

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 19th June 2023 at 7.30pm

Present Councillor Mr. B. Phillips (in the Chair) Councillor Mr. J. Gammond
Councillor Mr. C. Jordan District councillor J. Byng
Councillor Mr. C. Grainger 3 members of the public were present.
County Councillor I. Hardiman Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)

Police Report : PCSO Jeni Bray in attendance.

Mention was made of

- a delivery Van hijacked on Bewdley Estate, and then driven to Crundalls Lane, and the content off-loaded into awaiting cars.
- a local lady who wanders off confused, (Crundalls Lane area) was again found in the area.

The Parish Council was requested to name, by 28th June, 3 priorities for the next 3 months for police attention – these were thought best to be Speeding, Anti-Social Behaviour, including littering and underage drinking, and Vandalism/graffiti, with particular reference to road signs.

Public Open Forum –

It was reported that on the **Bridleway by side of Habberley Trail** a tree had fallen, blocking the route. This had been reported directly. Seasonal vegetation on this bridleway was reported to be quite high now

Fire Hydrants – It was reported that all local hydrants had been inspected recently by H&W Fire Service, and if maintained by them, they had been painted yellow, and fitted with new ID Plates. This was being done by just two inspectors for the whole of Herefordshire and Worcestershire. If what appeared to be a hydrant, that had not been painted or identified with a plate, then it was most likely a drain point belonging to Severn Trent. All of the work was due to have been completed by Friday 16th June.

Flood signs Low Habberley – following report at the last meeting, it was reported that although one sign had been removed, a further sign was still left on the roadside.

1. **Apologies For Absence:** Apologies received and approved from Cllr. C Holford and Cllr. S. Stone and District Councillor P. Harrison.
2. **Declarations of Interest/Dispensations:** Interests as previously minuted and declared.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held Monday 15th May 2023 were approved and signed.
4. **County and District Councillors' Reports –**

Report from County Councillor Hardiman:

“Low Habberley Sign indicating Habberley Valley:

Parish Councillor Susan Stone, kindly agreed to meet me in Valley Close to discuss the request received for the removal of the sign for “Habberley Valley”.

I explained to Cllr Stone that I had received communication from County Highways stating their opposition to the removal of this sign as it is there for the benefit of motorists seeking a route into the valley and because the initial portion of Valley Close is an adopted highway (where no TRO exists) several car spaces are available for parking.

Beyond, where the roadway is in the ownership of the Community Housing Group who have in fact recently resurfaced here, any prevention of public parking should be dealt with by signage installed by themselves. Therefore, unfortunately, the “Habberley Valley” signage cannot be removed.

30 mph Signage, Twisting by irresponsible person(s). Low Habberley:

I have forwarded your Clerk's request that County Highways consider resolving this by installing twin support posts in order to make-difficult this silly activity which is a safety issue for motorists.

Low Habberley Flooding Investigation/Repairs:

I am still awaiting a further update on this subject.”

Report from District Councillor J. Byng

Councillor Byng reported that there had been incidences of illegal overnight camping in **Habberley Valley**, and barbecues. This had raised concerns over recent dry weather conditions in respect of wild fires, and so Park Rangers were patrolling the area overnight to prevent this.

5. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) New Planning applications:

23/0364 – Bannut Field House (and associated Listed Building Consent 23/0366)

Replacement Windows, doors, and cladding and replacement door with window and cladding at Bannut Field House, Hoarstone Lane, Trimpley.

Comment: No Objections.

23/0406/CR | Discharge of conditions from approval 22/0927 in respect of former Reservoir, Trimpley Lane, Shatterford (Parish were not consulted – CR Application)

23/0434/CR Discharge of conditions 2 (materials), 5 (boundary treatment) and 10 (planting) of planning application 20/0567/FUL - The Highlands, Trimpley Lane, Shatterford

(Being a CR Application, the Parish were not consulted)

Both of the above applications were **Suffixed CR (Condition Removal)**, and the parish were not invited to

submit comment. This was considered by all present to be an unsatisfactory situation, if a permission were granted and within a matter of a couple of months, conditions on that permission were sought to be removed, particularly in the case of 23/0406, where the parish were still very concerned about highway access.

23/0200 (Revised Plans) – Residential Development of 120 Dwellings, Access from Habberley Road, Public Open Space and Landscaping, Surface Water Attenuation and Associated Infrastructure

Comment:

"We have examined the revisions to the plans, including landscaping details, different sitings of various types of residences, revised flood measures, and bow to the expertise of various bodies consulted to ensure that all exigences of modern, eco-friendly building plots are being met, so we have very little comment to make in respect of many of the revisions/alterations and deferred comments in relation to the original plans of the buildings themselves – with one main exception.

We must re-state that we remain firmly against any development on this field, despite it being in the Local Plan, and in particular, we do not feel that the highway problems that we and others have identified in relation to development on this field have been addressed in any plans or revision in the documents recently submitted. The small roundabout at the junction of Habberley Road and Habberley Lane remains a massive problem and stumbling block for the development. During rush hours, with the preponderance of traffic using Habberley Road, it is very difficult to exit from Habberley Lane via the roundabout, and awaiting traffic backs up. This problem has not been addressed by any plans or revised plans submitted. The problem causes frustration in waiting motorists, creating the scenario for risks to be taken by motorists, with probably accident consequences, and also makes for people to use cut-throughs – e.g. in the Ferndale estate. Major works need to be undertaken to this roundabout to make it considerably larger (to give traffic time to gain access to it from the Habberley Lane) or consideration given to some other traffic measures – eg. traffic lights – at this junction, if there is insufficient room to undertake the major enlargement required to the roundabout layout.

Although we have read the revised road layout and speed survey submitted, to try to address these issues to the County Highways Authority, we (with local knowledge) remain convinced that these fall far short of improvements which need to be made to avoid these problems. In addition, we would refer the planning officers to the report which has been submitted to them by THaT Consultancy (Transport, Highways and Traffic) of March this year in respect of the appeal lodged concerning development of this field (attached herewith for your reference). In no way can there be "sustainable travel modes" in relation to this site, and in effect it is creating a car-based dormitory on the edge of Kidderminster, with routes into the West Midlands industrialised area via Habberley Road. This will not be in line with the Government's objectives of achieving carbon net zero by 2050, as walking and cycling for commuting or other journeys from this site would account for only 19% (approx.) of all journeys taken. So the preponderance of traffic from the site will be motor vehicle based, and as such will create great problems on the adjacent road, particularly at the roundabout identified.

In summary, we remain totally opposed to this development, albeit earmarked in the Local Plan and stand by our previous comments to Wyre Forest District Council when 23/0200 was originally submitted, and more specifically, we feel that the adjoining road infrastructure is totally inadequate to take the additional motorised traffic it would create. We feel that any improvements submitted are woefully inadequate, and therefore bring the whole development's viability into question, as this is fundamental to this particular site, even more so than the other revisions submitted, which although perhaps desirable and commendable, are merely cosmetic to the major problem and 'elephant in the room' – i.e. the adjacent road infrastructure. We therefore remain opposed to the plans 23/0200 including the revisions submitted, and reiterate our unanimous opposition to this development."

b) **Update on Previous applications –** None.

c) **Compliance Issues/Appeals and other planning matters –**

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 (at Honeybrook) – **No decision yet received re appeal.**

Appeal Reference APP/R1845/W/21/3281433 - Northwood Farm, Northwood Lane

The Enforcement Officer had advised "We are now waiting for the owners to make a fresh planning application for the retention of the new building and demolition of several others as trade off. They have been given until July 1st to make an application." This related to the change to buildings on the site.

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 – **No decision yet received.**

d) **Hill Farm / Mary Moors matters –** Clerk had received an email concerning access for **Emergency Vehicles** should access via Northwood Lane ~~was~~ be blocked. Clerk had replied to this stating that the Mary Moors access was a private access and lane, and it was therefore outside of Parish Council's power to insist that this should be open. Not being "on the ground", it would require prompt action on the part of Hill Farm residents to make contact with Friesian Developments, when and if this situation arises, if locks and gates need to be opened, for emergency access, although it was felt that bona fide emergency vehicles would gain access in some way. It was also reported that **more horses** had been brought onto the site, and were still escaping into Trimpley village.

e) Habberley Trail update – The Enforcement Officer advised “Waiting on operations manager to let me know when works are completed to remedy on site issues. Work has already begun, once done I will re-visit the site to sign the work off. I have also forwarded concerns regarding road signs to WCC, as the signs are on highways verge. If you have a contact at WCC or know the county councillor then it may be of benefit for you to take your concerns direct as they have not responded to me so far regarding the signs.”

County Councillor I Hardiman would raise the issue of the entrance signs on with the Highways Engineer.

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

Highway Matters

- **Broken Manhole, below Low Habberley:** - Photo taken, and what three words identification made. Cllr Grainger still checking with Blakeways to see if this was to do with the field irrigation..
- **Valley Close signage to Habberley Valley** – This will not be removed. (See CCllr. I. Hardiman report).
- **Dead Tree – Hoarstone Lane** – Tree now identified, but had not been felled.
- **Noticeboard repair** – C. Bunn had carried out repair, and invoice circulated. Minute closed.
- **Blocked Drains – Low Habberley** – At the moment there appeared to be no problem.
- **Lightmarsh Lane** – some of the worst potholes had been repaired.
- **Grips below Jacobs Ladder** – Cllr Hardiman will report, and check if concrete had been taken out.
- **Road Sweeper required from Hoarstone down to Bewdley** – Cllr. Hardiman would arrange.
- **30mph Signs being twisted around** – Besides requesting police attention this problem recurs on a regular basis. Clerk had requested the County Councillor to consider a double pole attachment to make this difficult for the persons responsible.

7. **Request for Parish to fund Dog Foul Bin**

Defer to July Meeting. However, Clerk asked if, as Habberley Valley was owned by the District Council, whether a dog foul bin could be sited just inside Valley property on the access from Valley Close. Councillor Byng would follow this up.

8. **Parking Issues – Low Habberley**

Defer to July Meeting.

9. **Casual Vacancy** -

Clerk advised that no applications had been received as yet – although councillors had given out some forms.

10. **Roadside Fire Hydrants** (see report in Public Open Forum).

11. **Trimpley Music, Food & Heavy Horse Festival 2023 – 29th July 10a.m.-9p.m.**

Concern was expressed about parking. As a charge was going to be made for parking, Clerk was asked to write to the organisers to ask what steps were being taken to expedite these transactions, getting cars in and parked quickly, so that traffic did not back up onto the local lane,

12. **Newsletter – Report on Distribution** prepared by Clerk.

Deferred for discussion until the July meeting, although reservations were expressed about certain parishioners not receiving the newsletter, and therefore missing out.

13. **Lengthsman and Footpath Clearance Matters**

a) Lengthsman – Lengthsman worksheet / invoice for May had been circulated. This was approved.

b) Rights of Way Contract - Having approval for £450 grant from County, the seasonal growth clearance programme had been agreed with C. Bunn. Clerk had arranged a meeting between Chris Bunn and Richard Roberts (PROW) who was guiding this work. A quote had been submitted to the County Council for extra work, but the County Council advised that they would like their volunteer group to do this.

The PROW advised that a complaint about the overgrown Severn Way had been received, and this had been forwarded to County for clearance, being a recreational route, for which they were responsible.

14. **Financial Reports –**

a) Ratification of payments to be made – a) Payments: VH Bin siting Fee from 2022/23 - £295; VH Room Rental (Jan 23 – June 23) - £180.00; Zurich Insurance – Annual Premium - £405.35; Lengthsman Invoice 2 (May) - £204.75; Information Commission (DD Instruction to approve) – Annual Fee £40 (less 5% for DD); Repair to Noticeboard, Eymore Lane, - C Bunn - £80.

+ Councillor named to authorise : Cllr. C Jordan

b) Audit / AGAR Documentation–

Clerk had advertised the period for Electors to exercise their Rights re inspection of the Audit documentation from Monday 12th June to Friday 21st July.

c) Arley School Grant Request for Funding towards Trail Cam - This could not be discussed at the meeting, since Cllrs. Grainger and Phillips had to express an interest – and their departure would have left the meeting inquorate.

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

Chairmen's Meeting **21st June (Wolverley)**; (Cllr Phillips to try to attend, deputising for Cllr. Holford).

CALC Area Meeting - remotely on **Thursday 29th June 2023 commencing at 7.00 p.m.**

Have your Say on Planning – County Council publicising the rights of the public to be registered for consultation on County Planning issues (not to be confused with District Planning). Posters had been put on the noticeboards, and Clerk had included this in the newsletter.

Electoral Boundary Review – Worcestershire County Council – Clerk had recently attended a Teams Meeting where this was discussed. As no review had taken place for some years, it had been found that an uneven demographic representation now existed, and that some of the electoral divisions covered by County Councillors needed to be adjusted. This in no way affected or concerned parish boundaries.

Parish Boundary – Clerk had prepared a report concerning a possible alteration to the Parish Boundary. This was considered and noted by councillors, but deferred for further action until such time as a decision had been made in connection with the proposed housing development at Low Habberley.

Garden Fires – Clerk reported that she had received emails concerning smoky bonfires – specifically in Low Habberley. She had suggested that a log be kept of dates and times, and if the issue was a very regular occurrence, then contact should be made to Worcestershire Regulatory Services. Clerk also to put in an article in Newsletter.

Proposed Extension at Glovewood, Trimpley Lane, Shatterford – Clerk advised that she had received an email from the owners stating that they intended to extend the roof ridge to incorporate further rooms on the first floor above the existing garage. It was decided to defer opinion on this, but suggested that the Clerk refer the owner to a new offer of 15 minutes “free” advice from Wyre Forest District Planning, to see the best way forward – whether the proposal would fall within permitted development, or whether a planning application would be required. The Clerk had responded to the owner stating that the Parish Council were appreciative of their advance notification of their intent, but that no opinion could be given until exact plans were seen.

16. **Road Accident Record -** In recent days there had been 2 (non serious) accidents on the A442 adjacent to Honeybrook Kennels.

It was also thought that damage to the hedge, near to the entrance of Habberley Trail, may also indicate that there had been an accident – but no other evidence was known.

17. **Other Matters**

Former Councillor Mrs. Carole Gammond – Clerk had ordered a commemorative award which councillors all approved. On receipt of this, it was agreed to invite Mrs. Gammond to attend at the start of the next meeting to receive this in a presentation.

Eymore Wood – it was noted that Cllr. Jordan had managed to negotiate with Bronwins and Arley Estate to organise removal of discarded tree guards in Eymore wood. This would make the woodland much tidier and pleasant for visitors/walkers in this area, and was welcomed as good news by all present at the meeting.

Next meeting: confirmed as **Monday 17th July 2023**

The meeting closed at 8.57pm

Chairman :