Parish Council.

A member of the public raised concerns over the woodland areas. More people were using the woodland areas for walking during covid lockdowns and in this case members of the public had had a bonfire in private woods.

A contact will be found for Barber's Wood (Woodland Trust) and it might be that better signage is needed for private/public woods.

Cllr Piggott passed on information that the National Star College were planning to continue their Masterplan development. There is an existing (or extant) permission for 30 bedrooms, but the new application is only for 19. Additional parking and increased biodiversity are planned. The application is being submitted at the end of March, after the January 2020 pre-application was well received.

Cllr Hodgkinson advised that he must leave early for another meeting, so Agenda item 21/21 was brought forward. The Major and Minor Highways Issues was reviewed.

Cllr Powell raised the blocked gully at Hartley Farm, Item 6 on the Minor Highways list and asked if Cllr Hodgkinson could raise this with GCC as the initial clearance of the gully hadn't been appropriate.

Item 5 on Minor Highways list. Cllr McGaw had confirmed to Highways that the broken warning signage (pedestrians) is needed but was not sure about the horse-rider signage. Cllr Powell confirmed that this, too, is necessary as a bridleway crosses the A435 at this point.

Signed..... Date.....

Item 1, Minor list. Cllr McGaw will swap the '20 is plenty signs' from Ullenwood Manor Road to Coberley Road with assistance from village resident. Additional signs obtained from Highways and spares from Ullenwood Manor Road project to be obtained from Cllr Piggott.

Noted that Item 4, Minor list – Upper Coberley Road drainage grip clearance completed

Noted that all other Highways actions on Major and Minor list to be actioned in 21/22 Financial Year

Item 3, Major list. Cllr Powell stated that no action to install signage on private land to deter parking on Hartley Lane verges will be taken while the pandemic continues.

#### **21/15. To receive apologies of absence**

Apologies received from Cllr Marshall.

#### **21/16. To receive Declarations of Interest on items on the agenda**

None

#### **21/17. To approve minutes of meetings held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 were approved as a correct record. It was noted that the Council was still seeking a new Councillor.

#### **21/18. To discuss planning applications received & note applications determined**

21/00821/TPO - Land At Ullenwood Court Ullenwood Gloucestershire – Various Tree Works (deadline for comment 30/03/2021)

The Parish Council object to the large number of trees to be felled and fear the loss of high value specimens and aboreal cover on the site and will be seeking confirmation that any trees permitted to be felled will be replaced with planting of substantial sized specimens.

#### **21/19. To review accounts & approve payments to the Clerks, Pata, HMRC, Hower and GAPTC**

The accounts were noted and payments to the Clerks, Pata and HMRC were approved to be set up online by the Clerk.

The Hower payment was not approved as the work had not been completed.

The GAPTC payment may require amendment and so was not approved for payment.

#### **21/20. To appoint Internal Auditor for 2020/21**

It was resolved to appoint Tim Smith to undertake the internal audit for the year 2020/21.

## **21/21 To review/update Highways Action List**

Members noted the Action List along with the points raised in public questions.

## **21/22. To receive an update on the Community Hall Project**

Responses were being received from the Community survey. It was planned that Cllr McGaw and Mr Elwes would attend a Highways England (Missing Link) Designated Funding meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to explore the possibility of funding towards the project.

## **21/23. To confirm and formally document the current Parish Council's policy regarding classification changes to highways and public rights of way.**

At the Parish Council meeting of 9 November 2020, the Council heard that many years ago the Council undertook not to support declassification of any roads within the parish and concluded that that position remained valid.

The Council unanimously agreed that it will not support classification changes to public rights of way/highways.

It should not be up to those Members of the Council in position at a moment in time to take a decision that would prevent future exercise of access that has been enjoyed by right over hundreds of years.

The Council's role is to look out for the interests of the Parish as a whole (as opposed to the interest of individuals who may be advantaged by a downgrade).

If the Council made an exception to this view/policy, this would create a precedent which might encourage others to apply to downgrade status of roads which may inconvenience them.

This is to clarify matters for future Parish Councils.

## **21/24 To review the Parish Council's position on maintenance and deployment of back-up grit stocks in the Parish and formulate consequent proposals**

There was one fill up of grit bins by GCC in autumn. There is currently no Parish Snow warden. Current back up stocks were stored with Cllr Powell. It was not always possible for Cllr Powell to respond to requests for grit bin refills, so it would be advisable to stock small amounts of grit in strategic locations. Council will speak with Cllr Hodgkinson (GCC) about grit bin top up and extra refills. Cllr McGaw will review grit bins in the Parish.

## **21/25 To note ownership of Village Green following correspondence from GCC**

GCC Legal Department had advised that as no owner had been identified, the ownership became vested in the Parish Council and they had provided documentary proof showing the Council now owned the green.

The Clerk will register with the Open Spaces Society on advice from Cllr Judd (CDC)

**21/26 To announce the handover of Parish Clerk role to Deborah Cook.**

It was resolved to appoint Deborah Cook as the new Parish Clerk from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Deborah was welcomed to the Council by all members.

The Council thanked the outgoing Clerk, Claire Mann, for her service over the last four years.

**21/27.**

**To consider Parish Council use of Facebook**

It was approved to set up a new Facebook account to encourage parishioner participation and awareness.

**21/28**

**To confirm dates of future meetings and the Annual Assembly**

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Assembly would both take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, remotely.

Meeting closed 21.06