

Cowley (& Birdlip) Parish Council

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 20th November 2019 at Deer Park Guide HQ Cowley at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs. Julian Lavington, Paul Vogel, Peter Ritchie, Eileen McKay and District Cllr Judd

1. Apologies

Cllrs Linda Dawson and Tim Knox

2. Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th October 2019 were agreed and signed.

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Matters arising not included as an agenda item

Cllr Judd reported that there could be difficulty parking during the Christmas period in Cirencester due to ongoing works on the car parks.

Cllr Judd mentioned the One Gloucestershire Initiative an opportunity to talk about ways services could be organised so that you can get the very best urgent advice, support and care across the county and benefit from two thriving specialist hospitals in the future.

5. Bus Shelters and Defibrillators:

To note that the three bus shelters, defibrillators and kiosks have been inspected since last meeting. Clerk currently obtaining quotes to repaint the kiosk in Birdlip.

Cllr Vogel commented on the issues with water and mud outside the Cowley bus stop and safety issues for users. Clerk will contact Highways.

6. Parking Cowley

The Parking Cones have been purchased, delivered and put in place and are currently helping control dangerous parking in Cowley.

7. A417 Update

No current updates.

8. Planning:

Ref. No: 19/03759/LBC Extension and alterations to an existing dwelling (Grade II Listed); including internal works at Hardings Barn Cowley Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL53 9PF - Supported

Ref 19/03575/FUL Conversion and partial demolition of agricultural barns to 5 no. dwellings with access, car parking and landscaping - Blacklains Farm Birdlip Gloucester Gloucestershire GL4 8LH

Objection - Cowley and Birdlip Parish Council does not support this application.

We would ask that the Planning Officer should consider the holistic effect of allowing this development when considering the impact that it will have on the Village of Birdlip. This is in relation to the five houses under

construction on the near by Kellands development and the four under consideration at High Green Farm. Therefore the potential for 14 new residential properties within a small area within a 12 month period.

The Conversion of all the barns on the site will represent overdevelopment in terms of number of separate dwellings. The Cowley and Birdlip Parish Council believe that a minimum of two barns should be retained and not used as separate resident dwellings. The applicant fails to consider the extra traffic through the Village of Birdlip caused by the residents in the new properties and construction traffic whilst the village is suffering from extreme rat-run traffic caused by congestion on the A417.

The access to the site and the roads in the immediate area are currently suitable for the increased number of dwellings.

In addition:

We can see no reference to proposed materials. The walls are clearly existing stone masonry and the applicant may be assuming that the roof coverings will be existing 'by default' but we believe this should be clearly stated. For example, in the case of the existing slate coverings, the applicant may 're-clad' with imitation slate [at lower cost and very bad aesthetically] with CDC having no subsequent ability to require natural welsh slate because the application was 'silent' on the matter.

Parking for Unit 1 shows as three marked spaces with access / egress directly off the public highway. The applicant makes two points on this :

There is sufficient room on the site to provide turning to allow turning and safe egress in a forward gear and The Transport Statement [page 25] states that there is inadequate visibility to the south when leaving Unit 1. However we believe these proposals make for a potentially dangerous condition especially given that the three spaces immediately abut the back edge of the highway. There is space on the site for the parking to be moved away from the highway.

It appears that the proposal for discharging the foul water is to pump to the existing treatment works. This will presumably require a new connection routed below the highway. The preferred sustainable solution would surely be to install a treatment plant on this site and to construct a system of irrigation trenches under the adjacent fields to the NE probably under licence as the fields will be in different ownership.

Construction of a new connection to the existing works we believe is not carbon-friendly.

IF the Planning Committee permits this application the Parish Council asks that the following conditions are imposed:

Construction ONLY between the hours of 9 am and to 5 pm Monday to Friday due to noise and neighbouring properties. Material used are sympathetic to the existing barns and also those commonly used in properties within the surrounding area.

9. Finance

- a) **Budget & Precept 2020/21** – The Clerk will send suggested draft precepts during December with the budget confirmed and precept set at January meeting
- b) **To agree the Clerk's pay and expenses and issue cheques** £195.40 and £131.48 includes purchase of parking cones

10. Suggested Meeting Dates

Clerk circulated meeting dates for 2020 which were agreed.

Month	Date	Location
January	Wednesday 15 th January	Birdlip Church
February	Wednesday 19 th February	Guide HQ Cowley

March	Wednesday 18 th March	Birdlip Church
April Annual Parish Meeting	Wednesday 15 th April	Birdlip Church
May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council	Wednesday 20 th May	Guide HQ Cowley
June	Wednesday 24 th June	Guide HQ Cowley
August	Wednesday 19 th August	Birdlip Church
September	Wednesday 16 th September	Guide HQ Cowley
October	Wednesday 21 st October	Birdlip Church
November	Wednesday 18 th November	Guide HQ Cowley

11. To take any questions from the public.

None

12. Items for the next agenda

Consider Charitable Donations, Set Budget and Precept

13. Date of meeting Wednesday 15th January 2020 – St Marys Church Birdlip

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

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

Report received from Cllr Robbins who was unable to attend the meeting.

In response to the missing link consultation I asked who would be responsible for the upkeep of the “repurposed” A417, asked about noise reduction measures and added my usual point about speed controls to reduce noise and pollution while raising fuel efficiency and reminded Highways England how important it was to prevent local rat runs during the construction period.. Their second option for connecting the A436 to the new road seemed the least disruptive, although it takes up more land.

The Highways Manager assured me recently that the road down to the Green Dragon was on the list to be resurfaced.