

**KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council**

**held remotely using ZOOM on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.30pm**

<b>Present</b>	Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond	Councillor Mr. J. Gammond
	Councillor Mr. C. Grainger	Councillor Mr. C. Holford
	Councillor Mr. C. Jordan	Councillor Mrs. L Green
	Councillor Mr. B. Phillips	<i>8 members of the public were identified and present on line</i>
	<i>County Councillor I Hardiman</i>	<i>Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)</i>
	<i>District Councillor John Byng and</i>	
	<i>District Councillor Paul Harrison</i>	

1. **Police Report** –

Following a report of dogs running loose in the parish, and worrying sheep on 7<sup>th</sup> February, the police were involved, and issued guidance in respect of this in the form of a webpage (see link). The matter had been resolved locally between the dog owner and the farmer of the sheep concerned. Reportedly, 14 in-lamb ewes were dead or dying, and further numbers may miscarry.

(<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/ac/animal-crime/>)

30<sup>th</sup> January – attempted burglary at Trimpey Lane Shatterford and then a burglary off Arley Lane Shatterford where car keys, car and a wallet were stolen.

11<sup>th</sup> February - a SVR train driver had to perform an emergency stop on Victoria Bridge because two lads were on the bridge. It seems they were abseiling off it.

A set of keys had also been found near to Mount Pool.

Police attended a burnt out car on the track to Easthams Farm.

**Public Open Forum** – Matters would be raised with Chair permission as and when discussed. However, one member of the public advised that the chalet residents at Hill Farm had formed a residents' association numbering 98 member residences, and details of contact would be sent to the Parish Council.

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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. Cllr Mr. C. Jordan declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 19/0754, and also litter picking at Trimpey reservoir. Cllr. Mrs. Green also expressed an interest in any discussion taking place in respect of the Clay Pigeon Shoot at Honeybrook (Item 7)

4. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January 2021 were approved and signed.

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

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

**District Councillors** – No report given – input offered as the meeting progressed.

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

*“Future Flood Resilience: Further to my report last month explaining that the County Council have pledged £0.5 million towards the Environment Agency's Flood Barrier Scheme for Beale's Corner in Wribbenhall, I am pleased that I have also been allocated a fund from which I have committed £20,000 to the EA's Barrier Scheme and £18,000 for either individual property remedial or preventative projects, or local resilience schemes as directed by the North Worcestershire Water Management Team.”*

Councillors welcome Cllr Hardiman's commitment to the Barrier Scheme.

Other Local items in Cllr Hardiman's report dealt with (in italics) under progress reports.

6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) **New Planning applications: -**

**21/0109/HOU: Two storey side extension at Ivy Cottage, Habberley Valley Kidderminster, DY11 5RH**

*Comment: No objection.*

The following applications were notified to the Parish Council for Information only. No comment was required.

**21/0082/CLE** Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for existing use of building as a permanent dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) for 12 months of the year Location: Torrestin, Hill Farm, Northwood Lane, Bewdley,

**21/0081/CLE** Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for existing use of building as a permanent dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) to be occupied 12 months a year Location: Oak Tree View, Hill Farm, Northwood Lane, Bewdley,

**21/0153/CLE** Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for permanent use of existing dwellinghouse for 12 month occupancy Location: Highfield Bungalow, Hill Farm, Northwood Lane, Bewdley,

**21/0147/CLE** Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for permanent use of existing dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) for 12 months occupancy Hill Farm, Royston , Northwood Lane, Bewdley, DY12 1AT,

b) **Update on Previous applications**

**19/0754** – Retrospective application re COU to Swimming Pool at The Guildings Eymore Lane, Trimpey – *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

- *Approved*

**21/0029/FUL** New purpose built dog kennels, office and store room at Northwood Farm , Northwood Lane, Bewdley, DY12 1AP – *still pending decision (WRS state that they do not uphold the complaints at this site re noise from barking dogs)*

**21/0032/FUL** Replacement Office Building Land Adjacent, Highfield, Crundalls Lane, Bewdley,  
- *still pending decision*

(Highways not supportive)

c) **Local Plan Update – Proposed development adjacent to Habberley Road**

Clerk confirmed that, following the presentation given by Richborough Estates to the Parish Council, she had, with agreement from all councillors, submitted a feedback comment to Richborough (copying in Wyre Forest Dev. Control), fundamentally objecting to the development, but also with various comments and queries on the items highlighted in the presentation.

A fact sheet and timeline had been compiled by Cllr. Mrs. Green, and the Clerk had posted a link to this on the Parish Council website homepage.

Several members of the public were allowed to speak on the proposed development raising the following:

- The edges adjoining the Nature Reserve of Habberley Valley protect and draw wildlife into the area, and this will destroy the wildlife dependent upon those adjoining edges
  - When the site was first proposed, it was stated that it was only included as a “reserve” initially, and that other sites would be used first. This does not seem to be the case, as the developers are moving fast to use this greenfield site, before others.
  - New footpaths proposed linking the site to Habberley Valley would attract more and more footfall, and indeed dogs into the valley – to the detriment of wildlife.
- d) **Compliance Issues/Appeals – Easter Cottage** – nothing further to report. Awaiting a planning application as minuted last month.
- e) **Hill Farm / Mary Moors** – as minuted in the public Open Forum, there is now a Residents Association who are sharing legal costs and information. Details of contact were passed to the Clerk. A “Go-Fund-Me” page had also been set up. Nothing further had been heard from the Planning Dept re removal of hedgerows, etc. The owner of the horses which had been running around the site has been located, and they are now secured. It was reported that there was a digger on site, and it was understood that this was working on water pipes – and some other rumoured works.

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

### • **Highway Matters –**

**Parking on Grass Verge near to Low Habberley Farm** – Clerk had e-mailed Hannah Davies and was awaiting a plan showing where the requested bollards would be erected. As discussed, she had specified that the Parish Council would like to see the wood-effect bollards, rather than black/white/red ones.

**VA Sign** – Cllrs Phillips and Holford had put this up and it was working. Minute closed.

**Hoarstone Lane – Drainage Sump** - The sump was still awaiting clearance. Cllr. Hardiman reported “ *I am informed that the Tree bough is a habitat for stag beetle lava and therefore of significant ecological value. Rather than take the chainsaw to this wood and move it from this location, the Team intend getting a digger to move it away from the carriageway and out of the sump. The works have started but it will likely take several visits due to the delicate nature of the habitat.*”

**Drainage Problems – Low Habberley** – Cllr Hardiman reported “*Hannah Davies has been chasing clearance as requested.*”

**Hollies Lane** - As Cllr. Hardiman had advised by e-mail “*County Highways and County Countryside Services are collaborating to try to resolve the issues entailed.*” However, any works would not be done until May at the earliest.

**Traffic Speeds Through Low Habberley Village** – Awaiting speed wires to be put down in June. (On hold)

A member of the public asked if any other traffic calming measures could be considered (such as priority narrowing of the highway) and discussion was held about large vans being parked on the pavements.

**Bus Shelters** – Clerk had sent a photograph and specification of the recent Bus Shelter purchased through to Hannah Davies in respect of the site at Low Habberley, and was awaiting advice of the requisite licence. Councillor Hardiman reported “*A) By Fountain Court: Hannah Davies has issued a request for inspection to check whether the Shelter you are proposing can actually fit in whilst leaving sufficient walking space for pedestrians. B) By the crossroads at Trimpley: Hannah requires the precise position you are considering and is concerned that, seeing the large overhanging roof of the shelter, that it will be set back sufficiently to avoid a hazard for vehicles.*” In respect of the site at Trimpley Crossroads, it would also be necessary to put down suitable hard standing at the exact site. In respect of the site at Low Habberley, a discussion took place concerning siting the shelter on the site of the previous telephone kiosk, near to the Noticeboard.

### **Other highway matters still pending:**

**Rock Cutting Safety Concerns between Trimpley & Low Habberley** - A large tree had fallen at the top of Habberley Valley Land, and Clerk had reported this for safety reasons to the Ranger for attention.

**Northwood Lane Drains-Tarmacked Over:** The lengthsman had identified all the problem drains, and a plan of these had been sent to Hannah Davies. Cllr. Hardiman reported “*I have inspected all of these drains and submitted a report; also your lengthsman has submitted his report; as so many drains are blocked, Hannah Davies has decided to instruct the Gullies Team to attend all drains in this lane.*”

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

- a) **Tabards** – Clerk had purchased and distributed.

b) Litter picking sticks (and possibly rings). Still sourcing.

- **Broadband provision up-date** – Cllr. Jordan reported that a total of £134,000 in vouchers had now been achieved, and a submission had gone in for the installation of fibre, and there may be a 2 month wait to find out if this had been successful.
- **Restoration Project – Black Pools** - an appraisal of the project had been undertaken by Sean Webber (Natural Networks Officer) who met with Cllrs. Mrs Green and James Gammond (accompanied by volunteer Mr. R. Green). Mr. Webber would write a report which would extend to the whole common, to guide improvements and work required. Once this had been done, and work agreed, the project could progress towards a grant application. Some brash removal and chipping (of Cherry Laurel) was discussed, and it was noted that Messrs. Archers had a chipping machine, and could be approached to give a price for undertaking this work.
- **Clay Pigeon shoot at Honeybrook** – (Cllr. Mrs. Green expressed an interest in this matter) - due to Covid pandemic, nothing further to report at the moment. No meeting with local residents had been arranged, and no shoots were currently being held due to the lockdown.
- **Light Pollution in the Parish** – The large intrusive lights installed at Mary Moors/Hill Farm were being subject to an investigation by Worcestershire Regulatory Services, who were to visit Halls Farm Lane during w/comm 15th February. Awaiting report following the visit.

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

**Reimbursement** - Clerk had chased up the County Council, in respect of outstanding invoices amounting to £960 dating back to October.

**Training** – No further progress on method of training for the Lengthsman.

**Signage** – Habberley Valley path – Sign drawing public attention to the hazards of the path had been erected.

9. **Financial Reports –**

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

Cheque 114 - HMRC – Clerk's PAYE - £75.80

Cheque 115 - E. Whitehouse – Clerk's expenses, including purchase of tabards – £282.61

Cheque 116 – Worcs. CALC – Training (Cllr. Holford)

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.

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

Various training opportunities from CALC had been circulated by the Clerk.

**Other Correspondence**

**Request from resident of Low Habberley re use of noticeboard** – in response, to assist a disabled parishioner, it was agreed to allow an A5 advertisement for supply of kindling to be displayed in the parish noticeboards.

**Request from WFDC to join a Zoom meeting to discuss the future of Localism** – it was agreed that the Vice Chair (Cllr. Jordan) and the Clerk should join this meeting.

**Litter on Roadsides of A442** – Cllr. J Gammond stated that he was appalled by the amount of litter on these roadsides. CCllr Hardiman said he had noticed this too, and would be asking for attention to this from the District Council.

**Dog Fouling and Dogs not on Leads** – it was stated that the number of dogs not on leads, and fouling local areas needed attention. Cllr. Grainger stated that many dog fouling bags could be found in hedges along Crundalls Lane. There were similar problems in Eymore Lane and in Low Habberley. Cllr. Byng stated that he would make enquiries about these problems with dogs at the District Council.

11. **Road Accidents** – Two accidents were reported:

- 19<sup>th</sup> January – a lady fell off a bicycle in Habberley Lane, after hitting a branch of a tree.

- 6<sup>th</sup> February – 2 cars in collision at Trimpley crossroads. Police were in attendance.

12. **Other Matters** -

**Date of Next meeting** – confirmed as 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30p.m. via Zoom. Clerk advised that in preparation for audit, she would be sending out various documents for approval.

Meeting closed at 9.45p.m.

Chairman :