

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 17th February 2020 at 7.30pm at Trimpley Village Hall

Present Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond
Councillor Mr. C. Grainger
Councillor Mrs. L. Green
Councillor Mr. C Jordan
Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)

Councillor Mr. J. Gammond
Councillor Mr. B. Phillips
Councillor Mr. G. Yarranton
District Cllr. P Harrison
District Cllr. J. Byng
4 members of the public present

1. **Police Report** – None – police not present.
Public Open Forum
Low Habberley Trail – It was reported that more construction works were going on, but it was not sure if these were for fixed structures or not. The enforcement officer was due to inspect in March, for compliance to enforcement. Also a website was now open - www.habberleytrail.co.uk. The untidy mess near Easthams, although made worse due to windy weather, was from when the Golf Club erected fencing to keep balls going out of the site.

2. **Apologies For Absence:** None – All present.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Mrs. C. Gammond and Cllr. J. Gammond declared interests, being members of the Village Hall committee. Cllr. Grainger declared an interest in any item concerning Riddings Brook, and if bus stop providers were to be discussed. Cllr Mr. C. Jordan declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 19/0754, as did Cllr. Mrs L Green in planning application 20/0024 – as they were both respective neighbours of the applications in question. However, these matters would be given just a progress report by Clerk. Clerk gave out **advisory information on Declarations of Interest**, and Dispensation forms.
4. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th January 2020 were approved and signed, with minor alterations.
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. John Byng/District Cllr. Paul Harrison – *advised that the Local Plan was due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in the summer for approval scheduled in autumn. It was also noted that the Council Tax District Rate was to be set this week – expected to be 2%*
County Councillor Ian Hardiman: -
Wyre Forest Issues
The public realm work for Kidderminster Town Centre is now completed and is open to traffic and there is a much better feel to this area of the town. Work on Kidderminster Train Station continues, with changes to the forecourt taking place. The station has recently been demolished.
WCC highways have now started work on the Churchfields site with the creation of the spur road off the island which will take traffic out of town.
Strategic Issues – County Wide
The Cabinet's budget strategy has now been approved by Full Council on 13th February, 2020 and they are increasing Council tax by 1.99% and having an adult social care levy of 2%. Our income, is however, not growing fast enough with our expenditure, given the pressures on our demand led services and the ever increasing complexity of need in children's and adult's social care, together with inflation and the national living wage increases.
Therefore the County Council will set a net revenue budget for 2020/2021 of £344.9 million. This figure is £346.1 when you add on the use of £1.2 million of reserves. The breakdown is £100 million for Children's Social Care, £57.77 million for Environment and Infrastructure, £140.3 million for Adult's Social Care, £16.8 million for COACH directorate, £0.45 million for the Chief Executive's Unit, £1.75 million for Public Health and £28.9 million for corporate items ie debt and pensions. This means that we are spending 69% of our net revenue budget on children's and adult's social care.
6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**
 - a) **New Planning applications: -**
20/0080- ERECTION OF A REPLACEMENT DWELLING AND GARAGE FOLLOWING THE DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING DWELLING AND OUTBUILDINGS AT HIGHLANDS, TRIMPLEY LANE, SHATTERFORD, BEWDLEY DY12 1RF
Comment: No objections and recommend approval.
 - b) **Update on Previous applications**
19/0754 - Retrospective change of use of former swimming pool to workshop (B1c) at THE GUILDINGS, EYMORE WOOD LANE, TRIMPLEY, BEWDLEY, DY12 1PG
Decision awaited
19/0813/FULL Single storey front extension, roof extension and glazed Balustrade BERNLEA ROAD MEADOW NORTHWOOD LANE BEWDLEY DY12 1AT
Decision awaited
20/0024 19 HABBERLEY LANE LOW HABBERLEY KIDDERMINSTER Installation of dropped kerb and driveway to front - Decision awaited

c) Compliance Issues/Appeals

Easter Cottage – The appeal upheld the Enforcement Notice issued. Clerk understood that the applicant's agent is putting forward a proposal (within next 4 weeks or so) in respect of the Enforcement Notice (about some possible demolition plans) when we will be consulted.

d) Other Planning Matters

Park Attwood Clinic – Clerk advised that she had been erroneously contacted for comment on an application to confirm compliance with various conditions in connection with the Planning Permission for this site. The Planning Officer confirmed that there was no need for comment from the Parish.

19/000053/CM – Proposed Quarry at Lea Castle Farm – as a neighbouring parish, an invitation to comment on this application had been sent from Worcestershire County Council. It was decided not to submit any comment.

Crown House site, Kidderminster – Creation of 34 car parking spaces – an opportunity to comment on this had been received. It was decided to submit no comment, and it was thought that this was only a temporary solution to this site, until more permanent plans had been decided.

7. Progress Reports and other Outstanding Items

- **CCTV** – Cllr. Jordan was waiting for suitable weather to put up CCTV and a notification/advisory sign. Clerk would remind the District Council of their campaign to inform householders that they were ultimately responsible for legal disposal of rubbish, as there had been no noticeable publicity to date.

- **VA Signs** – Poles were now up, Cllr. Green's husband and Cllr. B. Phillips will put them up the actual signs as soon as more clement weather arrived. It would be a two-man job, and also require the trimming back of branches, to allow light to the solar powering units.

- **Highway Matters -**

Drainage matters –

Gullies down **Hoarstone Lane** had not been taking the water. They had been reported for attention. The small collection area below the rock cutting was also silted up and needed digging out.

Hollies Lane – the two sumps had recently been cleaned out, and spoils spread by the Lodge at Honeybrook. It was reported that the Honey brook had come over the A442 in recent floods, (Sunday 16th) but nearer to the kennels.

- **Riddings Brook** – the flood defences created had taken the flood water well, and prevented local residential flooding.

- **Salt Bin at Crundalls Court** – had not been replenished. However, Clerk had had notification that it had now been included on the County's schedule.

- **Habberley Valley** – A recent open public meeting had been held in the Valley, which Cllr. Mrs. Green had attended. A presentation was given, along with a walk, explaining the various works being undertaken in the valley to protect the wildlife. Cllr. Green had enquired if the presentation could be given to the Parish Council, and this had been arranged for the Annual Parish Assembly in April.

8. Bus shelters – (at this point, Cllr. C Grainger left the room). Clerk had prices from 4 suppliers.

ACE shelters - industrial looking single-sided metal and Perspex, - £2600 + VAT

Littlethorpe, Leicester – Newstead – Wooden with pitched roof - £5980 + VAT

Glasdon – again industrial looking - £1022.47 + VAT (Clearance price)(Roof and pole, no sides)

Shelterstore – Anti Vandal, metal and Perspex - £1400 or £1600 + VAT (Clearance prices)

And one from Severn Structures of Ex VAT £2,798 (oak) or Douglas fir frame £2707 Ex VAT (installed).

Cllr. Jordan stated that he felt that he could obtain a further quote for a similar structure, and a decision on purchase was delayed until this was to hand.

Furthermore, the Clerk had submitted a grant request (max £500) for assistance with the financing of this from the Localism grant at Wyre Forest. No decision on this was received as yet. (Cllr. C Grainger returned to the room).

9. Great British Spring Clean – This national initiative was noted, and a discussion ensued. It was decided to hold another volunteer litter pick in the parish on 18th April. Clerk to draw up posters, and Cllr. Jordan offered to print off some flyers. Clerk would also contact the Refuse Dept at Wyre Forest to enquire about purchase of sacks, and also the hire of hand-held litter pickers.

10. Accessibility Statement – Clerk raised the question of the website meeting standards required by Accessibility compliance with legislation coming into being in September 2020. The Clerk

had received an offer from the current website hosts to write a suitable statement, and check the website to ensure that it complies for £45. She had contacted CALC who thought that this was a good price for the work needed. Cllr. Jordan advised that he would research the requirements of the new legislation. Cllr. J Gammond asked the Clerk to go back to CALC, and find out more about this legislation, it would be a universal requirement to comply.

11. **Lengthsman, Footpath work & Litter collection & Footpath Clearance.**

Worksheet tabled for Lengthsman Work to the value of £330.

In addition, Clerk and the Chair had calculated that there was still an amount owing to Archers for Footpath clearance to the value of £242.50 for Footpath Clearance. £52.50 of this was above the P3 grant reimbursed, and Clerk would arrange for this to be taken from the Footpath Bank Account.

12. **Financial Reports –**

a) **Payments –**

Chq 1061 - HMRC – Clerk's PAYE - £69.60

Chq 1062 – S Archer – Lengthsman's Work - £330

Chq 1063 – E. Whitehouse – Clerk's expenses £81.82

Chq 1064 – S. Archer – Footpath Work - £242.50

13. **Worcestershire CALC Reports and Notices**

Diary - Worcestershire County Council Spring Parish Conference – 18th March 2020 at 6.30p.m. with the usual Market Place stalls from 5.30p.m.

Training – Clerk had circulated various courses being run by CALC.

CALC Area meeting: Thursday 19th March – agenda and minutes will be issued in due course.

14. **County and District and other Correspondence -**

Diary – Volunteer and Skills Fair – Kidderminster Town Hall – 26th March 10a.m. – 2p.m.

Diary – Flag Flying Ceremony – 22nd June 10a.m. outside Bewdley Museum

Worcester Pollinator Strategy Consultation – Consultation responses/comments to be submitted by 31st March 2020. Cllr. Grainger stated that he felt that Churchyards could be better managed with the planting of wild flowers. Cllr. Phillips advised that he had tried to encourage wild flowers by selective grass cutting.

Severn Trent Community Fund – Clerk had done some work on the cost of work required at the Black Pools regarding digging, and clearance, which could be used in a bid for this grant aid. It was also suggested that work needed to be done on the link/pipe under the gate access to the adjacent field, and also include items such as bird boxes, seating, etc. Clerk to do further work on this, and take photos.

Holy Trinity Church – A statement had been shared showing that the church felt that development and growth for the building appeared to be sustainable from indications received, but income had to increase considerably if plans were to be achieved. They hoped to raise the necessary funds by the parish giving scheme.

15. **Road Accidents** – None.

16. **Other Matters**

Parking by Low Habberley Farm

Cllr. Mrs. Green stated that the wide green verge by the entrance to Low Habberley Farm is extremely muddy and an eyesore again, having been parked on by several cars each day whilst visitors walk their dogs down towards Easthams Farm. It was difficult to know what would be acceptable to the County Highways to prevent this, but if a site meeting could be arranged, this could be discussed again. Clerk to try to arrange for a site visit by Paul Green.

17. **Date of Next Meeting** – confirmed as **16th March at 7.30p.m**

Apologies in advance received from Cllr. Mrs Louise Green and Cllr. Chris Jordan.

Meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

As the meeting closed, Cllr. Yarranton gave the Clerk a letter of resignation from his office as Parish Councillor. Clerk would commence Casual Vacancy procedures.

Chairman :