

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SOUTH CERNEY ON WEDNESDAY 11th MAY 2011

Present: Chairman M. Stuart  
 Vice Chairman P. Nicholas  
 Parish Councillor Mrs F. Chapman  
 Mrs E. Chubb  
 J. Harris  
 P. Jay  
 J. Kimberley  
 Mrs D. Land  
 Mrs. C. Tunbridge  
 R. Webb  
 E. Jenkins (CDC)

The following members of R Way group also attended the meeting: Karl O’Keefe, Jasmin Tresadern, Chris Wearing and Emily Hallett (Youth Group Co-ordinator).

Three members of the public attended.

The Clerk, Maurice McKee opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and invited nominations for the position of Chairman of the Parish Council.

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Webb proposed and Cllr Mrs Tunbridge seconded a resolution that Cllr Stuart be appointed Chairman of the Parish Council. The Parish Council was all in favour and Cllr Stuart graciously accepted.

The Clerk then handed over control of the meeting to the Chairman who congratulated the new District Councillor Mrs Juliet Layton on her success at the polls. He welcomed back all those who had stood for election to the Parish Council and been returned unopposed. He expressed his thanks to those councillors who served and had not been successful or had decided not to stand again.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF OFFICE**

All Parish Councillors signed the Declarations of Office commitment which the Clerk witnessed. A Register of Interests form was distributed to each Parish Councillor and when completed the Clerk will return to the Monitoring Officer at Cotswold District Council.

#### **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Webb proposed and Cllr Mrs Land seconded a resolution that Cllr Nicholas be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council. After an assurance that no other Parish Councillor wished to be considered, Cllr Nicholas accepted the appointment. The Parish Council was all in favour.

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

##### **All Committees**

Both the Chairman Cllr Stuart and Vice Chairman Cllr Nicholas are automatically members of the Planning, Finance and Playing Fields & Village Maintenance Committees. Cllr Stuart is also on the Personnel Committee but Cllr Nicholas declared a prejudicial interest as the Clerk is a client of his firm and therefore declined. Cllr Mrs Tunbridge agreed to a proposal from the Chairman that she join the Personnel Committee.

**Playing Fields & Village Maintenance Committee**

Parish Councillors Mrs Chapman, Mrs Chubb, Harris, Kimberley and Mrs Tunbridge agreed to serve on the Playing Fields and Village Maintenance Committee.

**Finance Committee**

Parish Councillors Mrs Land, Jay and Webb agreed to continue serving on the Finance Committee.

**Planning Committee**

Parish Councillors Mrs Chapman, Mrs Land and Webb agreed to continue to serve on the Planning Committee.

**Personnel Committee**

Parish Councillors Jay, Mrs Land, Mrs Tunbridge and Webb offered to serve on the Personnel Committee.

**Burial Authority**

The Clerk will enquire from Revd D. Bowers, Mr G. James, Mr T. Squire, Cllr Webb and Mr R. Wrightson if they are willing to continue to serve on the Burial Authority.

**Cutts Charity Trustee**

Cllr Jay agreed to continue as a trustee.

**Flood Warden**

Cllr Harris agreed to continue in the post of Flood Warden.

**Snow Warden**

Cllr Harris agreed to continue in the post of Snow Warden.

**Tree Wardens**

Parish Councillors Harris and Kimberley offered to continue to serve as Tree Wardens.

**Village Hall Representative**

Parish Councillor Webb offered to continue to serve as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

En bloc it was proposed to appoint Parish Councillors to the above posts by Cllr Jay and seconded by Cllr Mrs Chubb. The Parish Council was all in favour.

**APOLOGIES**

Cllr Bennett (CDC) had sent his apology for absence as he had other commitments.  
Cllr Mrs Juliet Layton (CDC) had sent her apology as she had to attend a birthday celebration.  
Cllr Parsons (GCC) apologised for his absence as he was attending another meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th APRIL 2011**

Page 2809: **YOUTH REPORT** – 2nd line delete: Stratford ... insert: King

It was proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Mrs Land that the minutes, after alteration, were a true and accurate record. Cllr Nicholas and Cllr Mrs Tunbridge abstained as they had not attended the meeting. The remainder of the Parish Councillors were all in favour.

## **R WAY REPORT**

Chris Wearing told the Parish Council that the group had organised a trip to Devon from 1st to 3rd June which would include two days of activities. More than 20 would like to go but unfortunately there was only 15 places available. It was going to be a difficult decision on who be selected for the final places. There is also a bowling trip to Swindon organised. Funds will be provided from within the budget and subsidised with grants, one of which will be from the Street Fair organisers. The group will also have a manned pitch at the Street Fair to project their organisation and hopefully encourage more to join up. There is now a web site under construction which will be found at [www.rway.org.uk](http://www.rway.org.uk)

## **LAND AT THE PIECE, STATION ROAD**

The Chairman consulted with colleagues who agreed to promote this agenda item as two residents were attending the meeting and wished to observe the debate.

The Chairman invited Mr Wooldridge and his neighbour to explain their proposal. Mr Wooldridge suggested that if the Parish Council was to agree that the area to the west of the entrances to their properties alongside the Piece could be squared off it would provide a parking space for vehicles. At the moment the path is not wide enough to park and leave room for his neighbour to pass with his vehicle. Mr Wooldridge and his neighbour would, at their expense, put kerbstones and groundwork to prevent the flooding of the path, although they would not refuse financial help from the Parish Council if it was offered. Cllr Nicholas explained that the ground in question was part of the Piece which was registered Common Land. Before any action could be considered he informed the residents that he would need the other title and advised them to ask their solicitor for the Common Registered Entry.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Cllr Nicholas was concerned that some residents were unsure as to why the Parish Council had taken the decision not to object to the Mallards development application 10/03916/OUT. There is a range of opinion not generally voiced by residents and strong views held by both those who supported and others who took the opposite view on the development. He suggested that a letter is sent to the Planning Committee at Cotswold District Council and copied to the Editor of the Wilts and Glos Standard explaining the background and reasoning for the decision. For balance, the minority view of those who voted against the application would also be included. It was important that the letter be presented before the Planning Regulatory Committee at CDC made its site inspection. The Parish Council agreed that Cllr Nicholas and Cllr Stuart jointly compose a letter and circulate its contents to the rest of the Parish Councillors for their approval or amendment before dispatch.

Cllr Jay complained about the lack of response he is experiencing from the Cotswold Water Park Trust to his membership application. He asked the Clerk to contact Tasha Flaherty at the CWP Trust to urge her to make it a priority that the on-line application method is activated.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

On Wednesday 27th April I attended a Nuts and Bolts course at Community House in Gloucester organised by GAPTC. Although mostly a refresher course it is always worthwhile to revisit procedures and be advised of changes.

During April of the 18 available working days I averaged 5 hours 10 minutes per day which is some 8 hours per week in excess of what my contract allows. The number of working days was severely reduced as there were three Bank Holidays in the month. This time of year is also exceptionally busy especially with elections, audit return and the arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting not to mention the brouhaha that the Mallards planning application created. Overall I am quite content with the situation.

## **REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE PLAYING FIELDS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 9TH MAY 2011**

Cllr Mrs Chubb, Cllr Harris, Cllr Stuart and Cllr Mrs Tunbridge had attended the meeting. Cllr Stuart opened the meeting at 7 pm.

### **Apologies**

Cllr Kimberley apologised for his absence as he was unwell.

### **Matters Arising from previous Minutes**

#### **Youth Shelter**

Cllr Stuart had spoken to Simon Clark of Phoenix Contractors. Although Simon was particularly busy at the moment he would assess the situation and report back at his earliest convenience.

#### **Parking on Grass Verges**

Cllr Harris asked members of the Committee to check out the area around the eastern side of The Piece in preparation for the agenda item dealing with it on Wednesday evening.

#### **Sustrans Route 45 (Station Road to Spine Road), Tree Root on path to Box Bush from Bow Wow and the Slapping Post on gate to allotment**

The matters all remained outstanding jobs on the Task List.

#### **Bus Shelter Roof**

The Clerk was unsuccessful in his efforts to obtain a quotation from James Fenton and was asked to contact Beam Electrical.

#### **Train Unit at Robert Franklin Way play area**

Cllr Kimberley told the Clerk that John Alexander had informed him that it would not be worthwhile to refurbish the train unit. Cllr Kimberley intends to propose that a new unit is installed when he attends the next meeting of the Parish Council.

At the Parish Council meeting Cllr Kimberley produced quotations for two different types and sizes of replacement train units. Option one would cost £3,409 whilst a larger bespoke version around £4,620. The Parish Council decided that the cost justified more research in to other suppliers. Cllr Mrs Land volunteered to cooperate with Cllr Kimberley to research other alternative manufacturers.

#### **Overgrowing hedges in Bow Wow**

Cllr Harris, Cllr Jay and Cllrs Mrs Land had met on site and discussed the state of the overgrowing hedges. Dave Flagg from Gloucestershire Highways had written to Lady Fanshawe to ask her to nominate a convenient date on which to meet to resolve the situation.

## **INSPECTION REPORTS**

### **Cerney Wick**

The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Caunce and request that he forward his final report on the condition of the play area.

The Clerk reported that he had no response from Mr Caunce. Cllr Jay asked the Clerk to email him a copy of a blank inspection report and he would arrange for its delivery. He also requested a "No Dog" sign for the play area which he would encapsulate and include with the report form.

### **Upper Up**

Cllr Stuart carried out the inspections. The "monkey bars" on the horizontal ladder are loose. Cllr Harris will check and report to the Parish Council on Wednesday evening. The damaged

pole has been repaired but there is a sharp edge on top fixing. The cycle mounds are being well used and are very tidy. There are several areas of digging works by the users to enhance the experience. The trees now planted are looking well and the Oak has recovered.

### **Robert Franklin Way**

Cllr Mrs Chubb and Cllr Mrs Tunbridge had carried out the weekly inspections at Robert Franklin Way play area. The top of the Picnic Table on the play area had two holes gouged out.

### **SELF SEEDED WILLOW ON LAND AT LIMES**

Cllr Harris declared a prejudicial interest as a potential contractor and left the room after mentioning that he would charge £55 to remove the Willow tree.

The Committee decided to recommend to the Finance Committee that it approves the verbal quotation from James Harris Contracting to remove the tree.

Cllr Harris returned to the room.

### **OVERGROWING HEDGE AT RADNOR**

Cllr Stuart had spoken to the residents who have it in mind to reduce and/or possibly replace the hedge when the bird nesting season has passed.

### **TASK LIST**

The replacement of the Train Unit at Robert Franklin Way play area was updated to note that Cllr Kimberley would propose the action at the next meeting he attends.

### **COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Cllr Mrs Chubb reported that the Leylandii hedge belonging to Mr Mould, along the footpath beyond the bridge leading to the Lennards needed to be cut back. The Chairman, Cllr Stuart asked Cllr Mrs Chubb if she could speak to her mother as she owned the hedge on the other side of the path which also needed attention.

Cllr Mrs Chubb and Cllr Harris both reported that the Leylandii trees to the side of Andy's Lake, Station Road need to be cut back. The Clerk will write to the person responsible.

Cllr Harris reported that the hedge in Bow Wow, beyond the railway bridge and before the canal, belonging to Geoffrey Franklin needed to be cut back. The Clerk will inform Mr Franklin.

Cllr Harris reported that the handrail on the steps at the railway bridge were damaged. The Clerk will inform Mike Barton from Gloucestershire PROW.

There being no further business Cllr Stuart had closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.

### **REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 9TH MAY 2011**

Cllr Jay, Cllr Mrs Land, Cllr Nicholas and Cllr Webb attended the meeting. Cllr Jay opened the meeting at 8.25 pm.

### **Spreadsheet Analysis**

The first spreadsheet showed expenditure as expected. The cost of employing the Clerk was exaggerated as it coincided with a payment to HMRC.

## Matters Arising

The Clerk was asked to contact Chris Graham from MAI regarding the settlement of the Thames Water affair.

Chris Graham responded that there was a delay between his conversation with the Clerk and action at his end as he was away and on return there was a small backlog. However, all the invoices and final settlement details were sent to Bruton Knowles together with a completion statement about three weeks ago. (This would be around 20th April.) Although he stipulated that this should be cleared by the end of May, Thames Water normally take at least 90 days to make payment and this has been advised in this instance. The right to charge interest or indeed to take legal action to obtain payment was made clear but Mr Graham is afraid that we will have to consider the best course of action at the time. Mr Graham reassuringly added that we are on the homewood straight but the finishing line is still not clearly identifiable.

## Recommendations for acceptance from the Playing Fields and Village Maintenance Committee

The Playing Fields and Village Maintenance Committee had recommended that the Finance Committee agrees that James Harris Contracting is contracted to remove the self seeded Willow on the Limes. The Finance Committee had no objection.

Cllr Harris left the room as he had a prejudicial interest in the contract.

It was proposed by Cllr Jay and seconded by Cllr Webb that the Parish Council accepts the quotation for £55 to remove the Willow seedling from James Harris Contracting. The Parish Council was all in favour.

Cllr Harris returned to the room.

## Payments In

Cotswold District Council	1st tranche of the precept	£48,893.00
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## Payments Outstanding

Thames Water	Outstanding fees (MAI) (ex VAT)	£4,894.90
Cricket Club	Insurance renewal	£171.86
Football Club	Insurance renewal	<u>£328.23</u>
		£5,394.99

## Payments Out

Petty Cash	Bus shelter cleansing (May)	£50.00
Petty Cash	Litter picking (May)	£100.00
Petty Cash	Postage	£30.00
M. McKee	BT telephone, internet access (April)	£39.40
M. McKee	Clerk's travel (April)	£68.90
R.O.W. Berry	Repair to Fireman's Pole at Upper Up	£66.00
R.O.W. Berry	Tie up safety matting at Robert Franklin Way	£48.00
Adrian Gibbs	Ground Maintenance (April)	£1,293.60
Busy Fingers Copying	Photocopying for Annual Parish Meeting	£21.60
Kelvin Wearing	Composting labour (April)	£96.00
Mrs E. M. Hallett	South Cerney Youth Group (6 sessions)	£240.00
Broker Network Ltd	Insurance premium	<u>£1,755.56</u>
		£3,773.06

Cllr Webb had inspected the invoices and agreed the Clerk's travel expenses for April.

It was proposed by Cllr Jay and seconded by Cllr Nicholas that the Parish Council agrees to make the above payments. The Parish Council was all in favour.

### **Village Hall upholstered chairs and associated stacker equipment**

Cllr Mrs Chubb, Cllr Jay, Cllr Stuart and Cllr Webb all declared a prejudicial interest in this next item as members of the Village Hall Committee and left the room.

A requirement to ease the operation of setting up and recovering the chairs in the Village Hall had been identified. After a discussion the Finance Committee agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that it is minded to release funds, circa £2,000, to the Village Hall Management Committee to purchase a suitable trolley and chairs.

It was proposed by Cllr Nicholas and seconded by Cllr Kimberley that the Parish Council is minded to provide around £2,000 for the purchase of trolley and upholstered chairs for the Village Hall. The Parish Council was all in favour.

Cllr Mrs Chubb, Cllr Jay, Cllr Stuart and Cllr Webb returned to the room.

There being no further business Cllr Jay had closed the meeting at 9 pm.

### **NOTES ON PLANNING MATTERS**

As planning matters had been agreed and the decisions were for ratification only, the Chairman Cllr Nicholas had decided that a meeting of the Committee was unnecessary.

#### **Matters Arising**

Cllr Kimberley would enquire from Stephen Richardson, Headteacher at Ann Edwards School if he was aware of the proposed siting of a recycling plant, approximately 600 metres south of the school, by Wiltshire Council.

#### **Planning Applications received by Cotswold District Council**

Cllr Jay and Cllr Stuart declared a prejudicial interest as friends of one of the objectors in the next two items and left the room.

##### **11/00759/FUL (NEW DETAILS)**

Applicant: Watermark Fisheries Ltd, Isis Lakes, The Spine Road, South Cerney GL7 5TL  
 Proposal: Construction of a fishing clubhouse at Lake 16, Station Road, South Cerney (R)  
 The Committee requests that the Parish Council ratifies its decision to maintain the objection to this application, as there is no genuine need to have full-time residential accommodation on this site for a 'fisheries worker'

OBJECTION

##### **11/01611/FUL**

Applicant: Mr Robert Davis, Bluebell Cottage, Cerney Wick Lane, Cerney Wick GL7 5QJ  
 Proposal: Insertion of doors in bay window to rear at Bluebell Cottage, Cerney Wick Lane, Cerney Wick GL7 5QJ (R)

NO OBJECTION

It was proposed by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllr Kimberley that the Parish Council ratifies the decisions of the Planning Committee on the above two applications. The Parish Council was all in favour.

Cllr Jay and Cllr Stuart returned to the room.

**11/01513/FUL**

Applicant: Watermark Ltd, Isis Lakes, Spine Road, South Cerney

Proposal: Construction of an administration building with boat store (by Lodge 25) at Isis Lakes, Spine Road East, South Cerney (R)

NO OBJECTION

**11/01658/FUL**

Applicants: Julian & Carolyn Ainsworth, Butler's Court, Station Road, South Cerney

GL7 5UB

Proposal: Part single storey, part two storey extension to rear at Butlers Court, Station Road, South Cerney GL7 5UB (R)

NO OBJECTION

**11/01662/FUL**

Applicants: Mr & Mrs K. Little, 5 The Bamptons, Shaw, Swindon

Proposal: Two storey extensions to front, side and rear. Erection of a front porch. Increase in the height of the roof by 1 metre. Rendering of the building and other external alterations at 4 Silver Street, South Cerney GL7 5TR (R)

Concern had been raised by one member of the Committee who was uncomfortable about such a large extension at the front, because it breached the 'building line' of that row

NO OBJECTION

**11/01694/FUL**

Applicant: Mr Andrew Ryder, 48 The Lennards, South Cerney GL7 5UX

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension at 48 The Lennards, South Cerney GL7 5UX (R)

NO OBJECTION

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Land and seconded by Cllr Webb that the Parish Council ratifies the above decisions of the Planning Committee on the preceding four applications. The Parish Council was all in favour.

**11/01738/FUL**

Applicant: Watermark Ltd, Isis Lakes, Spine Road, South Cerney GL7 5TL

Proposal: Variation of condition 3 of planning permission 10/03961/FUL to substitute plans to allow for change of lodge type at plot 22 at Lake 11, Spine Road East, South Cerney

NO OBJECTION

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Land and seconded by Cllr Webb that the Parish Council does not object to this application. The Parish Council was all in favour.

**Planning Applications granted by Cotswold District Council****10/05423/FUL CT.2475/2/E**

Construction of new industrial building Use Class B1 at Plot B Lakeside at Business Park, Broadway Lane, South Cerney

**11/01431/FUL CT.1630/B**

Side extensions at Honeybee Cottage, 1 Langet Villas, Upper Up, South Cerney

**11/01513/FUL CT.1454/5/D**

Construction of an administration building with boat store (by Lodge 25) at Isis Lakes, Spine Road East, South Cerney

**11/01683/TCONR**

Fell Oak positioned on the edge of the main drive to the house in front of an outbuilding at Silver Street House, Silver Street, South Cerney

**LAKE 12 PARTNERSHIP**

Cllr Jay asked the Parish Council to support the aims and objectives of the Lake 12 Partnership to form a management committee to take over the running of the South Cerney Outdoor Education Centre (SCOEC) and keep it as a public asset. A public meeting has been arranged for 7.30 pm on Friday 13th May in the Village Hall and he encouraged all those interested to attend. The partnership is composed of the principal users of the lake who will form the management committee. Cllr Jay reported on a disturbing fact that has emerged through a Gloucestershire County Council cabinet member recommendation that a 125-year lease should be offered to the highest bidder for the site. In his opinion a lease of that extended duration represented a sale and was detrimental to the desire that the lake should remain a public asset. Cllr Jay suggested that if this action is sanctioned it will resonate alarmingly with the lease granted to Watermark at Keynes Country Park and the consequences which have followed that fiasco. These sentiments were echoed by other members.

It was proposed by Cllr Stuart and seconded by Cllr Kimberley that the Parish Council supports the aims of the Lake 12 Partnership. The Parish Council was all in favour.

**COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Cllr Jay and Cllr Stuart joined canal enthusiasts and enjoyed a return walk along the canal towpath from the Gateway Centre to the locks at Cerney Wick.

Cllr Harris was concerned that work outside Bridge House in Silver Street would interfere with those participating in the Street Fair on the weekend of 30th May. The Clerk was asked to inform the Environment Agency of the forthcoming activity and to consider postponing any work until after the Spring Bank Holiday.

Cllr Kimberley complained that the recent publication of the Cerney Directory did not include his details. A note of the omission would be published in Cerney News.

Cllr Stuart invited Stephen Wrigley from Cerney Wick to make a statement. Mr Wrigley stated that there was no facility for very young children on the play area in Cerney Wick. He argued that the cost would be minimal in comparison to the expense being considered to replace the train unit at Robert Franklin Way. Cllr Kimberley reminded Mr Wrigley that he had requested numbers of potential users over a year ago and had no response. It would also help the cause of those wishing to bolster the facilities if they were able to show that efforts had been made to provide funds for the equipment from grants. Cllr Jay reminded the Parish Council that the budget had been agreed and was based on a repair and renewal basis. Bids for grants had been requested from interested parties before the budget was agreed and none were forthcoming for this project. Mr Wrigley agreed to provide numbers of potential users and cost of equipment.

**CERNEY NEWS CONTRIBUTIONS**

Thanks to past councillors for serving the community and congratulations to the new Cotswold District Councillor, Mrs Juliet Layton.

Report the formation of Rway, its web address and how proud this Parish Council is sponsor this independent group of young people.

There being no further business Cllr Stuart closed the meeting at 10 pm.