

Cowley (& Birdlip) Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs. E. Lavington | 07941258052 | cowleypc@hotmail.co.uk

MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Public Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th April 2019 at Deer Park Guide HQ Cowley at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Julian Lavington, Liz Workman, Eileen McKay, Paul Vogel, Linda Dawson, Tim Knox, Ward Councillor Nicholas Parson and seven members of the public.

1. **Apologies** David Metcalf
2. **Minutes of last meeting** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th March 2019 were agreed and signed.
3. **Declarations of Interest** None
4. **Matters arising not included as an agenda item** None
5. **Parking Issues Cowley** The Clerk had forwarded the response from the local Highways Manager and would now seek to arrange a meeting with him.
6. **Dog Fouling Birdlip** The Clerk has arranged for the signs to be displayed. Locations for the additional dog waste bins for Cowley and Birdlip to be confirmed at the next meeting.
7. **A417 Missing Link Update.** The Chairman advised he had been contacted by ERN Human Factor Specialists employed by Highways England to prepare reports and offer constructive advice regarding the anti social behaviour at Barrow wake/Shab Hill.
8. **Disposal of building waste Birdlip** It was noted that the majority of the waste had now been removed. Councillors would continue to monitor the area.
9. **GAPTC Annual Subscription** It was agreed to renew membership of the GAPTC
10. **Bus Shelters and Defibrillators:** To note that the three bus shelters, defibrillators and kiosks have been inspected since last meeting. Birdlip and Cowley batteries are now low and need to be replaced under the maintenance agreement by June 2019. The Clerk confirmed she had written to Birdlip School to ask if the Pupils would like to help with planting the grass verge outside the bus shelter in Birdlip. Clerk to look into the costs of replacing the two noticeboards on the Birdlip Bus Shelter.
11. **Planning**
Ref. No: 18/03102/FUL Full Application for Erection of an agricultural workers' dwelling and associated ancillary development. Retention of existing temporary static caravan to allow continued occupation whilst permanent dwelling is constructed at Korinn Farm Cowley Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL53 9N
Supported – vote - 3 support 1 against 1 abstained.

Ref. No: 19/01022/FUL & Ref. No: 19/01023/LBC Re-modelling of existing dormer window on west elevation - The Lodge Birdlip Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL4 8JN
Supported

Ref. No: 19/01117/FUL & Ref. No: 19/01118/LBC | Proposed erection of ground floor and lower ground floor extensions (including parking area) and internal and external alterations to property. - The Lodge Birdlip Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL4 8JN
Supported

12. **Elections May 2019** It was noted that Councillor Workman had stood down and was thanked for her years of service to the Parish Council. Peter Ritchie will now join Parish Council as a Councillor from May 2019. All applications were uncontested.

13. Finance

- I. **Agree and Sign Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2018/19 (part 2)** Agreed and signed
- II. **Election of GAPTC as External Auditor** Agreed
- III. **To note that cheque has been issued for Clerks pay and expenses** £183.80 and £68.49
- IV. **To note that cheque has been issued to Guide HQ for hire of venue** £68.00
- V. **Issue cheque in payment for GAPTC Annual Subscription** £102.34
- VI. **Issue cheque in payment for PATA Payroll** £23.25
- VII. **Issue cheque in payment for Community Heartbeat – Defibrillator annual subs for Cowley & Birdlip** £302.40

14. **To take any questions from the public** A resident had concerns regarding the felling of a tree. Unfortunately, the tree was situated on land in a neighbouring parish.

15. **Items for next agenda, Standing Orders, Risk assessment, Internal Audit, Grass Verge Birdlip**

16. **Date of next meeting which will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Wednesday 15th May 2019 at St Marys Church Birdlip**

The meeting closed at 8.33pm

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

Followed by Annual Publish Parish Council Meeting

Reports were received from Cllr Julian Lavington, Chairman of the Parish Council and Cllr NJW Parsons. Copies of reports attached.

Chairman's Address 2018/19

Overall I consider it has been an exceptional year, the highlights and notable changes being as follows:

Due to the resignation of Stuart Bradley who provides many years of excellent service to the Parish we co-opted Linda Dawson a resident of Cowley to the Parish Council

We considered and consulted on 20 planning applications for the Parish

A significant moment was when we were able to make charity donations totalling £2963.00 which went to Birdlip and Brimpsfield Playgroup and to both Cowley and Birdlip churchyard maintenance

After a number of years of planning and consultation we concluded the installation of new feature village signs for Birdlip which were part funded with a grant from Nigel Robbins our GCC councillor.

We provided two new salt bins in Birdlip

a new memorial bench was installed on the site of the old commemorative bench in Birdlip, thanks to David Hargreaves. The old commemorative bench has been refurbished, funded by local donations, and we are currently looking for a site to install it.

There have been a number of litter picking afternoons in Birdlip - thanks to Dawn and other residents

Elaine has had to investigate and implement the new GDPR requirements

With regard to the A417 Missing Link: After many years of correspondence and campaigning including a public meeting with residents, meetings with Highways England, The Gloucestershire Ramblers Association, Police, local stakeholders, appearing in a PR video and generally getting the message of safety, environmental and rat runs across we now have Option 30 agreed as the route

We have also debated and taken action on the following matters:

waste dumping

Dog fouling

Parking in Cowley

Helping people with adverse weather to be dug out of snow Maintaining the defibrillators, bus shelters and notice boards in both villages

Issues that are to be considered for Next Year:

Install two more dog bins

Dog poo signs campaign

Replace notice the boards on the Birdlip bus shelter and tidy the adjacent verge

For the A417 Missing Link it's an important year with the final decision on Option 30 expected in the autumn. Cowley and Birdlip are major stakeholders and will comment on the detailed scheme as part of the statutory consultation

Issues for comment will be the impact on local roads and access, temporary measures during construction and legacy opportunities such as anti social behaviour and investment in local amenities

Looking further ahead some of us having looking through the nearly 120 years of Parish Council minutes. It's a fantastic historical record of the parish and there are many notable events documented such as a the Royal Coronation of Queen Elizabeth. I am hoping that this year we can hold an event where the minutes could be displayed for the public to examine.

However on a more serious note the original Birdlip bypass was first mentioned in 1962 and opened in 1988/9. The Parish had suffered for nearly 30 years with the effects of traffic.

One point that is evident from examining the minutes is that prior to the bypass Birdlip was not a desirable place to live with very few new developments. Once the bypass opened and the village became quiet again the Parish Council received many planning applications from local landowners which, if all agreed, would have resulted in 100 plus houses

After Option 30 is built the local congestion on the A417 will be gone, problems with local rat runs will cease and once again the village will be ripe for development it will be desirable place to live again with good transport links in a rural setting with a good school.

I think large scale development is inevitable in the next in 10 to 20 years. However there is a way that the community can control this and decide the scale, nature and location of any such development and also to ensure that local services are provided to maintain the needs of the community. The way to do this is to agree a formal Neighbourhood Plan and I hope that this year we can commence discussions on such a plan and gauge local opinion. Such a plan will not be easy but if successful it will be a long term legacy for the Parish for both villages and generation to come.

DRAFT

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report by Cllr N J W Parsons Spring 2019

1. **Finance**

CDC set a budget which increases Council Tax by 2.0% in line with inflation. Working with neighbouring authorities through the not for profit Company, Publica, the Council has continued to find savings without cutting any services. Publica is owned by Cotswold, West Oxfordshire and Forest of Dean District Councils and Cheltenham Borough Council. The following projects remain within the funded financial plan:

- The New Waterloo Car Park
- Temporary Car Parking (to allow the building of the Waterloo
- Electric Car Charging, 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.

2. **A417**

CDC remains committed to work with the County Council agencies and central government to support and encourage the completion of the dualling of the A417

3. **Planning**

The New Local Plan to 2031 has been adopted. For Cowley & Birdlip, the proposed Local Plan includes a policy to enable small scale local development outside the main towns/settlements, 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.

4. **Waste Services**

New vehicles are being purchased and after extensive consultations a new improved collection system will be introduced in the autumn.

5. **Youth Projects**

The Council is still able to support youth projects for those aged between 11 - 17. Each District ward Councillor has an allocation of £1,000 available. Over the last year some £2,250 has been allocated to the Ermin Ward by borrowing from other Wards.

6. **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.

7. **1st Word War**

The fund has now closed. The allocations made enabled communities to fund memorial commemorations.

8. **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 further applications may succeed if pooled funds remain available.

N J W Parsons

Ward Councillor, Ermin Ward