

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 18th October 2021 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillor Mr. C. Jordan	Councillor Mr. C. Holford
	Councillor Mr. J. Gammond	Councillor Mr. B. Phillips
	Councillor Mr. C. Grainger	3 members of the public were present.
	Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)	Dist Cllr. J Byng & C. Cllr. Ian Hardiman.

Police Report –

1. e-mail received from Nathan asking “*on which roads in particular there are speed concerns? Unfortunately we do not have any power over the fly tipping and burnt out vehicles, this is all down to the council and the landowner(s). We have also raised this issue with WFDC but they were reluctant to increase any signage in the area to deter. The speeding we will add along with the ASB. Going forward we will need more reports to backup these issues as currently we are not receiving the calls to show that there is an issue.*”
In respect of the lanes of concern, Councillors considered these to be Eymore Lane, Low Habberley, and Trimpley Lane.
In respect of abandoned / burnt-out vehicles, Clerk reminded councillors that the owner of abandoned vehicle(s) has to be contacted before any disposal can be arranged, due to legal and insurance reasons.

Public Open Forum

The Chairman introduced Councillors to **Mr. Richard Roberts** who had taken on the roles of **Parish Path Warden and Recreational Route Warden**. Richard had already received full training, and completed some inspections of Rights of Way in the parish. Richard advised that he was also inspecting two recreational routes in the Parish – Habberley Valley Circular and the Worcestershire Way. He advised that there were instances where new gates (kissing gate type) may need to be installed. The County Council would provide these, but not install them. He advised that the Countryside Service now always preferred kissing gates to stiles. He was currently investigating possible lack of signage in the Low Habberley area. Clerk provided him with a Hi-viz KFPC Tabard.

Road approaching Trimpley Crossroads.

It was reported again that the road on approach to Trimpley crossroads was very slippery on both sides for horses, with one almost sitting down in the carriageway recently, even with road studs on their shoes. Councillor Hardiman agreed to raise with Paul Green at Highways.

Valley Close to High Habberley – On the bridleway some tree maintenance was required. Investigations to be made as to who owned the trees.

3. **Apologies For Absence:** Received and approved for Councillor Mrs. C Gammond and District Cllr. P. Harrison.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** None recorded.
5. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th September 2021 were approved and signed.
6. **Casual Vacancy for a Parish Councillor** – Two applications had been received, from Ms. Linda McKenzie and Mrs Susan Stone, and copies of the applications had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. It was unanimously decided to interview the two candidates, and this was arranged for Tuesday 26th October at 6.30p.m. and 7.00p.m. and agreed to be at Valley House. Clerk to contact the two candidates accordingly.
7. **County and District Councillors’ Reports –**
Report from County Councillor Ian Hardiman
“*I wish to report that unfortunately, I have been able only to communicate with Paul Green, Highways Engineer by email or telephone as he and his family are isolating following ‘Positive’ Covid-19 tests early last week! The appointment I had with Paul for his visit 12th October was therefore cancelled and will now be, hopefully, during week commencing 1st November.*”
8. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**
 - a) **New Planning applications: -** One application for Certificate of Lawfulness for 12 month occupancy was received from Hill Farm, Fresh Fields Northwood Lane Bewdley DY12 1AT (21/0965/CLE)
 - b) **Update on Previous applications**
 - 19/0754 – Retrospective application re COU to Swimming Pool at The Guildings Eymore Lane, Trimpley – **Pending decision** (Cllr. C Jordan has expressed an interest)
 - 21/0421 - Outline planning application (with all matters reserved except for means of access) for erection of up to 124 dwelling houses, including public open space and landscaping surface water attenuation and associated infrastructure at Habberley Lane, Low Habberley – **Pending decision**
 - 21/0349 - Mixed use of land as a caravan site and use by permanent residential dwelling houses at Hill Farm, Northwood Lane, Bewdley – **Refused – No refusal notice had been received as yet from the District Planning Authority, and so reasons could not be discussed. Clerk had chased for this.**
 - 21/0794/FUL Conversion of barn to one dwelling Location: Honeybrook Kennels , Bridgnorth Road, Kidderminster, DY11 5RR – **Pending decision**
 - 21/0850/FUL Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 4 new dwellings Location: Honeybrook Kennels , Bridgnorth Road,- **Pending decision**
 - 21/0800/HOU Single storey front and rear extension Location: Home Lodge , Trimpley Lane, Shatterford, DY12 1RE – **Pending decision**

c) 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.**

Habberley Trail – Nothing further to report.

Brick Structure in Roadside Verge at The Gables – Eymore Lane – was still there. There was also a query about sewage which may go onto the road near to this property. The Clerk had lodged a call to the Hub for the County Council to investigate roadside drainage between this property and the properties further down Eymore Lane, towards the junction.

d) **Local Plan** – Clerk advised that a letter had been received from the Planning Policy Team giving the following link to the Main Modifications required by the Inspectorate to the Local Plan

<http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanmainmods> Alternatively these modifications could be viewed as a printed version at the Libraries in Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley. There are also drop in sessions at the Council Chamber on Wednesday 3rd November 10.00 – 12.00 and 4.00 – 6.00. Comments on the consultation need to be submitted by 12pm on Friday 26th November.

Clerk gave a brief resume of the Main Modifications in respect of the Low Habberley, quoting pages 280-282 being of particular significance along with other more general parts of the document.

It was also noted that the proposed development was described as Phase 1. A question therefore arose as to the site of the next phase – Phase 2.

9. Progress Reports and other Outstanding Items

• Highway Matters

Parking on Grass Verge outside of Low Habberley Farm

Awaiting further two matching bollard(s) to close any gap.

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

Hollies Lane Drainage – It was agreed that the Parish Council could do no more than they had already done with raising this perpetual problem with both County Council Highways and Countryside Service – and the clerk read out an e-mail received this evening from Paul Green at the County Council:

“I note and agree that the Parish Council have done all in its power to be able to move this matter forward for a number of years. With regards to the flooding of the property I have personally been to see the resident along with Councillor Hardiman, and whilst water entered under the gate and onto the premises the property itself was not internally flooded. Whilst there I did suggest a short-term measure of sandbags at the gate to protect it from water entering when there is a heavy rain event.

As you are clearly aware there are two departments involved with this and I have discussed with Phil Coulson and will combine each of our responses to have this a County Response.

Hollies Lane is PROW and not a highway. Drainage on the lane would fall to the landowners under normal circumstances. Land Drainage is a complex area of responsibility, but in short a landowner is responsible for the drainage of their land. By law a person owning lower-level land has to accept natural land drainage water (that is, spring water, ground water or surface water run-off) from adjacent land at a higher level. Land drainage legislation can be found in the Land Drainage Act 1991.

As this is a surface water problem and historic, it is not the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council in any capacity to fully solve this issue. We have historically tried to help and will continue to do so, but it is the responsibility of the Landowners to protect their own properties.

From a Highways perspective we have requested that the drainage at the bottom is attended and cleared – whilst we note that this quickly fills up if this is noted in the future we request that it is reported directly to us at: [Report | Worcestershire County Council](#) so we can attend and clear again.

From a PROW perspective there's little that can be done as there's no where we can drain the water to. Although as stated above, we are not liable for flooding from the lane - following a request by the owner of the property at the end of the lane we have arranged for a contractor to take a look and see if we can divert some water away from their property.

In answer to this, the properties and landowners need to look at protecting and potentially preventing water flowing to and from their own properties. This cannot be enforced by any authority and could become a civil matter between the land/homeowners impacted if substantial damage occurs.”

In respect of helping to alleviate the problem, Cllr. James Gammond again stated that he thought a **large and very deep** cattle grid installed at the bottom of the lane could help take some of the debris before it got onto the A442. This in itself would require regular emptying, and also a pass could be built in for the passage of bikes, walkers and horses. Other ways to take water off the lane, higher up, were also discussed, but as previously stated, and agreed by the County Council, the Parish Council had done all they could to try to solve this matter, which may ultimately end up as a civil issue between householders and the owner of the lane.

Licences for Bus Shelters - No licences yet received, but the County Council had given tacit verbal approval to proceed and install the shelters. Mr. Ade Williams was also instructed to commence with building shelters. Councillors would meet with Mr. Chris Bunn about a quote for installation of the pads. Councillor Phillips had obtained verbal permission from Mrs. Briggs for the Shelter at Trimpey Crossroads.

VA Signs and Pole Siting – Position Non-functioning VA Sign on the common was still in situ. Clerk to ask the County Council if Mr. C. Bunn could re-site the pole, at which time the sign could be taken down for repair. Cllr. Phillips had obtained verbal permission from Mrs. Briggs for the pole and sign to be resited on the common.

Village Gateway Structures & Bus shelters – Clerk had obtained quotes for Councillors to consider. However Councillors now felt that three gates were required, and it would be aesthetically more pleasing if these were all the same size – 1 Metre wide. It was also agreed to slide a white sleeve over the speed sign for the pathway roadside at Low Habberley, below the Fountain area. Clerk was requested to get new quotes for the new sizes, and Councillor Jordan was also to obtain a quote for a wooden version, which could be painted white.

Low Habberley Drainage – Quote The Chair had requested a quote from Guy Williams to clear vegetation away to get to the sump, but was yet to meet on site for him to view the job – although the cost

was thought to be in the region of £500. It was generally felt that the problem of cleaning out the sump was for the County Council to resolve, as it was part of the heritage drainage system from the Low Habberley highways drainage system.

Ideas to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Cllr. Grainger confirmed that he would be arranging for a Beacon to be lit at Crundalls. A beacon at Trimpley was one idea briefly discussed, along with a community party on the same night. Tree planting was also discussed, and it was agreed that the 3 Dutch Elm Resistant trees should be planted at the Eymore Layby, to replace a tree that had been destroyed. A work party to do this was to be arranged.

Fire at Low Habberley – Clerk had requested Fire Hydrant mapping information for Low Habberley from the Fire Service, but no response yet received.

10. Lengthsman / Litter Collection and Footpath Clearance Matters

- a) Worksheet – tabled and approved for Lengthsman Work and Footpath work..
- b) Clerk had sent messages to the Lengthsman concerning various matters, and was awaiting a response. The lengthsman had been supplied with Spring bulbs to plant.
- c) It was agreed to hold a Community Litter Pick event on Saturday 20th November meeting at the Village Hall at 10a.m. If the lengthsman still had the bulbs to plant, then this could be done at the same time.

11. Financial Reports –

a) Payments –

Chq 1139 - S. Archer (Lengthsman's Work) - £192.00

Chq 1140 – E. Whitehouse – Clerk's Expenses - £69.90

Chq 1141 – S. Archer – Footpath Clearance Work - £60.00

Chq 1142 – HMRC – Clerk's PAYE - £75.80

b) Financial Reports and Bank Reconciliation – Clerk had provided each councillor with a set of balanced accounts as at 30th September 2021.

c) **Clerk's Hours** – In light of the increasing workload, it was agreed to amend the Clerk's work hours to 10 per week. Clerk would amend the Standing Order accordingly with Cllrs who have access required to agree this.

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

Letter re Churchyard upkeep – Clerk tabled a letter from a parishioner concerning the untidy vegetation in the Churchyard, and explained that legally, the parish council could not give direct financial assistance to the church. It was agreed that the churchyard was getting very overgrown, and it was hoped to get a group of local volunteers to clear this. It was stated that it was a sad fact that the same group of willing volunteers always seemed to turn out to undertaken voluntary tasks, and as such, it was suggested that in future perhaps a workforce of Community Service volunteers could be engaged on this.

Localism – Parish Litter Contract – The chair and the clerk had attended a Zoom meeting organised by CALC. All the parishes who attended agreed that they felt that the withdrawal of the Localism Payment was immoral at the very least. The District Council had promised to send each parish involved in Localism contracts a letter, stating their proposals in respect of the continuation of individual agreements. It was generally felt that in the case of Kidderminster Foreign, then the parishioners were not to bear the burden of this service through increased Parish Rate with a higher precept, and as such it would be better if the District did not pick back up the service, that the bins were removed completely. No firm decision would need to be taken until a proposal letter was received.

13. Road Accidents –

Car went off road, just below Crofton Lodge and into Habberley Valley yesterday (17/10/21)

14. Other Matters

Newsletters - given out for distribution. Clerk had compiled a new distribution responsibilities list.

Overgrown Hedgerow – Northwood Lane by the Old Bridge - Clerk to report this matter – as it was thought the Hedgerow either belonged to the Railway or Severn Trent, or needed badly cutting back for highway safety. Clerk to make enquiries in respect of who owned the hedge.

Grit Bins - Clerk had requested councillors to make a check on the bins near to their homes.

N740 at the Crundalls half full.

N584 at Grey Green is full

Bin at Trimpley Crossroads was half full.

A full bag of salt/grit at Grey Green Farm for lengthsman to collect and use if needed in very bad weather.

Benches – Cllr. Holford asked about benches around the parish. One at the church was to be replaced. He asked if there could be some standardisation of donated benches, to have standard qualities and design. It was stated that in the bench at Low Habberley Farm entrance was the last one installed by the Parish Council, and that this had been supplied by Steve Wall from Blakeshall. Cllr. Holford asked if supplying a bench to mark the Queen's Platinum might be an idea, but there was some doubt as to a suitable place to site this, as it would need to be where it would be regularly used. No decision was reached.

Date of Next meeting - confirmed as Monday 15th November

The meeting closed at 9.25p.m.

Chairman :