

# KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council

held remotely using ZOOM on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm

<b>Present</b>	Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond Councillor Mr. C. Grainger Councillor Mr. C. Jordan Councillor Mr. B. Phillips <i>County Councillor I Hardiman District Councillor John Byng and District Councillor Paul Harrison</i>	Councillor Mr. J. Gammond Councillor Mr. C. Holford Councillor Mrs. L Green <i>3 members of the public were identified and present on line Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk) Members of the Public who did not identify with video and audio were not allowed into the meeting.</i>
----------------	---	---

1. **Police Report** – Police were not in attendance.

- **Arley Estate Eymore Wood car park** – Clerk had received a telephone call from a local resident complaining about the cars using the lane and area late at night, and the potholed surface of the car park. They also stated that the fact that all the gates were left open did not help. The Clerk advised that the carpark was in private ownership, and as such the Council had no power to insist on gates being closed, or for surface improvements, but the Clerk had contacted the police to attend not just in the daylight, morning time or late afternoon, but also in the night hours approaching midnight, which the police confirmed they would do.
- It was also reported by a resident from Hill Farm that just last week 4 cars parked at Hill Farm chalets had had their catalytic converters stolen.

**Public Open Forum** – Items would be covered in the body of the meeting.

2. **Apologies For Absence:** None. All present.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Mrs. C. Gammond and Cllr. J. Gammond declared interests, being members of the Village Hall committee. Cllr. Grainger declared an interest in any item concerning Riddings Brook and application 21/0032. Cllr Mr. C. Jordan declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 19/0754, and also litter picking at Trimpley reservoir.

4. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st December 2020 were approved and signed.

5. **District and County Councillor Reports -**

**Items reported for attention by District & County Councillor and other matters arising.**

**District Councillors** – The District Councillors pledged to keep the Parish informed on matters in relation to the proposed housing development at Low Habberley.

**County Councillor Ian Hardiman’s Report:**

**“Strategic Issues:**

*Future Flood Resilience: The County Council’s Cabinet have pledged £0.5million towards the Emerging Environment Agency’s Flood Resilience scheme for Wribbenhall’s Beales Corner which has been announced recently (circa £4.5million cost). This scheme will benefit not only local residents but businesses as well.*

*The County Cabinet have also agreed to provide funding which I may distribute to support flood resilience in locations within my (Cookley, Wolverley, Wribbenhall) Division. I am presently liaising with the North Worcestershire Water Management Team on how best to provide assistance where appropriate.*

*Last Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, I attended (virtually) A Stakeholder Meeting presentation by the EA relating to the actual Barrier project for Wribbenhall. The EA is kick-starting a sensible preparatory engagement to ensure the project will be fully supported.*

*Local Issues:*

*Highway Matters: In the absence of Highways Engineer Paul Green who is still away ill, and the considerable workload on Alex Clarke-Ellson, Highways Management have seconded Hannah Davies, Liaison Engineer (for Malvern) to help reduce the backlog of Issues within my Division. This follows my persistence that service needs to be improved.” (Individual County comment on outstanding issues minuted under progress reports in inverted commas).*

6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

**a) New Planning applications: -**

**20/1037/CLE** Certificate of Lawfulness - The Haven, Hill Farm, Northwood Lane Bewdley Worcestershire DY12 1AT

**21/0005/CLE** Certificate of Lawfulness - The Ice House, Hill Farm, Northwood Lane Bewdley Worcestershire DY12 1AA

**20/1079/CLE** Certificate of Lawfulness - Waverley, Hill Farm, Northwood Lane Bewdley DY12 1AT

**21/0021/CLE** Certificate of Lawfulness - Rickyard Meadow, The Uplands Northwood Lane Bewdley DY12 1AT

All of the above applications were submitted to the Parish Council for Information only, and comment was not required.

**21/0029/FUL** New purpose built dog kennels, office and store room at Northwood Farm , Northwood Lane, Bewdley, DY12 1AP

A discussion took place about correspondence received from local residents who said the existing kennels were already a source of nuisance due to noise problems at all times of the day and night.

Comment: *We are unable to support this application. The existing business is already causing problems*

for nearby residents who have complained to the Parish Council about noise from barking dogs at all times of the day/night. Also enquiries previously made to the planning office from a neighbouring property received advice from district planners that a similar business usage could not be supported due to increased traffic along Northwood Lane, which was considered to be unsuitable. We therefore recommend refusal.

**21/0032/FUL** Replacement Office Building Land Adjacent, Highfield, Crundalls Lane, Bewdley, (Councillor Grainger declared an interest and took no part in the discussion on this application)

Comment: The Parish Council would offer no objections and would commend the environmentally friendly features incorporated in the design.

**b) Update on Previous applications**

**19/0754** – Retrospective application re COU to Swimming Pool at The Guildings Eymore Lane, Trimpey – 9 still pending decision.

**20/0949/FUL** Change of use of land to increase size of domestic curtilage and replacement of existing outbuilding with domestic outbuilding at Hay Barn Farm, Sandy Lane, Kidderminster, DY11 5QZ still pending decision

c) **Local Plan Update** – with specific reference to proposed housing development at Low Habberley. Clerk advised that the Local Plan examination was still on-going at Wyre Forest District, and had yet to be signed off by the National Inspectorate. Therefore the housing development was still to be finally confirmed, although agreed locally by Wyre Forest District Council. Clerk had also shared with councillors the notes she had taken (not official minutes) during a presentation organised and given by the developers, and sightings were reported of works being undertaken on the site at Low Habberley last week, with what appeared to be several test dig sites.

d) **Compliance Issues/Appeals – Easter Cottage** – The property has recently changed hands and the new owners along with their agents have submitted a pre application into the planning department detailing their plans for the property. Richard Jennings will be looking at the application shortly and making his recommendations to the owners' agent, and it is expected that a full application will then be submitted which will be open for consultation.

**Hill Farm / Mary Moors** – update: A resident who was present was invited to speak, and advised that residents were still in the process of forming a residents' association, whose aim it was to engage a solicitor to give advice and guidance. The resident advised that there had been no contact from Mr. Wenman (the new owner) but there were some horses loose on site, which were damaging chalets and vehicles. Again comment was made about the considerable improvements that had been made to the "track" to Mary Moors farm, and lower down the track towards the farm buildings a gate had been erected across it. Clerk advised the resident that the Chair had managed to locate a letter dated 1963 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and that that had been shared with chalet residents. Reports were also noted that a previous orchard had been grubbed out. A discussion took place regarding the track to Mary Moors, which is not an actual right of way, but it seemed to have been included in the sale details from Halls. However, it would seem that Messrs. Halford have retained a right of access over the track. The Parish Council encouraged residents to keep a note of any developments on site.

A further matter discussed related to very high-powered and invasive security lights that had been set up (it was believed on both buildings at Hill Farm and Mary Moors) and the clerk had requested Worcestershire Regulatory Services to investigate these to check compliance with regulations.

It was also noted that there had been 4 Certificate of Lawfulness Applications from Hill Farm Chalets during the past month. This is to obtain Lawfulness for all-year-round occupancy of individual chalets; the Clerk had checked with the Planning Office (Paul Round) who had advised her that these would only alter the months when chalets could be occupied. It did not affect the fact that the chalets are not freehold in respect of the ground they occupy, and that legislation in respect of the individual chalet sites would require individual contractual documents concerning other rights. Hence the need for legal advice.

**7. Progress Reports and other Outstanding Items**

• **Highway Matters –**

**Parking on Grass Verge near to Low Habberley Farm** – Re Report from CC Ian Hardiman "The County Council will not supply and install stone rubble/scalplings to cover the verge; if they were to do so it would amend this land to parking facility which has many additional implications which they won't engage with. The only solution they are prepared to consider is to close off both sides of the verge (separately) with bollards so as to prevent vehicle parking and to re-seed restoratively." Comment was made by councillors that Paul Green did verbally offer to put some scalplings down, but now they have said this is not possible. Cllr. Hardiman stated that the black/red/white bollards were the only ones which the county would install at no cost. Councillors stated that this was unacceptable, and would prefer to go with the wooden-look type (still plastic) but Cllr. Hardiman stated that County would need a contribution of £1000 to install this type. Comment was made that the bollards would need to go around both verges, as preventing cars parking in one place, would only push them elsewhere. A member of the public was present and invited to speak. She asked if a Bye law could be passed to prevent people from parking along with double yellow lines. Even if this were the case, unfortunately there were insufficient staff employed by the Council to enforce this. Even though not an ideal solution, it was agreed to go for the bollards (wooden look) and Cllr. Hardiman pledged to give £500 towards the cost the installation of these.

**VA Sign** – Cllrs Phillips and Holford agreed to get the one at Trimpey put up and check it is working.

**Hoarstone Lane – Rock Cutting issues** - Report from CC Ian Hardiman "I fully explained the unreasonable progress with this issue; Hannah Davies has now raised a priority instruction to the appropriate

Team for this to be dealt with.”

Drainage Problems – Low Habberley – Report from CC Ian Hardiman “Hannah Davies has now raised a priority instruction for all of the drains here to be inspected and cleared.”

Hollies Lane - Report from CC Ian Hardiman “Hannah Davies is clearly of the opinion that rather than discuss maintenance schemes, it is necessary to find a permanent solution entailing works further up the Lane; she will liaise with Mr Phil Coulson of Worcs Countryside Services who has some knowledge of this location’s issues, and will arrange to meet with him to suggest her thoughts on how best to accomplish this.”

Traffic Speeds Through Low Habberley Village – Report from CC Ian Hardiman “Hannah Davies has enquired and been told that the “cables” speed survey agreed will not be installed until June this year owing to a backlog of requests across the county and the staffing problems associated with these installations.”

Bus Shelters – The Bus Shelter opposite Eymore Lane had been erected on site, and the invoice for payment to Ade Williams was presented.

With regard to other locations CC Ian Hardiman reported “Hannah Davies requires from the Parish Council A.) The precise location for each shelter/ a photo. B.) The specification and dimensions of each hard-standing. C.) A picture and product details for each shelter and the manufacturer’s details. Hannah will ensure that with this provided suitably, she will issue the Licences.

**Other highway matters still pending:**

Rock Cutting Safety Concerns between Trimpley & Low Habberley: Following a recent rock fall, “a visit has taken place to check for immediate safety; a further inspection will be arranged quite soon”.

Northwood Lane Drains-Tarmacked Over: “Hannah Davies has requested the our lengthsman to give a survey feedback of which drains are effected so that she can then instruct necessary works to resolve this issue.” Clerk would request details from the Lengthsman.

• **Community Fund Grant** – (£500 received)

- a) Tabards – Clerk is proceeding to obtain a quote from Workwear Express (20 Tabards – printed with logo – approx. £140 + VAT
- b) Litter picking sticks (and possibly rings). Clerk has asked Rob Beeston at Wyre Forest to help with sourcing. Awaiting price.

• **Broadband provision up-date** – Cllr. Jordan advised that he had been frustrated about the delay in receiving a quote from OpenReach, and had been told that the delay was not untypical, with some schemes waiting over 13 months for a quote. He also needed just a few more residences to sign up for the voucher scheme to reach the level required for the work to be undertaken. He had sent an e-mail to all those who had signed up. Cllr Grainger stated that he could not understand the amount being quoted from OpenReach, as such figures were not required when they installed fibre to premises in Crundalls Lane.

• **Restoration Project – Black Pools** - any remaining funds left from the Community Fund Grant was to be used on this project. Cllr. Grainger had obtained a quote for cleaning out approx. 300mm of silt from the base of each pool, then graded out on site – at a cost of £925 + VAT. No decision was taken about when to proceed, and Clerk would look for further funding. Meantime, there required a workparty to clear brash left from clearance works already undertaken.

• **Clay Pigeon shoot at Honeybrook** – it was suggested that a meeting should be arranged between the owner of the shoot and the residents of Hollies Lane, with councillors in attendance as mediators; however this could not really take place during the current Covid lockdown.

• **Light Pollution in the Parish** – As instructed, Clerk had reported the large intrusive lights installed at Mary Moors/Hill Farm to Worcestershire Regulatory Services, who were to investigate and report back. Clerk had also researched links to apply for the parish becoming a dark skies zone.

8. **Parish G-mail Account** – Clerk advised that the 15GB free storage from the Parish account was about to become full. She asked for permission to extend the storage of the valuable G-mail archive to 100 GB at a cost of £15.99 per year, and would add this to admin expenses.

9. **Lengthsman, Footpath work & Litter collection & Footpath Clearance.**

Worksheets received and approved.

**Training** – Clerk had received notification from the County Council that training could be effected via Zoom, but that the lengthsman would have to have suitable PC equipment (not tablet or phone) – with a webcam, Google Chrome installed, a reliable internet connection for a day’s training, and also to take the exam at the end of the day via Zoom. The Clerk had contacted the lengthsman who was unsure about his IT and Zoom capability, although he was not unwilling to undertake the training. She had also contacted the County Council stating that she felt the requirements in respect of internet and equipment were unreasonable demands on our contractor lengthsman, and were not specified requirements in the lengthsman contract. Cllr. I Hardiman said he would take this matter up on our behalf.

**Signage** – Habberley Valley path – Clerk had telephoned Paul Allen (District Ranger) about the paths which lead from the Habberley Lane to the top of Pecketts Rock, as Habberley Valley belonged to the District Council. He said that he was reluctant to place any warning signs on these paths, as it may imply a liability on the part of WFDC, but agreed to reinspect the paths, and evaluate the situation.

**10. Financial Reports –**

**a) Precept Setting for 2021/22** – it was agreed to submit a precept requirement of £9492.72

This amounted to no increase in the actual **precept amount** - but taking into account the tax base, would equate a to 2.5% increase on the Parish part of the Council Tax bill on a band D property.

**b) Payments** – (all agreed, and would be signed remotely).

Cheque 110 HMRC – Clerk's PAYE - £75.80

Cheque 111 S Archer – Lengthsman's Work - £276

Cheque 112 Ade Williams - for Bus Shelter (Inc. installation) - £1950

Cheque 113 Worcestershire CALC - 1 Training event (Cllr. Holford) - £30

**c) Internet Banking progress** – Clerk had now set up internet banking, and can view accounts at any time on-line. She had not yet used the service, and was anxious there may be some teething problems to sort out.

**11. Worcestershire CALC Reports & County and District & other Correspondence –**

The Clerk has received guidance from Wyre Forest DC on procedures in the event of the death of a Senior Royal, or National figure – e.g. the Prime Minister.

**12. January Newsletter** – Clerk had managed to finalise this. Councillors noted that the clerk had mentioned starting a database for readers to register to have an electronic version mailed to them, and was awaiting contacts for this.

**13. Road Accidents** – None

**14. Other Matters** -

**Date of Next meeting** – confirmed as 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30p.m. via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 10.10p.m.

Chairman :