

## Coberley Parish Council Annual Assembly 22 March 2023

### Chair's Report

Review of PC's key activities from May 2022 to March 2023.

The PC has held 6 meetings, including the meeting which immediately preceded this Assembly

#### Personnel

**Cllr David Carlton**, who was co-opted onto the Parish Council in June 2021, has indicated that he will not be seeking election in May.

#### Finance

- **Parish Council finances in healthy state**
- **2022/23 expenditure expected to remain within budget**
- **Precept for 2023/24 increased to £9,350 (from £8,500)** to reflect required budget for election costs\*, higher staff, insurance and asset maintenance costs.
- **Significant financial activity in 2022/23:** Salary of Clerk to the Council (principal expenditure), insurance, professional planning services, defibrillator maintenance, Platinum Jubilee event
- **Full set of Accounts and Transparency Code documentation** will, upon completion of end-of-year accounting, be available on the PC's website, or by request to Clerk at [info@coberleyparish.co.uk](mailto:info@coberleyparish.co.uk) .

(\*Explanation of the new system of election charges was provided in the Chair's Report for 2022)

#### Planning & Environmental issues

PC has continued to monitor planning applications and environmental matters with a balanced approach, taking account of the criteria upon which CDC Planning Department will assess applications.

**Key planning applications on which the PC was consulted during the year included:** An appeal related to refusal of proposed expansion of a **Hartley Lane Traveller Site** was heard by the Planning Inspectorate and the PC had professional representation to present its objection. The appeal was allowed; **Outbuildings at the Dowman's Farm development** – PC objected to these on principle that original planning conditions stated no further buildings to be added. Both were permitted; **Ham Mead** – Following concerns raised by parishioners, PC requested that any outstanding enforcement concerns are taken into consideration before a decision is taken on this application.

#### Highways & Road Safety issues

- **The Parish Council continually monitors parish roads (maintenance & safety aspects)** and works with GCC Highways to achieve solutions. A **Highway Actions Report** is forwarded to GCC for updates ahead of each PC meeting. Reports are listed on the Parish Council website.
- Key areas of attention have been **A436** (Ullenwood/Cowley crossroads; Public footpath crossings near Seven Springs, speed limit reduction); **Coberley village** (Surface water drainage and speeds through village. The PC is pressing for a 20mph zone to be considered against new County Council Road Safety Policy); **Leckhampton Hill Road** (Poor surface and unsuitability for current and predicted traffic volumes); **Restricted Byway at Dowmans** (restoration of original route); Various **signage, road repair, road-marking, tree, pavement, gateway** issues across Parish.
- The PC maintains contact with GCC to ensure that **salt & grit bins** are refilled in Autumn and that small back-up stocks are held in the Parish.
- **NO CRASH Road Safety group.** Cllr Piggott continues to represent the PC on this group which is chaired by Cllr Hodgkinson and focuses primarily on the A436 and adjoining roads.
- The PC remains engaged with the **A417 Missing Link** scheme progress to keep the issues it has raised to the fore, in particular, the impacts on peripheral roads in our Parish. The scheme has been granted a **Development Consent Order** by the Secretary of State and preparatory work has commenced. The PC has agreed a **Statement of Common Ground** with National Highways (formerly Highways England) to monitor progress. **Key areas of concern raised: New Ullenwood junction roundabout;**

**Leckhampton Hill Road; A436; Ullenwood/Cowley crossroads; Noise and air pollution** during construction and when in operation. PC is seeking a joint bid for **Designated Funding** with GCC Highways to improve safety at Ullenwood/Cowley A436 crossroads. PC will continue to meet with National Highways, Kier (contractor) and other local PCs on regular basis to closely monitor progress and address Parish concerns.

- **A435 Charlton Hill closure for repair work.** PC has registered concern with GCC and contractor at the anticipated impact of displaced traffic during the closure and requested mitigation.
- PC is in process of replacing various damaged **salt/grit bins** around the Parish.

### Parish Events – Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Coberley PC held a **celebratory beacon** event at Hartley Farm on Thursday 2 June. This was kindly hosted by the Powell Family. The event was well-attended with over 150 people and positive feed-back was received. Beverages were provided free-of-charge by the PC.

The PC invited parishioners and their guests to make a charitable donation to the British Red Cross, Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

### Other Issues

Maintenance work planned on **Sundial Memorial (village green)**. As no quotations forthcoming following requests to potential contractors this year, the project will be reprised in the new financial year.

PC continues to employ a **grass-cutting service** for the village green.

PC has provided a **new salt/grit-spreading machine** for the Parish. Currently kindly stored by the School.

**Parish web site** [www.coberleyparish.co.uk](http://www.coberleyparish.co.uk) The PC encourages parishioners to make use of its web site for information on the Council and its activities and to make enquiries.

**Cllr Duncan McGaw, Chair – Coberley Parish Council**  
**22 March 2023**