

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 21st February 2022 at 7.30pm

Present Councillor Mr. C. Jordan
Councillor Mr. J. Gammond
Councillor Mr. C. Grainger
Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)

Councillor Mr. C. Holford
Councillor Mr. B. Phillips
Councillor Mrs. S. Stone
*7 members of the public were present.
Dist Cllr. J Byng & Dist. Cllr. P. Harrison*

1. **Police Report** – Police unable to attend, but advised there were no incidents of note to report. They would continue to give periodic speed checks in Low Habberley when possible.

2. **Public Open Forum**

Thanks were expressed for the ROW officer who had arranged for clearing a fallen tree from a bridleway. The Parish Council were requested to ask the District Council to keep **a watchful eye on the trees marked for preservation at the Park Attwood Clinic site**, since it was thought that development was now progressing, although screened by high fences. Clerk would contact the District Council
It was reported that the **signpost pointing to reservoir (at Trimpley crossroads)** needed tightening, as it swings round in the wind, and points the wrong way. Clerk would raise the matter with the lengthsman. It was also noted that the speed limit signs by the entrance gates to Low Habberley had been turned round to face wrong way. Clerk had reported this to the Lengthsman, who had attended, and rectified. It was also noted that the **seat adjacent to the Marsh** needed attention. Clerk confirmed that the seat did not belong to the Parish Council, but was a family commemorative seat.

3. **Apologies For Absence:** Received and approved for Councillor Mrs. C Gammond, and C. Cllr. I Hardiman.

4. **Declarations of Interest:** Interests as previously minuted, but also to include an interest by Cllr. Grainger when discussing the grant for Arley School, as his grandchildren attend.

5. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th January 2022 were approved and signed, with minor alterations in respect of those present.

6. **County and District Councillors' Reports –**

Report from County Councillor Ian Hardiman

“ Wyre Forest Matters:

. Wribbenhall: Schools Tree Planting, Netherton Lane Field, Blackstone

The second phase of tree-planting has been completed. On Thursday 27th January High School students attended to assist with actual tree-planting and on Wednesday 16th February, pupils from the Primary School also helped the County Council's officers with planting. The Project is ultimately for 8,000 trees but so far approximately 7,500 have now been planted and the balance will likely be planted in the Autumn.

The Wribbenhall Project is part of the County Council's undertaking to plant 150,000 trees across Worcestershire; particularly for this to be underway with regard to the Queen's Jubilee occurring this year.

Local Issues:

. Low Habberley: Road Drainage Issues

For some time there have been problems when rain occurs as the Gullies and Drainage system seem not to cope properly; Ian referred this to the Highways Engineer who arranged for technical investigation which found that the pipework beneath the road is not functioning correctly.

I recently enquired and received assurance County Highways will attend to this as soon as possible.

. Low Habberley: Bollards Installation

To prevent vehicle parking on the grass verge either side of the entrance to Low Habberley Farm, the County Highways Engineer accepted the Parish Council's request for the installation of bollards, the funding for which would be met jointly by the County Council and County Cllr Ian Hardiman's devolved Highways Fund with no cost implications for the Parish Council. Whilst the best intentions have been meant, unfortunately some issues of workmanship and design have been experienced causing the Parish Council some concerns. Ian has therefore asked for further attention to be given by the Installations Team at County Highways with the view to resolving this.

. Upper Birch Lane, Make one-way or block off:

I have been chasing a response on this and been assured that the Highways Engineer is pressing for a response/ decision on this matter.

. Slippy Road below the crossroads: The County Highways Engineer has made clear to the Highways Action Team that attention should be given to the road surface here to rectify the Safety concerns.”

Cllr. J. Byng reported that the flood barriers had been breached Beales Corner

7. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) **New Planning applications:** - None received

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**

21/0794/FUL Conversion of barn to one dwelling at Honeybrook Kennels, Bridgnorth Road – **Pending decision**

21/0850/FUL Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 4 new dwellings at Honeybrook Kennels Bridgnorth Road – **Pending decision**

21/1091/Hou – Sunridge, Halls Farm Lane, Trimpley - Two storey front extension and alterations to fenestration – **Approved.**

21/1170/Ful – Communication Station – Upper Birch Farm. Doubling in height from 10m-20m + 3 Antennae, + 2 Dishes – **Approved**

22/0005 – Upper Birch Farm – 60 x 20M covered Riding arena, Hay Storage Bay, Covered walkway from arena to Stable Block for 10 horses, Tack Room and Stores, and a covered horse walk – **Pending decision**

Applications for Information only. **21/1098/CLP** Friars Glade – **Approved**; **21/1126/S73** : Park Attwood – **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 re appeal.**

Appeal Reference APP/R1845/W/21/3281433 - Northwood Farm , Northwood Lane, - Change of use - Agricultural to Dog Breeding Kennels(21/0029) - Clerk was instructed to submit the same comments to the appeal Inspector as were submitted to application 21/0029.

Brick Structure in Roadside Verge at The Gables – Eymore Lane – The structure was still on roadside. Cones placed along the roadside to protect repairs to the verge would be removed and highways had investigated the drainage roadside problems, which were now satisfactory. The sewage smell remained undetected, and it was uncertain which drains or ditches were the source, but concern was expressed about foul discharge ending up in the Marsh.

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

• **Highway Matters**

Parking on Grass Verge outside of Low Habberley Farm Two matching bollard(s) to close gap had not been installed correctly. These needed lifting and re-installing, or further bollards installed.

• **Sump at Rock Cutting, Hoarstone Lane –** Cllr. Mrs. Gammond and the Clerk had done some research into the archives, and found that the sump had been cleared out in 1999/2000. This item has been on the agenda for past 2 years. This information was to be relayed to the County Council

• **Road Closure – Trimpley Lane, Shatterford –** route for vehicles was discussed, in that it appeared traffic was once again being diverted along Upper Birch Lane from Rosemary Cottage on Trimpley Lane, with the obvious dangerous problems of exiting onto the A442. Matter to be checked.

• **VA Signs and Pole Siting –** It was reported that the Trimpley village sign had not been re-erected, since even with the new batteries, the sign did not seem to be working correctly, and that there was something fundamentally wrong with it. The Chair advised that he hoped to get the wiring of the sign checked out, and if that did not put it right, it should be sent back to the supplier for repair.

• **Low Habberley Drainage –** As previously reported the sump does not yet require emptying; and the reported blockage between street gullies through Low Habberley had not yet been rectified.

• **Crundalls Lane –** Councillor Grainger reported that when the roadsweeper attends Crundalls Lane, it does not drive up to the end of the lane. Clerk was asked to report this to the District Council department responsible.

• **Overgrown Hedges in Grey Green Lane –** Clerk had asked Bewdley Town Council to investigate, as it was outside of this parish, being from roadside gardens where the houses of Bewdley town commenced.

• **Track to rear of Council Houses, Low Habberley –** It had been reported that unauthorised vehicles were parking in this track. This was making householders somewhat uneasy due to recent shed break-ins. Clerk had discussed the matter with the owner's agent, Godfrey Payton, and they had advised that they would not be averse to a sign being erected stating something like "Private Road, access for authorised vehicles only". More thought would be given to this before further action.

• **Proposed 40mph restrictions on Local Roads –** Clerk had circulated a consultation, with maps, where it was intimated that consideration may be given to extension of the 40mph restrictions on local roads. Clerk was instructed to respond, stating that this parish was indeed in support of this, and indeed questioned whether the suggested extensions were sufficient.

9. **Ideas / Suggestions for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

There had been official notification that these celebrations included an extended bank holiday from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June.

It was noted that these events would be taking place in the parish:

- The Village Hall would host a tea party for approx.. 100 on Sunday 4th June from 4p.m.
- Cllr. Grainger was arranging an official beacon to be lit at Crundalls Farm on Thursday 2nd June.

Other events muted, but requiring further arrangements were:

- Possible party on large verge area at Low Habberley
- A beacon at Valley House
- Event on Saturday in aid of the Church
- Possible planting of the remaining Dutch Elm Resistant trees in the parish (possible at Eymore layby)

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

a) **Lengthsman worksheet Tabled –** value **£192** – (Clerk advised £368 remained in budget)

b) **Contract Review –** It was decided to continue with current contracts undertaken by current contractors – Messrs Archer – in respect of both lengthsman work and litter collection. Clerk advised she had received an e-mail from Chris Bunn to advise his rate was now £15.00 per hour. Clerk to ask lengthsman, when digging out grips, to spread the soil a little further away from the dug out area, to ensure the work remained effective for as long as possible.

c) **Change to Definitive map –** an application had been received for changes to the definitive map in the Low Habberley area. The matter was discussed, and the Clerk was charged with compiling the following relevant response:

"The proposal for the addition of the pathways to the Definitive Map is reflecting actual usage. The highlighted paths around the edges of the fields in Low Habberley are much used by dog walkers from the nearby estates.

On weekdays, these (together with those in Habberley Valley) are the most used paths in our Parish.

This applies equally to the fields north of Habberley Lane, where the dog walking paths around the edges have effectively replaced paths 590C,

591C, 592B, 593C.

The actual walked paths are around the edges of the fields. The Definitive Map paths are shown diagonally across the farm crops. We have some sympathy with the landowner, and the tenant farmer of these fields too. Both are not resident by this site, and so it has been difficult for them to stop this unauthorised use on their land. The landowner did, at one time, try to stop the usage, and signs were put up (we believe in 2008/9) but these were illegally taken down/destroyed. Verbal requests not to walk have been met with abuse. The landowner, at a loss as to how to proceed, has more recently turned a blind eye to walkers, provided they kept to the edge of the fields, and did not damage crops. We are aware that this application has been most likely lodged largely because a housing development is proposed in fields to the south of Habberley Lane, and local people are trying to protect the green belt in this area, and also the fields around which they have walked for many years.

Our Parish Rights of Way Warden has recently reported to Worcester Council (Will Saunder) about the problems in the fields to the north of Habberley Lane. At the time, it was decided not to change the Definitive Map.

If the map is now going to be changed to reflect real use in the fields south of Habberley Lane, (as this application suggests) then it is logical to make simultaneous changes to the paths in the fields to the north. Perhaps this could be taken into account.

Irrespective of whether these paths are made legitimate by alterations to the County Definitive Maps, we feel that people will always walk them, even if the housing development goes ahead. We feel that if the application has been made to try to stop the housing development, then we do not feel that this will have a great bearing on the outcome of the decision as to whether or not this field will be developed."

d) Litter Contract (Localism) – The Clerk had responded in the negative to the proposal by Wyre Forest for responsibility (and financing) of this service to be passed to the parish. However, it was noted that Wolverley and Cookley Parish had struck on-going deal with the District Council in respect of this.

11. Financial Reports –

a) Grant for Arley School (Councillor Grainger left the room at this point). Clerk tabled the request from the Headteacher for consideration of a grant to be made to the school. She had ascertained that around 23% of children attending came from this parish. Although in the past a grant had been given towards the cost of transporting children to swimming lessons, which was an admirable part of the curriculum, and to be encouraged, it was felt that should a grant be given, it should be towards funding for a specific project, or equipment, as something more tangible. Clerk to relay this message to the Headteacher, and await further information.

(Cllr Grainger re-joined the meeting)

b) Ratification of payments to be made:

- 1) Lengthsman - £192
- 2) Training – Worcs. Calc (re S. Stone) - £36
- 3) EM Davis Vinyl Lettering - £19

c) Financial Regulations – Clerk had circulated a draft amended copy of this obligatory document for councillors approval. To place on March agenda for approval.

12. Newsletter –

Distribution List - despite not seeing many parishioners, councillors said they were still happy to hand deliver the newsletter. However, it was noted that the Distribution List was now not suited to purpose, and there were considerable inequalities in responsibilities for each councillor. Clerk to address this, and produce a new list for consideration.

Cllr. J Gammond advised that there was a live band booking in the Village Hall for 6th August, which could be mentioned in the next newsletter.

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

Worcs. CALC – Clerk had attended a course on protocol following death of a Senior national figure.

Worcestershire County Council – Draft Budget Proposals – Cllr. Jordan had attended this meeting.

14. Road Accidents – there were reports of an accident close to the roundabout junction of Habberley Lane/Habberley Road on Sunday 13th February. (thought to be caused by a dog running out of the field adjoining the road)

15. Other Matters

Date of Next meeting - Agreed for **Monday 21st March** to include **Annual Parish Assembly meeting**
It was noted that Monday 25th April had been booked with the Village Hall for the April Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.55p.m.

Chairman :