

**KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**held remotely using ZOOM on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 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>Approx. 15 members of the public were identified and present on line</i>
	<i>County Councillor I Hardiman</i>	
	<i>District Councillor John Byng and</i>	
	<i>District Councillor Paul Harrison</i>	<i>Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)</i>

1. **Police Report** – It had been a quiet month in lockdown in the parish, with little for police to report. The speed of local traffic was again discussed, with road cables going to be put down in June in Low Habberley. It was noted that there would be ticket days shortly, since police with mobile camera units would be enforcing speed limits throughout the Wyre Forest area.

**Public Open Forum** – The Habberley Road proposed housing development was discussed, with details of the Facebook group set up, along with an on-line petition to try to stop the development. Cllr. Mrs Green stated that a petition had been set up some years ago when a golf course had been proposed for a field behind the Ferndale estate.

Members of the Hill Farm Residents Association were also present to present recent information in respect of the new owners, and the problems being faced by the chalet owners.

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 Trimpley reservoir. Cllr. Mrs. Green also expressed an interest in any discussion taking place in respect of the Clay Pigeon Shoot at Honeybrook.

4. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 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** – In response to the request for more **dog and litter bins** in various parts of the parish, the District Council had advised that they were unable to provide any further bins. With regard to Eymore, Cllr. Jordan stated he would be working with Severn Trent to organise some bins on their site. In response to more dogs being out of control, and fouling problems, the Parish Council requested that the District issue more fines, and in particular in respect of dogs being out of control in Habberley Valley.

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

Strategic Issues:

- . Our two household waste sites remain open; the Worcester Road site is still operating a booking system.
- . Libraries are remaining open but largely for essential IT and digital services to residents who cannot get on line at home.

- . County Council meetings are still taking place virtually and I suspect the first time that Full Council may be able to meet in person is in May, as these measures are going to be with us for some time yet!

- . The County Council has set its budget and Council Tax will go up by 1.5% and there will be an Adult Social care levy of 1%, effectively giving a 2.5% Council Tax increase. The maximum allowed without a referendum is 5%. On a Band D, the increase will be £32.78 per annum, 63p per week. The County Council makes up 70% of the overall bill.

- . We continue to apply the National Funding Formula for mainstream schools and since 2018, schools funding for Worcestershire has increased from £314.6m to £368.2m so very much going in the right direction but still more to do to ensure fair funding as we are still near the bottom nationally. Higher Needs funding still remains a pressure, despite an additional £8m from Government taking our allocation to £68.4m

- . The overall budget is a net revenue budget of £355.5 m. In addition, there will be a capital programme of £382.3m. Local Benefit for Wyre Forest are Kidderminster Train Station, Hoobrook Congestion Relief and Churchfields.

- . The percentage spent on Adult's and Children's social care in total is 60.4% That is £140m net for Adult's and £74.6m net for Children's social care. Totalling £214m out of a total budget of £355.5m.

County Council elections will go ahead on 6th May; don't forget to take your pencil to vote, and masks are compulsory! There is an active postal vote campaign.

6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) **New Planning applications:** - Apart from applications of Certificate of Lawfulness (for information only) there were no new applications to consider.

b) **Update on Previous applications**

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

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

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

- still pending decision

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

The feeling of the meeting and the public present was unanimously against development of the field identified. The clerk outlined the Parish Council had voiced opposition to this development, and circulated details as much as they could, over the past 3 years, and prior to that Cllr. Green detailed previous opposition championed by the Parish against attempts to develop the fields behind Ferndale. It was noted that a Facebook page had been set up to oppose the current proposal, and an online petition was proposed. It was hoped that a concerted effort would be made against any planning application submitted, and it was also hoped that this would *not* become a politically driven issue when any planning application was being decided by the District Council. It was agreed to publish details of the Facebook page and petition in the Parish newsletter. (It was noted that Emily Baldwin of Turley, acting as agents for Richborough (the developers) was present at the meeting in an observational capacity).

d) **Compliance Issues/Appeals – Easter Cottage** – nothing further to report. Still awaiting a planning application.

e) **Hill Farm / Mary Moors** –

The coming year's ground rental demands had been received, which in some cases had gone up by over 400%. Payment was due by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. 166 chalet residences were affected, and 153 had joined the Hill Farm Residents Association to combat these, and to pool information and share solicitor costs. Enforcement officers from Wyre Forest District Council had visited the site to view hedges which had been grubbed out and trees felled. It was thought that the maximum amount of hedgerow that could be taken out was around 30 metres (but that this needed to be checked on the DEFRA website). The Enforcement officers, who had met with Mr. Wenman (owner) were happy that the hedges taken out had been replanted with whips and therefore would be taking no further action. They viewed certain areas where trees had been felled, and Mr. Wenman assured the Arboriculturist officer that these trees had been felled with the knowledge and permission of the Forestry Commission, a fact that the Arboriculturist advised he would check. Clerk would follow up on tree felling, and raise the matter with a statement at the forthcoming CALC /Parish Forum meeting.

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

• **Highway Matters** –

**Parking on Grass Verge near to Low Habberley Farm** – A plan for bollards had been supplied by the County Council, and the clerk had circulated it to councillors. Thanks were passed to Cllr. Hardiman for his assistance with this, and he advised that he was to meet with Hannah Davies at County again on Friday, and get some accurate costings for the wooden look bollards. It was hoped to have the bollards go up to as close as legally allowed to the 30mph sign.

**Hoarstone Lane – Drainage Sump** - The sump was still awaiting clearance, but with the rare beetle identified in the wooden there, it would be a slow process to undertake the clearance.

**Drainage Problems – Low Habberley** – a works order to clear the gullies was made on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Due to the fields being replanted to the rear of Ferndale, Cllr. Mrs Green stated that the roads required the sweeper to be deployed first, or the clearance of the gullies would be in vain, since there was a lot of soil currently being dropped on the road.

**Hollies Lane** - It was expected that the major works at this site would take place in the new financial year.

**Bus Shelters** – With regard to the proposed shelter in **Low Habberley**, the owner, Mr. Yapp, had been contacted by Cllr. Green to gain permission to put the shelter near to the current noticeboard. The pavement area by the current bus stop is too narrow (depth of kerb to fence) to accommodate the shelter, and there is also a BT manhole in area which would be compromised. With regard to the proposed shelter **near to Trimpley crossroads**, Cllr J. Gammond would collect data to forward on to Hannah Davies for consideration.

**Other Matters**

• **Broadband provision up-date** – Cllr Jordan now had sufficient households and businesses signed up to send in our application to Superfast who forward it to Open Reach. It is hoped that this should now be accepted, for the project to be undertaken in this area.

• **Restoration Project – Black Pools** - A very comprehensive survey had been undertaken by Natural Networks of the whole common, along with the churchyard and the village hall grounds. This did not mean that all the recommendations needed to be undertaken for a grant, and it was decided to concentrate efforts just on the Black Pools area. It was therefore decided that a further quote needed to be sourced for the machine work with a long arm digger. Cllr. Grainger stated that he thought the company which had worked on flood defences on his land may be able to help, and he would investigate. Cllr J Gammond stated that the work should ensure that it incorporates digging out of the run off ditch which goes towards Halls Farm Lane. It was agreed that the work needed to be done now in the Autumn months.

• **Clay Pigeon shoot at Honeybrook** – Currently there were no shoots taking place. However, it was felt that initial groundwork should be undertaken for councillor(s) to set up a group with neighbours to ensure that when it starts up again, noise is monitored, and discussions with the shoot owner could be set up.

• **Light Pollution in the Parish** – Although this matter, with specific reference to lights at Hill Farm, had been reported as causing annoyance to residents to Worcester Regulatory Services, they would not act unless a resident from the site itself came forward to give their name to the enquiry, in case it had to go

to legislation. One resident had come forward who was willing to do this, and the investigation was proceeding on this basis.

- **VA Sign** – despite the sign sited on Trimpey Common had been fitted with a new solar panel, the battery life was very short – a matter of only a few hours. A discussion took place around whether sufficient sunlight was available to the panel to recharge, but it was felt that something more fundamental was wrong with the sign. It was still covered by warranty, and councillors agreed to take the sign down again, pack up and return to the manufacturers for checking.

8. **Flytipping in the Parish** – a van had been caught flytipping by the Black Pools on the Common. A local resident had apprehended the offenders, and made them collect all they had tipped, apart from a few small items of glass/screws, etc. The van belonged to a firm which was known to a Councillor, who had contacted the firm to report the matter, and following a meeting with the director on site, an assurance was given that the culprits would be dealt with. However, there had been no further feedback. A discussion took place about prosecutions in the District, and again the Parish Council asked representative District Councillors to champion the setup of cameras in the Parish at hot spots. However, as camera locations were never disclosed, they could not be certain if this would or would not be done.
9. **Dog problems in the Parish** – following the sheep worrying episode of the previous month, the one remaining dog had been found in fields by the sheep again. It had been reported that the dog had now been removed from the Trimpey area. Dogs being out of control had been discussed earlier in the meeting.
10. **Consideration for the installation of village gateway structures** – following consideration a few years ago, it was felt by some councillors that these structures would help create a sense of place for the two villages, and perhaps also help to reduce the speed of traffic. Some councillors favoured the idea of planters at the signs, but these would necessitate management and care. Clerk advised there were 5 village sign entrances, and the costs would average out at around £350 per side of the road – i.e. £700 per village entrance, (£3500), but she would try to get some idea of prices, designs, etc. during the coming month for councillors to consider. She asked Cllr. Hardiman if there was any data to show speed reduction following the installation of gates elsewhere. One member of the public made an offer to produce new signs with wording such as “Please drive carefully”.
11. **Lengthsman, Footpath work & Litter collection & Footpath Clearance.** Clerk had circulated the final worksheet for the Lengthsman, which was approved for payment. The Lengthsman’s contract was discussed, and it was decided to review this in the Autumn for the next financial year’s contract. Clerk to ensure the Autumn agenda item.
12. **Financial Reports –**
  - a) **Payments** – (all agreed, and would be signed remotely).  
Cheque 117 - HMRC – Clerk’s PAYE - £75.80  
Cheque 118 – Vision ICT – Website hosting and support – Annual Fee - £150  
Cheque 119 – S. Archer – Lengthsman’s Work - £582
  - b) **Internet Banking progress** – Clerk advised that, not being a signatory, some councillors made have to be nominated to log in to verify payments. She was exploring this.
  - c) **Documentation** – in preparation for audit, Clerk had circulated the Asset List and the Risk Management schedules, which were approved. However, a discussion ensued about the redundant pole and VA Sign at Low Habberley, and whether this should be removed. Even if removed, it would still be on the Asset List, and require storage somewhere.
13. **Items for April Quarterly Newsletter** – various items were tabled.
14. **Worcestershire CALC Reports & County and District & other Correspondence –**  
**Other Correspondence**  
**District Council meeting with Parishes re Localism (18<sup>th</sup> March 5p.m.)** – Clerk and Cllr. Jordan would attend.  
**Joint Parish/CALC/District Forum** – Zoom details passed to CALC Reps. (18<sup>th</sup> March – 6.30p.m.)  
Clerk had prepared a statement for the meeting to inform CALC, District and Parishes the implications for the developments at Hill Farm.  
**Litter on Roadsides of A442** – no litter pick yet done.  
**Consultation on Salmon and Sea Trout Protection in the Severn** – Clerk had put a link to the web survey on the parish website.
15. **Road Accidents** – None.
16. **Other Matters** -  
**Date of Next meeting** – confirmed as 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30p.m. via Zoom. Clerk advised that this would also incorporate the Annual Parish Meeting  
**Visit to Habberley Valley** – Clerk advised that the Ranger was coming to talk to the District Council 12 months ago, but it had to be cancelled due to Covid. The Ranger would now be happy to meet with councillors for a visit and outdoor discussion on work in the Valley. Clerk was requested to arrange this.  
**Delay of July Meeting** (which was required for advertising in the newsletter) was agreed to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July (due to Clerk’s son’s wedding planned to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> July).  
The meeting closed at 10.20p.m.  
Chairman :