



Farm, Northwood Lane, Bewdley – **Pending decision**

**21/0715/FUL** Construction of an outdoor equestrian arena with post and rail fencing and drainage for private use (retrospective) at The Thresholds , Hoarstone Lane, Trimpeley- **Approved with the proviso that lighting is not deployed around the arena.**

**Compliance Issues/Appeals –**

**Appeal Reference APP/R1845/W/20/3263496** - Conversion of former stable building to dwelling (Use Class C3), together with new vehicular access and closure of existing vehicular access (to pedestrian access only) Application Reference 20/0405/FUL. – **No decision yet received.**

**Haberley Trail** – The Parish Council had been notified that the Trail were not compliant with safety issues raised in a recent Fire Brigade inspection, and that there were other Safety issues at the Trail, along with issues relating to the age of staff employed, and parking for 90 days+ on grass areas. Clerk had asked Wyre Forest District Council and Worcester Regulatory Services to investigate these claims. Mr. Walley was present at the meeting, and advised that measures raised in the Fire Safety report had been addressed, and he was unaware of any Health and Safety issues on the trail other than the bungalow being cold. He also advised that there were now no staff under 16 employed at the Trail, and that the parking issues would be attended to.

**Brick Structure at The Gables – Eymore Lane** – a concerned resident had spoken to the Chairman about a brick structure which had been built in the verge, tight on the road, at this address. The occupant of the property advised that their builder had built the structure in the wrong place. It was to display a property nameplate. The matter was to be addressed.

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

• **Highway Matters**

**Parking on Grass Verge outside of Low Haberley Farm**

Wooden look bollards had been installed, but they had been poorly spaced, so that cars could still gain access to the rear of them. This was discussed and it was decided to await a further matching bollard to close any gap.

**Sump at Rock Cutting, Hoarstone Lane** – still not cleaned out.

**Hollies Lane Drainage** – previously discussed in Open Forum

**Drainage problems – Low Haberley** – drain grills silted up with straw covering the grills.

Would the CC allow the Lengthsman to do it. Cut back vegetation – Cllr. Grainger – can it be done by the lengthsman. Why did they not adhere to this scheme. Scheme by Bite Farm.

**Licences for Bus Shelters** - No Licence yet received. With wood prices rising, it would be prudent to order the wood for these now.

**VA Signs and Pole Siting** – Cllr. Phillips had been to see Mrs. Briggs, who owned the land where this would be sited. She had no objection to the VA Sign Pole being moved. No problem with VA Sign being moved and pole.

She also had no problem with a bus shelter being installed near to the crossroads.

**Village Gateway Structures** – Clerk had requested permission from the County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> August to install these at Low Haberley, including clearly marked map, and photos of the sites requested. She had received no acknowledgment or reply. She would chase this up and make Councillor Hardiman aware of the situation.

**Low Haberley Drainage**

Clerk had sent documentation and a map to Cllr. Hardiman re the sump and soakaway beyond the lower car park at Fountain Court. Cllr Grainger suggested having a site meeting amongst councillors to survey the site. Clerk would enquire whether the Lengthsman could be given permission to clear through this vegetation.

Also Clerk to ask about the vegetation cleared from **the culvert mouth entrance opposite Bite Farm**, and if this culvert had been cleared as promised in regular maintenance scheme.

**Other Matters**

- **Restoration Project – Black Pools** - Cllr Phillips advised that he had been to see Mrs. Briggs, and she had been unwilling to give permission to restore these pools, despite the drainage and wildlife benefits outlined. Clerk would now inform Natural Networks of this, and the grant application would be cancelled.
- **Clare Witnell Blount Charity** – It was decided that the issue had been taken as far as it could be by the Parish Council, and it was understood that the Charity Commission were now taking our concerns seriously.
- **Fire at Low Haberley** – A stack of Carrot Straw in the field adjacent to Low Haberley Village had been set on fire. The straw did not belong to the tenant farmer, but a sub-tenant. Two boys and a girl had been seen running away from the stack shortly before the fire took hold. The fire was sited under electricity power lines, and so there was a disruption in supplies of electricity to Low Haberley Village. stack in the field. Belonged to Howards who farmed the carrots. All straw will now be stacked in barns. It was noted that fire hydrants were not easily accessible, and the Clerk was requested to write to the Fire Service, asking if they had a plan of where the hydrants were, and if they would share this with the Parish Council. It was noted that in future the straw would be stacked in barns.

10. **Lengthsman / Litter Collection and Footpath Clearance Matters**

- a) Worksheets – tabled and approved for ROW Work
- b) Public Rights of Way Warden, and Recreational Route Warden – Richard Roberts has been appointed to the role as Parish Path Warden and Recreational Route Warden. He has undertaken the County Council training course and is just waiting for tools to be delivered to him. Councillors expressed a wish to meet with him. The Clerk would make contact.
- c) Clerk had sent messages to the Lengthsman concerning various matters, and was awaiting a reponse on the following:
  - i) – Strimming around Mount Pool – instruction had been given to do this, and Clerk was seeking a date asking when they would do it
  - ii) – Clerk had purchased spring daffodils and crocuses, and had taken them to Messrs. Archer, asking for

them to be planted in the Parish. A date for this work was requested.

iii) – Clerk had been advised that the Lengthsman training update, which was long overdue for Sam Archer had been arranged by the County Council for 18<sup>th</sup> October (all day). She had not received confirmation that he would be able to attend. A query was raised as to whether the time was to be charged to the Parish, and a discussion on this took place.

11. **Financial Reports –**

**a) Payments –**

Chq 1135 – HMRC – Clerk’s PAYE - £75.80;

Chq 1136 – Worcs. CALC – Chairmanship Course – C Jordan - £30.00:

Chq.1137 – Trimley Village Hall – Hire of room for 4 meetings - £54.00 (Not paid – cancelled as Village Hall would not accept cheque payment)

Chq. 1138 – S. Archer – Seasonal Clearance of ROWs - £130.50

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

**Worcs Calc Report from C. Holford** – Cllr. Holford gave feedback on the recent Worcs CALC area meeting, where he had raised the matter of making certain training (and refresher training) mandatory for councillors and the Clerk. He felt the meeting did not give any definitive answer to his request. Cllr. Holford again re-stated the importance he felt should be put on training, for which the cost was negligible.

**Localism** – Discussion were still be held in respect of the withdrawal by Wyre Forest District of funding for Localism services – of which this Parish did the Litter Collection. It was reconfirmed that a resolution is passed that if the Localism payment was withdrawn, then this parish would no longer carry out the service, and would ask Wyre Forest to either pick up the service, or failing that, remove the waste bins. A proposal letter was awaited from the District Council. Clerk and the Chair would join in a Zoom meeting with other parishes and Worcs CALC to discuss approaches to the Localism problem.

**The Platinum Jubilee – the Queen’s Green Canopy** – The Worcestershire Lieutancy Office at the County Council had advised of a scheme to plant trees to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, and suggested that Parish Councils become involved in this. There is a special website set up to record any trees planted, and detailed various sites already earmarked for planting. It was hoped that local councils would find land to plant to mark the Jubilee. Councillor Phillips advised that he still had 3 Elms (Dutch Elm disease resistant) still to plant, and would like to see one of these planted at the layby in Eymore Lane, where a previous tree planted had been damaged and lost. Clerk reminded councillors that on the Common an E had been planted for mark the coronation in Copper Beech, but there appeared to be little reference to this, or ways to view it in recent years. Councillors would give some thought to the “Green Canopy”, and check if they knew of land where suitable trees could be planted.

**Showcase of Services for Older People** – Clerk outlined a free showcase of services for older people taking place in Kidderminster Town Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Housing Need Survey** – the Principal Housing Strategy Officer had e-mailed stating the Wyre Forest District Council had a statutory duty to under a survey, involving a questionnaire, to assess housing need in the District. She had asked if the parish council wishes to be involved and assist in the process, including advertising in the parish newsheets and noticeboards, providing or suggesting venues where laptops could be set up to enable parishioners to access the survey, comment on the draft report, and help identify potential sites in the parish for housing. Despite all the assistance outlined here, the Officer stated “There would be no costs incurred by the Parish Council”, although many councillors felt that none of the requested assistance would come without costs, and that much was being asked of councillors as voluntary workers. Clerk was instructed to reply, inviting the officer to a meeting, but also pointing out that a large housing development has just been identified as a distinct probability in the parish, and the possibility of the need to home people who may lose their homes at the Hill Farm site.

13. **Road Accidents** – None.

14. **Other Matters**

**Date of Next meeting** - confirmed as Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October

The meeting closed at 9.35p.m.

Chairman :