

# KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm

**Present** Councillor Mr. C. Holford  
Councillor Mr. C. Grainger  
Councillor Mr. C. Jordan  
Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)

Councillor Mr. J. Gammond  
Councillor Mrs. S. Stone  
District councillors J. Byng and P. Harrison  
5 members of the public were present.

**Presentation to Former Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond** – A commemorative award had been arranged, and this was presented to Mrs. Gammond by the Chairman, along with a card and bouquet of flowers to mark her service of almost 45 years as a parish councillor for Kidderminster Foreign, following her retirement from office.



Former Parish Councillor  
Mrs Carole Gammond receiving her  
award from Chairman Cllr. C. Holford at  
the Parish Council Meeting.

**Police Report:** No-one from the Police team could be present, but they sent apologies and the following report:  
“There has been little to report on as far as crime is concerned, although there was a vehicle stolen from Trimpley Reservoir. We will continue to monitor the ASB and speeding locations identified within your nominated priorities.”

The Chairman advised that he had ensured the **speed signs on entry to Low Habberley** were now facing the correct way, and would try to put in some self-tapping screws to prevent this vandalism from happening again.

### **Public Open Forum –**

**Flood sign** - despite being reported last month, and assurances from the County Councillor that it would be reported to be picked up, it was still in place in Low Habberley

A question was raised in connection with **Section 106 money** in connection with the land which had been taken out of the greenbelt for development at Low Habberley. It was understood that reimbursement in this respect was due and questions were asked on when this would be received, and how it would be spent to the benefit of the people of Wyre Forest. The District Councillors advised that this matter was due to come to committee in August.

**Hollies Lane - Sumps** – The Chair asked if the sumps in Hollies Lane were taking storm water as designed. A resident explained that WCC Countryside Service come regularly to clean out the two grills and dig out one sump, but this does not clean out sediment in the drains which go across the main road. Debris therefore backs up and when there are heavy storms the sumps breach and debris still goes across the A442. County Cllr Hardiman had previously stated that this system had been placed on a schedule for a regular clean out, which seems to be happening for the sumps but this is of little consequence if the drains under the main A442 are blocked.

1. **Apologies For Absence:** Apologies received and approved from CCllr. Ian Hardiman and Cllr. B Phillips
2. **Declarations of Interest/Dispensations:** Interests as previously minuted and declared. In addition Cllr. C. Grainger declared an interest in the request from Arley School for a grant.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were approved and signed.

### 4. **County and District Councillors' Reports –**

#### **Report from County Councillor Hardiman (read in his absence):**

##### **“Unauthorised signage (ref. Habberley Trail) in Verge :**

*I noticed on Sunday that despite my reminders to Highways officers, the illegal signs are still in place. I am therefore urging removal of these by officers.*

##### **Low Habberley Farm Entrance Bollards damaged:**

*I have reported this issue and am chasing investigation and advice regarding the solution.”*

**Report from District Councillor** - On going meetings were being held to discuss the demise and **unravelling of the Localism Schemes** in the district, of which the Litter Collection in this parish was one, and the funding of Bewdley Museum was also being debated.

In respect of the litter collection, Clerk asked Cllr. Byng if the District were minded to fund provision and service of a dog foul bin near to the rock cutting access into Habberley Valley. Cllr. Byng stated that he was optimistic that this may be provided.

5. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) **New Planning applications:**

**23/0456 Retention of Existing Dog Breeding Building at Northwood Farm, Northwood Lane, Bewdley**

**Comment: (This following Appeal Reference APP/R1845/W/21/3281433)**

*"We object to the use of the word "existing" in the description of this application.*

*Firstly, we cannot support the application for retention of this shed due to the proposed usage. We do not know of any authorisation or permission to run a dog breeding business from these premises, and we feel that 15 Kennels and 5 welcome pens would amount to business use. Indeed, we understand that above a number of 2 breeding bitches requires a licence. The numbers stated in the application exceed a "hobby" interest, and as such we cannot support the application.*

*Secondly, we would reiterate our comment in 2021 (21/0029) where we stated "the business is already causing problems for nearby residents who have complained to the Parish Council about noise from barking dogs at all times of the day/night. Also we understand that enquiries previously made to the planning office from a neighbouring property received advice from district planners that a similar business usage could not be supported due to the increased traffic along Northwood Lane, which was considered to be unsuitable", and thus this usage would be contrary to advice issued by Wyre Forest Planners, and therefore we cannot condone retention of this building. We therefore recommend refusal."*

**23/0491 Two storey rear extension to provide extended kitchen; dining and lounge to ground floor and extended bedrooms to first floor and including extension to existing loft accommodation. Alterations to existing interior layout at Moorfield, Hoarstone Lane Trimpley Bewdley**

**Comment:** *"Although a large extension, we would offer no objections, and would like to support. However, we would like a check to be made to ensure that supporting septic drainage is adequate."*

b) **Update on Previous 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. – **Permission granted.**

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

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.**

**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.**

**e) Habberley Trail update** –(Signs on vergeside) The illegal signs are still in place. (See C.Cllr. Hardiman's report above.)

**f) Explanation of CR Suffixes on applications**

Clerk advised that she had been incorrect in assuming that a CR Suffix meant "Condition Removal". It was more condition compliance, in that application had to be made to the Planning Officer to show that an applicant had complied with a condition placed on the planning permission. This may be explained better when councillors attend the planning training offered by the District Council.

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

**Highway Matters**

- **Broken Manhole, below Low Habberley:** - There had been no progress on this matter, and councillors decided to meet up and try to resolve the problem themselves.
- **Dead Tree – Hoarstone Lane** – Tree now identified - but still there. Cllr. Grainger stated that landowners of trees which are a danger to highways are given just 8 weeks notices to remedy the situation. This tree – in the ownership of the County Council, being in the verge, was reported many months ago, which seemed something of double standards.
- **Grips below Jacobs Ladder** – no action had been taken. .
- **Broken Bollards – Verge, Low Habberley** – two bollards had been broken on the entrance to Low Habberley, below the Habberley Trail – presumably from a traffic accident. Although a local resident was attempting to repair these, Cllr Hardiman had reported the matter to Highways at County, who would be effecting repair/replacement.

7. **Parking Issues – Low Habberley**

Despite a complaint to the Parish Council, the general feeling of councillors was that there is not an issue to be addressed. It was noted that the dog training lessons had recommenced in the field adjacent to the village.

8. **Casual Vacancy** - Clerk advised that no applications had been received as yet. Clerk had attended a training (Clerk's gathering session) where she had learnt that it was not mandatory to fill the vacancy (albeit preferable and advisory to do so). Indeed, the District Council would only appoint someone if the Parish was made inquorate by the vacancy.

9. **Trimpley Music, Food & Heavy Horse Festival 2023 – 29th July 10a.m.-9p.m.** - Clerk had contacted the organisers expressing concern about traffic backing up in the local lanes to access the parking at the event, and was assured that steps were being put into place to ensure that this did not happen. It was understood that cars

- would be parked first, and then any charges would be taken afterwards, or charges dropped altogether.
10. **Newsletter** – Clerk had produced and issued the July edition. Distribution was not discussed.
11. **Lengthsman and Footpath Clearance Matters**  
 a) **Lengthsman** – Lengthsman worksheet / invoice for June had been circulated. This was approved.  
 b) **Rights of Way Contract** – C. Bunn had sent in his first invoice for the seasonal growth clearance. There were several discrepancies in the measurements of paths/bridleways requiring clearance, and this would form the basis of a report at the end of the season. There may be additional payment(s) to be made, as the clearances required in most instances had been underestimated.  
 In general, Councillors were very pleased with Mr. Bunn's work in respect of both this, and lengthsman duties.
12. **Financial Reports** –  
 a) **Ratification of payments to be made** – a) **Payments:** Lengthsman Invoice 3 (June) - £204.75; ROW Clearance during June – C Bunn - £336.18;  
 + Councillors named to authorise : Cllrs. S. Stone/J. Gammond.  
 b) **Balanced accounts to end June** – Clerk had circulated balanced accounts as at end June 2023  
 c) **Arley School Grant Request for Funding towards Trail Cam** – (Cllrs. Grainger expressed an interest, and took no part in the discussion). Cllr. Holford requested that the Clerk make an afternoon appointment for him to visit the school, to see what the trail cam would involve and achieve, and also to view books funded last year. Clerk to arrange, and to include on agenda for the next meeting.  
 d) **Chairman's Allowance** – Cllr. Holford being chair advised that he had declined to take the annual allowance for the Chair.
13. **Worcestershire CALC Reports & County and District & other Correspondence** –  
**Chairmen's Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> June (Wolverley);** (Cllr Phillips to try to attend, deputising for Cllr. Holford). It was believed that Cllr Phillips did attend, but as he was absent from the meeting, there was no report tabled.  
**CALC Area Meeting – (remote) Thursday 29th June 2023 commencing at 7.00 p.m.**  
 Councillor Stone gave this report  
*"This meeting started late (19. 10pm) As the Chairman Mr Derek Killingworth could not organise his video or sound therefore he in essence did not attend. There were 10 members who did, Angela Preece, Howard Williams (Vice Chair) Sue Fowler, Sarah ? Dee ? Sue Rickhuss, Amand Aallen and Darren Chambers and myself*  
*Apologies from Elsie Whitehouse, Chris Holford, Robin Drew, Graham Rickhuss and ? Green*  
*Apparently Derek Killingworth had said he would stand as Chair again and was voted in.*  
*Howard William said he would stand as Vice Chair*  
*16<sup>th</sup> March minutes were approved although some of the attendees had not attended that particular meeting.*  
Reps to Executive Committee  
*No-one really knew how many nominations there should be and it was decided that Howard, Derek and Robin should be nominated!*  
Standards and Ethics Committee  
*Again very little was known about this committee except that it met infrequently unless there were issues with Councillors. Sarah? Nominated herself, Derek was nominated and Sue Rickhauss did volunteer but I have to say it was because no-one else volunteered.*  
Clerk duties Area meetings/Joint Parish Forums  
*This duty has been shared by three clerks Angela, Yvonne and another, they pass it round. However as Angela will be retiring in March next year she will be standing down. It was decided that Chris Wayman should "put out feelers"*  
*There was no **Chairmans report** as he could not join the meeting.*  
*Chris Wayman did not provide report either. However, Howard talked about all new Councillors should have training, and it would be an idea for them to contact Chris Wayman or look at the bulletin. Apparently Helen Hawkes and Richard Jennings are coming out into the Parishes to give an insight on planning. A short discussion took place on our input as we are to be impartial but we should know the rulings as sometimes we do not understand why our thoughts are not taken into consideration. It was decided that to know what the content of the talk would be i.e. the agenda, so that it could be decided if it was appropriate to whoever decided to attend.*  
106 money  
*In the Shuttle today there was an article about how Worcester CC, Wychavon DC and Malvern Hills DC are being taken to task by the NHS for not claiming £1.84 million from the developer Welbeck Land for building 2,200 homes. Apparently to claim this money would impact on the number of affordable homes built. Amand interjected and said that really this is not an area for us as Parish Councillors to interfere, we should understand the ruling but it is for the planners to deal with appropriately. The article in the Shuttle went on to say that to ask for this money would damage years of contract discussions between councils and developers as well as jeopardise agreed funding in other areas. Some members felt that Wyre Forest could fall foul of this HNS approach in the future.*  
Reports from various Committees  
 None  
Discuss Parish/Town Councils planning  
 Already covered above  
Ideas for next meeting  
 None  
 A request will be made to the Police Commissioner who attended last meeting to respond to the questions raised.  
 Next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> September (Joint Parish Forum/Wyre Forest Area CALC meeting) Meeting closed at 19.45pm"  
 A vote of thanks was given to Cllr. Stone for her attendance and comprehensive report.

Cllr. Stone had also attended training sessions, where she had noted that at least two councillors should go on site visits (for safety – not just one on their own); also Councillors should be aware of internet fraud and cyber security – have their own dedicated council email address, and also the clerk should ideally receive social media and cyber awareness training.

### **County and District Council, and Other Correspondence**

#### **a) Complaint re lack of bins – in particular at Eymore.**

Clerk advised that she had received a telephone call complaining about the removal of bins from the Parish. He had contacted the District Council, who had told him just that this had been on instruction from the Parish Council – and nothing more. Clerk advised him of the background of this action – reduction of contract grant

payment from the District Council, how the District Council were the authority who had a Statutory Duty (Section 89 (1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) to keep public areas or areas for which they were responsible free from litter and refuse and refusal of the District to take back on collection from the bins. The man said he had not been told this by the District, and the fact that parishioners would, in effect, be paying twice for the litter removal (once via the parish precept, and also via the District rate), and much of the litter left in the parish did not originate from the parishioners themselves anyway. In effect the District appeared to blaming the parish for non-collection of litter, and lack of provision for doing so. Clerk also advised that the two car parks at Eymore were both in private ownership – ie STWA and Arley Estate.

Cllr. Gammond said that the app “Lovecleanstreets” worked well for reporting litter.

b) **Planning – Training offer from District Council** – Clerk had registered for 7 places. Scheduled for Autumn.

c) **District Council Stakeholder event** : Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 10am until 12pm

No-one was available to attend this event, and Clerk was instructed to advise the District Council that the date and timing of this event was not convenient for councillors who were volunteers, and who had a working life during the week.

d) **District Council Renewal of its current Public Space Protection Orders** for another three years from 1 October 2023. These are:

Dog Control

Restriction on alcohol consumption – Bewdley

Restriction on alcohol consumption – Kidderminster

Restriction on alcohol consumption – Stourport-on-Severn. - No comments were submitted from this Parish.

14. **Road Accident Record -** Accident resulting in knocked over bollards at Low Habberley.

Clerk also advised that there had been a serious accident near to the entrance to Habberley Valley on the B4190

15. **Other Matters**

**Next meeting:** confirmed as **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023.**

**Fire Hydrants** – it was noted that these now seem to have been identified in verges, and repainted yellow.

**Verges** - Cllr. Grainger asked if the Clerk could please ask if the roadside verges would be receiving a 2<sup>nd</sup> cut, and when this may be happening, as growth seemed to be exceptional this year, and roadsides were overgrown again.

**Hartlebury incinerator** – Councillor Grainger advised that he would like to revisit this again. Clerk advised that this would have to be a daytime visit, and the matter was adjourned for further discussion.

The meeting closed at 9.32pm

Chairman :