

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Monday 18th February 2019 at 7.30pm at Trimpley Village Hall

Present Councillor B. Phillips
Councillor C. Jordan
Councillor Mrs. L. Green
Councillor Mr. J. Gammond
Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)

Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond
Councillor Mr. C. Grainger
Councillor Mr. G. Yarranton
No members of the public present

1. **Police Report**

The police were unable to attend, but had sent an e-mail that there were no notable incidents to report during the past month.

Public Open Forum

No public present.

2. **Apologies For Absence:** Apologies received from Dist.Cllr. P. Harrison

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. Mrs. Gammond and Cllr. J. Gammond declared interests, being members of the Village Hall committee. Cllr. Phillips declared a pecuniary interest in respect of the Churchyard grant. Cllr. Grainger declared an interest in any item concerning Riddings Brook, and also a personal pecuniary interest in planning application 19/0086.

4. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st January 2019 were approved and signed.

5. **District and County Councillor Reports - inc. progress reports on other matters**

Items reported for attention by District & County Councillor and other matters arising.

District Cllr. Becky Vale) No report submitted.

District Cllr. Paul Harrison) No report submitted.

County Cllr. Hardiman) No report submitted – but Clerk read out an e-mail she had received, concerning funding for the Parish.

6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) **Previous planning applications** – none to report on.

b) **New Planning applications:**

19/0086 GREY GREEN BUNGALOW CRUNDALLS LANE BEWDLEY DY121NA

Alterations and extensions to existing bungalow to create first floor accommodation including new roof with increased pitch, new dormers and roof lights

Comment: *No objections and recommend approval.*

c) **Compliance Issues /Appeals.**

Easter Cottage – No date yet advised for the appeal against the enforcement notice

d) **Local Area Plan Review - Land at Low Habberley** – Cllr. Grainger advised that he had spoken with the tenant of the land, who knew little about the developments on this field. However, the land owner was not very communicative with tenants.

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

- **CCTV** - It was still generally felt that cameras should be put up and monitored by the District Council in our parish. However, it was agreed to look into the purchase of suitable CCTV cameras for erection in some areas of the parish which were private land, and to ask Cllr. Hardiman for a contribution to help pay for this – suggest £500 towards the cost of two cameras. Clerk would obtain quotes for suitable cameras, and also ask for an agenda item on the Parish Forum meeting on 21st March to discuss the deployment of CCTV by Parish Councils.
- **Defibrillator** – permission had been given to put the defibrillator up at Reservoir. Training on the use of these had been arranged at Trimpley Village Hall for Thursday 4th April 7.30 Names to Cllr. Carole Gammond. (16 people max.)
- **Mount Pool – Sump – and Black pools.** It was discovered that the connecting pipe between the Black Pools was blocked with roots, and this had now been cleared. The sump at Mount Pool had been dug out by Messrs. Norgrove, and an invoice was awaited. Councillor Grainger agreed with assistance from other Parish Councillors and local people to extract and remove the flytipped rubbish – some of which was broken glass. A discussion took place on the best way to prevent vehicular access onto the common – particularly by the black pools.
- **Benches and Noticeboards restoration work** - Cllr. Grainger advised that he could source Osmo treatment fluid @ £60 for 2.5 Litres (base coat) and £43 2.5 Litres finish coat. It was agreed that the Lengthsman should be asked to scrub benches and noticeboards clean, and apply this when the weather was suitable in early summer. At the same time, it was agreed that the circular seat by Mount Pool should be wire brushed, and given a coat of

black Hammerite paint. Clerk was asked to enquire of County Cllr. Hardiman if he could give a grant of £200 towards this work.

8. Lengthsman, Footpath work & Litter collection – :

Worksheet submitted and approved. Clerk had chased outstanding invoices to the County Council, and these should be reimbursed before the end of February. Clerk had also checked with the County Council about the Lengthsman's budget for next year, and it was hoped that this would be the same as the current year – but was awaiting official ratification of this. However, Clerk had heard from CALC that the supply of equipment to the lengthsman (cones etc.) may be curtailed, (although this was not yet confirmed) and she had checked with the lengthsman to ensure that they still had the relevant equipment for the job – to be able to operate safely. Clerk confirmed that there was £279 remaining in the annual Lengthsman's budget to be spent by 31st March.

It was mentioned that some local roadsigns needed cleaning.

9. Financial Reports –

a) Payments –

Chq No. 1015 – HMRC – Clerk's PAYE - £67.60

Chq No. 1016 – Lengthsman - £396

Chq No. 1017 – Clerk's expenses - £107.02

b) Internal Audit

Clerk checked with Parish Councillors who confirmed they were happy to continue with the current internal auditor – Mr. T. Stanley – and the clerk stated, in accordance with their wishes, that she would send a letter of appointment for the forthcoming year.

10. County and District and other Correspondence -

District Council Volunteer and Skills Fairs – these were scheduled to take place again on Thursday 16th May in Kidderminster and 17th October in Stourport. Any local organisation wishing to stage a stall should apply to WFDC online before Friday 15th March. Clerk agreed to supply a link to the application to any councillor wishing to have further information.

Garden Waste Service offer – the service would be provided with a fortnightly collection at a cost of £48.50 per annum, and up to today there was a special offer of the waiving of a £20 joining fee.

County Council - Council Tax for next year to rise at almost 4% - Clerk advised that this was mainly to cover the cost of social care, but would also mean cuts to the county archive and archaeology service, as well as local libraries. Investment was mainly to be spent at railway stations as well as bridges in Worcester city, improving town centres, and tackling congestion.

District Council/Parish Forum – will be held on Thursday 21st March. Agenda items to Karen Walsh by 12 noon on Monday 4th March. Clerk to ask for an agenda item for CALC and the District Council Solicitors to advise on the use of and legalities of CCTV deployment by parishes.

District Council Chair's Charity Dinner – on Friday 29th March at 6.30p.m. at Rowberry's Nursery. Posh pies and puds. £25 – Black Country Entertainment. RSVP by 15.3.19 in aid of Kidderminster Hospital League of Friends

11. CALC Matters – Details given of:

Retirement of Richard Levett and Jenny Maturi

Clerk gave details of retirement arrangements, and a "drop-in" day to say farewell at Worcs CALC offices on Thursday March 28th 11.00 – 3.00pm. It was agreed that the Clerk should send cards to wish them both well on their retirement.

CALC has appointed Christopher Wayman as Richard's replacement (former Town Clerk at Didcot and before that at Buckingham Town Council).

Great British Spring Clean This had been announced in Westminster that the initiative would take place nationwide between 22nd March – 23rd April 2019, for local councils and bodies to carry out volunteer litter picks. It was agreed that the Parish Council would organise a local litter pick for 2 hours on the morning of 23rd March. Clerk to compose suitable posters.

Election Information A further information meeting would be taking place on 22nd March at 10a.m. for candidates, agents and officers to pick up forms and gather information.

Clerk had checked with the returning officer, and had been advised that an electronic version of the election pack, along with relevant forms, would be supplied to each Parish/Town Clerk to share with current councillors, and prospective councillors. Other than that, hard copies of the pack could be collected in person on 22nd March, or at other times from Finepoint Way. It should be noted by Councillors that the Clerk could not submit completed forms on behalf of prospective councillors, and that completed forms should be delivered by hand to Finepoint Way by the official deadline. Clerk will be asked to post notices about the elections on noticeboards and the website. It should be noted that there would only be 9 working days between 22nd

March and 4p.m. on 3rd April which would be the deadline for submission of nomination forms by hand to the Returning Officer.

12. **Road Accidents**

None to report

13. **Other Matters**

VA Sign – it was reported that the VA sign was not working, despite new batteries. Clerk was instructed to look at the cost of replacement of the sign (which was believed to be at least 14 years old) with either a solar or wind powered one. The old sign was also very labour intensive with changing of batteries on a frequent basis. Clerk would attempt to find suitable funding, and also ask CC Hardiman if he could assist with this.

Hedgecutting in the parish – Cllr. Chris Grainger offered to undertake some hedgecutting and clearance – particularly around the pools or marsh area. The Council thanked him for this offer, and the Chairman advised he would help direct where this may be needed.

14. **Date of Next Meeting** – confirmed as 18th March 2019 at 7.30p.m

Apologies in advance received from Cllrs. Louise Green and Chris Jordan

Clerk advised that the 15th April would be the Annual Parish Assembly, and asked if councillors had any preferences or ideas for a speaker or agenda items.

Meeting closed at 9.35p.m.

Chairman :