

# KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at 7.30pm

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

Councillor Mr. B. Phillips  
18 members of the public were present.

### **Police Report:**

No police present due, it was thought, to a major RTA on Bewdley by-pass.

**Chairman** – for public reassurance, the Chair had issued a Public Open Letter concerning the resignations recently received from 3 parish councillors.

### **Public Open Forum –**

- A fly-tipped mattress was reported, and **general littering** was discussed, particularly in Eymore Lane.
- A dangerous situation in respect of the **old Pumping Station at Park Attwood drive**. Planning permission had been granted to convert this into a holiday let, but there was little room for delivering trucks, plant and equipment involved at the site to manoeuvre, and this was causing problems on this narrow lane. Clerk to report this to see if anything could be done, to prevent accidents at the site with traffic using the lane.
- **Village Hall** – many of the assembled public had attended to discuss the current situation in respect of the village hall. Although this was Agenda Item 8, it was decided to carry out this item for discussion in the public Open Forum. A lively and frank discussion took place. An email had been received to understand that the Village Hall was likely to close, although it transpired that it was not in financial difficulties, (as a balance of almost £30,000 could be seen on the Charity Commission website) but rather more organisational and management difficulties in lack of volunteer help. It was noted that the previous year's accounts and names of trustees could be viewed on the Charity Commission website page for the Village Hall Charity. However, it was a lack of help on the committee that seemed to be at the root of the problem, and it was decided that a special meeting was to be called by the Village Hall itself to discuss this at a later date.

1. **Apologies For Absence:** Apologies : Received from C. Cllr. I. Hardiman and Dist. Cllrs. J Byng and P. Harrison
2. **Declarations of Interest/Dispensations:** Interests as previously minuted and declared. In addition Cllr. C. Grainger and Cllr. B. Phillips 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 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were approved and signed.

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

#### **Report from County Councillor Hardiman:**

##### **Northwood Lane Overgrowth affecting Driving:**

*Several residents have reported their discontent with the frequent scratching of their vehicles by several areas of vegetation overgrowth. County Highways officers have assured me they are attending to this issue. (Wing mirrors damaged). On bend – SVR On Bend 9in Northwood from bridge right down. Happy to do this, but who will pay.*

##### **Habberley Road Dip in Highway causing Surface Pooling:**

*There is a dip in the highway as reported, opposite the entrance to The Valley. During rainfall this becomes a pool across the road; County Highways are attending to this I have been assured.*

##### **Hollies Lane/A442 Culvert Maintenance:**

*I have supported the Parish Council's request for a maintenance schedule to be introduced to keep this culvert under the A442 cleared to ensure transfer of rainwater from Hollies Lane to the brook opposite. (Agreed 3 years ago)*

##### **Low Habberley Drainage System:**

*County Highways have completed the necessary connection repair works which should ensure adequate transfer of drainage water beneath the highway below Fountain Court.*

### 5. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

#### **a) New Planning applications:**

**23/0538/SCR Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion at Trimpley Reservoir, Eymore Green, Trimpley, Bewdley,**

**Comment:** *No objections*

#### **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** (Clerk advised that it was likely that this application would receive permission, in light of the decision made on the appeal below).

**23/0456 Retention of Existing Dog Breeding Building at Northwood Farm, Northwood Lane, Bewdley - Permission Refused.** (It was understood that enforcement action was now to follow).

**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 Trimpey Bewdley – 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) – **Appeal upheld – Permission Granted**. Clerk reported that she had only found out about the appeal decision, following sight of a dropped kerb being installed, and reporting this to the Enforcement Officer. She was informed that the appeal had been granted, but had received no notification of this from either Wyre Forest District, nor the Planning Inspectorate. Following complaining to the Planning Dept at Wyre Forest, the Clerk was sent a copy of the Appeal decision, and was told that they did not now send these out to parishes.

**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 – **Appeal upheld – Permission Granted**. Again, the Clerk only found out about this via Social Media reports, and no copy of the Appeal decision had been sent to her, despite comments being submitted to both the Planning Dept. at Wyre Forest DC and the Planning Inspectorate.

In light of the above, the Clerk had complained about this **failure in communication to the Parish from Wyre Forest District**, and asked why this change of policy had come about, and for a copy of the minutes when this was decided, since Appeal decisions had always previously been communicated to Parishes.

**Mary Moors** – it was questioned whether contact should be made with the RSPCA, if welfare of the horses on site was of concern.

**d) Habberley Trail update** – (Signs on vergeside) The illegal signs were still in place, although it was understood to be thought a minor problem by County Highways.

6. **Casual Vacancies**

Clerk reported that in addition to the casual vacancy in respect of Mrs. Gammond, who had retired in May and which was still to be filled by co-option – she had received resignations from 3 further Parish Councillors, Mr. Chris Jordan, Mr. James Gammond, and Mrs. Sue Stone. These had been reported to the Electoral Officer, and Returning Officer, who had issued notices about the vacancies created, and giving the electorate the opportunity to call an election. Details of the vacancies, and the requisition form to complete by 10 electors if an election was required had been posted on the website and on noticeboards. If electors wish, an election can be called to fill these latter 3 vacancies provided a requisition form is lodged with the Electoral Officer by 5<sup>th</sup> September. If no election is called, then the parish would then proceed to fill the vacancies by co-option.

The vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. C. Gammond was still to be filled by co-option, and the Clerk had received just one application form for this, which had been shared with parish councillors. ( Mrs Rebecca Norton) Councillor had all read the application form, and decided unanimously to co-opt Mrs. Norton to the vacancy. Clerk would make the necessary arrangements to get the acceptance documentation signed, and to provide induction documents by direct contact with Mrs. Norton.

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

**Highway Matters**

- **Broken Manhole, below Low Habberley:** - loose brickwork – sound. Take off the agenda.
- **Dead Tree – Hoarstone Lane** – still there.
- **Dog Waste Bin – Habberley Valley** – It was noted that the District Council were unwilling to provide a dog waste bin near to the Low Habberley cutting entrance into the Valley stating that they felt sufficient bins were provided elsewhere in Habberley Valley for the use of dog walkers.
- **Broken Bollards – Verge, Low Habberley** – Not yet repaired.

8. **Trimpey Village Hall** – (discussed at the start of the meeting to allow the public to take part in public forum).

9. **Items Placed on Roadside Verge**

Adjourned to next meeting. Discussion then, perhaps, to be made with County Highways, and Clerk to make an article in respect of this in the next newsletter.

10. **Recognition of long service by Parish Councillors.** No final decision was made in respect of this, as it was subjective as to the length of service. Also, calculation of this would mean considerable research into archives.

11. **Lengthsman and Footpath Clearance Matters**

a) **Lengthsman** – Lengthsman worksheet / invoice for July had been circulated. This was approved. Chris Bunn was doing a great job.

b) **Rights of Way Contract** - Clerk had shared information contained in emails between the ROW Warden and the Countryside Service.

c) **New Billing System re Lengthsman** – Clerk advised that she had been made aware of a more automated billing system for Lengthsman payments and reimbursements, and that she would be called for training in this in due course, ready for implementation next year.

12. **Financial Reports** –

a) **Ratification of payments to be made** – a) **Payments:** Lengthsman Invoice 4 (July) - £204.75; Worcs Calc Invoices for 2 x Training Courses attended by Cllr. S. Stone – 2 x £36; E. Whitehouse – Clerk's Expenses - £90.90; WFDC – Election

costs - £226.09

**b) Arley School Grant Request for Funding towards Trail Cam** - (Cllrs. Grainger and Phillips expressed an interest, and could take no part in the discussion). Cllr. Holford therefore had to advise that the agenda item would have to be postponed, since the Council was now inquorate for a discussion on this matter to take place.  
c) **Audit** – Clerk advised that the Audit for 2022/23 was now complete.

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

Clerk to arrange training for new councillors.

Next CALC Meeting – Joint District/Parish Forum – 11<sup>th</sup> September (by Zoom)

**Neighbourhood Development Planning Training** – no decision was made to take part in this at this time.

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

**Community Safety Plan** – Clerk advised that there seemed to be a move to resurrect planning which had been undertaken in the past, but which was now out of date. Clerk advised that she would send a copy of the previous plan to the Chair, for his information.

Councillor Grainger reported that local lad Alfie Ralls had continued **with litter picking in the Crundalls Lane area**, and this had enabled him to achieve his Duke of Edinburgh award. The area had certainly benefitted from his efforts, and it was hoped that this may inspire other local people. It was agreed to do an item in the October newsletter.

Councillor Grainger also reported on the **Church Calendar 2024** which was soon to go to the printers but required just one more sponsor. This had been a really good project and fundraiser for the church last year, and had brought the local community together with the photo competition for the various months.

14. **Road Accident Record** - None to record.

15. **Other Matters**

**Next meeting:** confirmed as **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

The meeting closed at 9.43pm

Chairman :