

# KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.30pm

### Present

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

Councillor Mr. B. Phillips  
Councillor Mrs S. Stone  
County Cllr. I Hardiman  
District Councillor P.Harrison  
3 members of the public were present.

1. **Police Report** : Police were unable to attend. They advised:

*"It's been a very low crime month for the area again this month, I'm sure you were aware that there was several manhole covers stolen at the beginning of the month. Is there still an interest in the community speed watch scheme?"* It was reported that those who were originally interested in the **speed watch scheme** have retracted, from the idea, particularly due to the amount of official paperwork involved, and so for the time being this is to be shelved.

It was reported that a large vehicle was **parking** on a regular basis near to the entrance to **Habberley Farm** – causing an obstruction should farm vehicles need to access. Apart from access to properties, the road is not a public highway, being a bridleway. County Councillor Ian Hardiman agreed to follow up this matter.

### **Public Open Forum**

It was reported that blue licence application signs relating to a liquor licence for the **Habberley Trail** had not been taken down. Comment was made that the Trail had become extremely busy, particularly in school holiday periods.

Also, questions were raised about compensatory moves for removing the **Low Habberley field** earmarked for housing development from green belt. District and County Councillors advised that the compensatory measures could be made by developers anywhere in the country and did not have to be local.

Reports had been received from local walkers to say that the houses being constructed at the **Park Attwood site** appeared to be much larger than the plans had indicated. Clerk to ask Wyre Forest Officers to investigate.

**Fly tipping** – Clerk instructed to report a large tree root which had been dumped by the field gate opposite the viewpoint.

There had also been fly tipping in the field entrance just below Little Gains. Possible evidence from the rubbish had been taken and handed in to Wyre Forest District enforcement.

Councillor Mrs. Gammond advised of a **phone App – Love Clean streets** – where a photo of tipped rubbish could be taken and attached, and the App would refer the report to the appropriate local council for action

At the **end of School Lane** – it was reported that the wall was crumbling and breaking up. Councillor Hardiman advised that he would inspect this with a view to reporting to the Highways dept.

2. **Apologies For Absence:** Received and approved from Cllr. Mr. C Jordan and Dist. Councillor Mr. J Byng

3. **Declarations of Interest/Dispensations:** Interests as previously minuted.

4. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved and signed.

5. **County and District Councillors' Reports –**  
**Report from County Councillor Ian Hardiman -**

#### **A442 Traffic Speed Concerns:**

*As reported to the Parish Clerk, I have been informed that unfortunately, County Highways officers will not agree to extend the 40mph speed limit past the former kennels site because there are insufficient dwellings facing the highway here.*

#### **Valley Close Road repairs/resurfacing required:**

*I am pleased to confirm that the Community Housing Group who own most of the roadway here have now completed necessary patching and resurfacing; I inspected this and found that a satisfactory job has been carried out. GUTTERING*

#### **Speeding Traffic in Trimpley Lane, Shatterford Area:**

*I have been chasing the promised fresh Speed Analysis to be effected further back along this lane and received an apology as Highways Officers have not yet managed to attend to this.*

#### **Hoarstone Lane Highway Repairs, poor quality:**

*I am still awaiting assurance that these works will be refinished to a good standard with fresh tarmac completely. (It was noted that this had now been done. However, white lines not replaced – particularly with junction with Crundalls Lane. )*

#### **Holbeache Farm Field Flooding:**

*I have informed the Highways Engineer that the landowner is so frustrated by Severn Trent's inability to attend to the fractured pipeline under his field that he now intends to block off the upper end of the pipe so that highway rainfall water will likely flow into the verge ditch outside his property.*

*In response, I was informed that the Highways Department will therefore monitor how things progress in due course.*

#### **Hoarstone Lane Dead Tree:**

*Together with the Highways Engineer, I tried and failed to find the Dead Tree in question; with most other trees presently bare presently it is difficult. I have therefore asked the Parish Chairman if he could please assist by identifying the "What Three Words" reference to enable accurate finding of the tree for forwarding to County Highways. (on going to identify the actual tree)*

**Signage Concerns for Valley Close:** *In response to residents' concerns regarding a sign indicating the way to Habberley Valley is via the close, encouraging visitor parking in what is a private road, I have requested that the Council remove the sign accordingly.*

**Wyre Forest Issues:** *The District Council has granted permission for the installation of a permanent Flood Resilience Barrier for the Beales Corner area of Wribbenhall.*

#### **Report from District Councillors –**

No report tabled.

6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) **New Planning applications: -**

**23/0101/TPO Cherry (T6) - Fell and replace due to large crack running down the south side stem at Park Attwood Farm, Trimpley Lane, Shatterford, Bewdley**

Comment : *"We regret to advise that we are unable to support this application to fell this tree. The application form clearly states in response to two questions:*

*Is the tree diseased? - NO*

*Is the tree likely to fall and cause damage to property? - NO*

*We believe that the reported split may be due to stress caused to this Cherry tree due to excessive pruning, and such damage often self-repairs.*

*As such, we are not happy to support the felling of this tree."*

b) **Update on Previous applications**

**22/0300/HOU** Part demolition and remodelling of existing farmhouse, including the addition of integrated garages, balcony and swimming pool area - Park Attwood Farm, Trimpley Ln. Shatterford - **Pending Decision**

**22/0927/FUL** Change of Use to Form Holiday Let. Location: Old Pumping Station, Trimpley Lane, Shatterford – Revised plans received – **Pending Decision**

**22/0942/HOU** - Single storey side/rear extension at 13 Habberley Lane, Low Habberley – **Pending Decision**

**22/0993/HOU** Extensions, alterations and refurbishments works at 32 Habberley Lane, Low Habberley,- **Approved**

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 had submitted the same comments to the appeal Inspector as were submitted to application 21/0029.- **No decision yet received re appeal.**

**Appeal Reference APP/R1845/W/22/3309021** - Land At Os 381000 277300, Habberley Lane, Low Habberley, Kidderminster. Description of Development Outline planning application (with all matters reserved except for means of access) for erection of up to 124 dwellinghouses, including public open space and landscaping surface water attenuation and associated infrastructure Application Reference 21/0421/OUT

Clerk was instructed to lodge a comment, asking that the original lengthy comment submitted at the time of the application should be taken into account, and add that general feeling was that it was felt that development of bungalows on this site would have much less of an impact visually, would be occupied in the main by elderly people who would shop locally, use public transport, meaning less vehicles, and leave less of an environmental footprint locally. It would also perhaps free up local family housing for younger people nearby.

**Hill Farm / Mary Moors matters –** It had been reported that the unauthorised residential caravans had not been removed, and were still on site. District Council were continuing with enforcement proceedings.

**Low Habberley Housing Development** – Appeal received as above for Richborough. However, an application was still expected to be received from Bovis

**Retrospective application 22/0678 – Land at Valley Close** – It was noted that Enforcement officers had been discussing the matter of ground reinstatement with the applicant, and were hopeful of reaching an agreement for 60% to be reinstated from the hardcore deposited. However, it was reported that the two gateways would remain, one of which had previously been just a small pedestrian gate, but is now a large 5-bar gateway.

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

**Highway Matters**

- **Hoarstone Lane Surface repairs** – The repair work now done; however the white lines had yet to be painted, this being particularly crucial on the hazardous junction with Crundalls Lane.
- **Broken STW Manhole, below Low Habberley:** - . It was suspected that this had now been done.
- **Valley Close Road Surface Issues** –. Community Housing had resurfaced the road, and following complaints about parking in the close, a road sign indicating access to Habberley Valley would be removed, to try to alleviate parking in the Close..
- **Holbeache Farm Flooding problem** – still not fully resolved, despite reassurances from Severn Trent. Farmer was resolved to take his own course of action to bring about a suitable solution.
- **Noticeboards – Crundalls Lane and locks on boards at Low Habberley** - Quote received from Ade Williams for a new noticeboard at Grey Green for £1400 including installation. It was generally felt that this was too high a price. Clerk to try to get alternative quotes for perhaps a metal framed board.
- **Speed of Vehicles on Local Roads** – Cllr. Hardiman had reported on this matter. Cllr. Holford was to attend a Zoom meeting concerning the "20 is plenty" campaign.
- **Lack of confidence in the District Council** – Clerk had sent the letter approved to the Chief Executive – Mr. I. Miller – but no response had been received. If a reply was not forthcoming, Clerk to extend an invitation for the Chief Executive to attend a Parish Council meeting.
- **Eymore Wood Forestry Scheme** – Reply from Bronwens – *"In reply, the reinstatement work of the ruts is still ongoing and we will ensure that any extraction damage is reinstated. In terms of the work completed please note that all activities are approved by the Forestry Commission in consultation with the relevant authorities. Some of the work undertaken this year (ride widening and cutting of trees/shrubs) are under the Higher Tier woodland Countryside Stewardship Scheme. This purpose of this scheme is to improve woodland biodiversity and all work is approved by Natural England and the Forestry Commission. There are some old shelters to clear up which will be done in due course. We are also aware of the risk of bramble and bracken which will be addressed."*

Bronwens and Arley Estate were happy to discuss the logic of the work programme, and how the estate

intends to proceed, and asked if councillors could attend a site meeting at Eymore.

Clerk to liaise and arrange.

- **Water Leak – Habberley Lane** - near to top Rock Cutting – had been repaired.

8. **Documentation Review** - The Clerk had revised and circulated draft copies of the following documents:

- **Financial Regulations**
- **Asset List for Year 2023/24**
- **Risk Management**
- **Code of Conduct**
- **Publication scheme**

**It was resolved to adopt these documents**, and the **Asset List** was approved and signed in readiness for insurance and audit.

Clerk also gave each councillor present a revised copy of the **Standing Orders** for their approval and adoption at the March meeting.

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

a) **Lengthsman** – One worksheet received but councillors would not approve the work done. Clerk was instructed to advise the lengthsman that the worksheet/invoice would only be released for payment if the areas identified were revisited and the spoil from the dug out grips was spread away, so that it did not re-foul the cleaned out grip. The lengthsman was to be given a week to do this work, and then the invoice could be paid. Clerk advised that (after this invoice was taken into account) there was £560 remaining budget to spend by 31<sup>st</sup> March, and she would advise Messrs. Archers accordingly.

b) **Litter Collection / Lengthsman / ROW Clearance Contracts** – a discussion took place re the 2023/24 contracts. **It was Resolved** not to renew these contracts with Messrs. Archer. Clerk to advise them accordingly, in March, and the Lengthsman and ROW contracts were to be offered to Mr. C. Bunn.

The Litter Collection contract was to cease, and Wyre Forest would be asked to take up the litter bins from the parish towards the end of March.

10. **Financial Reports –**

a) **Ratification of payments to be made –**

S. Archer – Lengthsman worksheets (No 9) - £216 (to be paid only when work re-done – see above)

On Your Marks Clerks Course re up-coming Election – Clerk's training - £30

**Nominated Councillor** to log in to ratify electronic payments this month - Cllr. J Gammond

It was also noted that a payment of **£370.80** had been made for a new office printer – as agreed delegated payment made from the January meeting.

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

Clerk had attended the course re preparation for the upcoming possible Election in May, and had supplied councillors with a diarised sheet of relevant dates and deadlines.

**Broken BT Cover – near to Eymore Lane Arley Estate Car Park** – Clerk had reported this following a report from Cllr. Phillips. It was unknown if it had been repaired.

12. **Other Matters**

**Next meeting:** confirmed as **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**Blocked drains** - it was reported that drains either side of the entrance to 'Jacobs Ladder' were blocked, and needed jetting.

**Bulb Sale at Holy Trinity** – It was reported that just over £300 had been made at this event for the church fund.

**Bench at the Church** – It was also reported that a bench with a commemorative plaque was to be sited at the church to mark the many years of service given to the church by Ben and Val Corfield.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman :