

Stoke Bliss, Kyre and Bockleton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd March, 2015

At Stoke Bliss and Kyre Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Andrew Yarnold (Chairman), Burgess Adams, Peter Basford, Michael Bowdler, Dave Clarke, Brian Farmer, Jessica Middleton, Terry Powell, Charlie Rodgers, Chris Rodgers and Jayne Williams

In attendance: County Cllr Ken Pollock, District Cllr Phil Grove and Louise Gibbs (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence:** from Cllr Oliver Turner (work commitments). Cllr Adam Berry was absent without apology.

2. **Declarations of Interest:** there were none

3. **Reports from County and District Councillors:**

District Councillor's report: Sallings Farm planning application (four broiler units) – a legal challenge has been made regarding the environmental impact of the proposed site. The application is not likely to be re-heard at a Planning meeting until the first week in June.

Tenbury swimming pool was under threat but with a Sport and Leisure Strategy grant (match funded by MHDC), its future is guaranteed.

The 'shared' MHDC CEO with Wychavon District Council is in post. There will be another staff re-structure in May, resulting in more savings in order to safeguard frontline services.

The revised redundancy package will now be for 56 weeks rather than 90 weeks and a maximum financial package of £40k (for new contracts).

The Green Deal scheme (including wall insulation) has been extended.

With respect to the General Election in May, Cllr Grove (also on behalf of Cllr Tony Penn) thanked Parish Councillors for their service over the past 4 years. Both have been selected to sit again.

2015 budget: there will be 0% increase in District Council tax this coming year

County Cllr Ken Pollock's report is appended, and other discussion points included: Regarding the recent road closure on Bockleton Lane, the contractors Balfour Beatty failed to give the appropriate notice to residents – Cllr Pollock said that this was not acceptable.

There will be a road closure on the Bromyard road by The Fulhams, between 20 April and 4 May for Severn Trent Water to put a culvert under the road.

Foster carers are being sought for the 700 children in care in Worcestershire. See www.isfostering4me.co.uk

Public Realm work: some discussion took place about the disruption in Tenbury town centre whilst the work is carried out. Illuminated road signs appear to indicate, at first glance, that Tenbury is to be avoided and could have been worded better e.g. 'Tenbury is open' or similar. Although the 7.5t limit is from 'Crow corner' to

Bowkett's, it isn't necessarily being adhered to. Cllr Basford commented on the cost of the project but Cllr Pollock wasn't able to give figures (County Council policy). The steering group for the project wanted natural materials to be used, hence the 'high' cost. The project is part of the £25million county council contract with Ringway. Other roads: Bannals Lane in Stoke Bliss has had some work done, but it is still not particularly good. A suggestion was made that the Parish Council commissions the work to be done, and then invoices the County Council but Cllr Pollock said that Worcs CC would still be responsible and that there is a potential for litigation. Bockleton Lane and Kyre Bank have been jet patched which is not regarded as a long-term solution. Stoke Hill is scheduled to be re-surfaced this summer. Tesco project: it is going ahead, but not in the 2015-16 financial year. The old Fire Station is due to be demolished this coming week. Cllrs commented that the new roundabout by Tenbury hospital is 'lethal'. It is badly signed and is doing little to promote road safety.

4. **Minutes of the last meeting on 1st December, 2014:** were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman accordingly.
5. **Matters arising therefrom:** Item 5: Cllrs Basford and Middleton have liaised regarding the spinner for road grit.
6. **Planning Matters:**
 - a) 14/00815/FUL Sallings Farm, Bockleton, chicken units: Cllr Williams attended the recent planning meeting at which the decision was postponed – see District Cllr's report.
 - b) 14/01715/LBC, Newtown Cottage, Bockleton, repairs to timber frame and infill panels: details of the application had been circulated in January and Councillors had recommended approval.
 - c) 15/00249/HED, Kyre Booster Station, removal of hedgerow: plans had been submitted for the removal of 10m of hedgerow at the Severn Trent Water site. The Clerk would circulate details for Councillors when they are live on the MHDC website.

General discussion took place about Councillors attending Planning Meetings at MHDC and it was thought that it would be appropriate when applications are particularly contentious. Cllr Bowdler commented that Parish Councillors should have the right to an explanation when a decision by the District planners goes against recommendations by Parish Councillors.

7. **Finances:**
 - a) Bank balances: at the end of January, the current account balance was £324.17
 - b) Payments: since the last meeting, £118 x 2 for Jeremy Moore, £15 for the Village Hall. For consideration: Jeremy Moore, £236, Village Hall £15, Clerk £225, expenses (postage, stationery, printer ink) £37.35
8. **Parish Plan update:** The Clerk had been populating the Parish Council link from the County Council website with Agendas, Minutes and details of Councillors. There is a

facility for other items to be added. The Clerk had some old Parish Council records which could be scanned and uploaded.

9. **Parish Profile:** The Clerk circulated copies of the recently published Parish Profile.

10. **Length of term of office:**

a) discussion took place about the length of term changing from 4 years to 2 years. Cllr Rea made the proposal and Cllr Basford seconded the proposal. All agreed.

b) it was suggested that Councillors consider proposals for Parish Council Officers ready for the Annual Meeting in June.

The Clerk would display notices of the forthcoming elections on parish notice boards and in parish magazines. Nomination packs had not yet been received by the Clerk from the Electoral Office, but they would be circulated when they arrive.

11. **Clerk's Update:** Cllr Williams had reported potholes on Kyre Bank and at Romers Common to the Clerk. Both have since had remedial work completed. A third section of road, which had for some time had water running on to the road between Romers Common and Bockleton Village Hall, had been reported to the County Council but no action had been taken. The Clerk will follow up.

12. **Correspondence:** The Clerk had received information from MHDC regarding the conversion of agricultural buildings to dwellings; notice of a Worcestershire meeting on Gleaning on 14th April at County Hall; a transport needs survey from the County Council; a Plain English Guide to the Planning System; an update on a Legal Topic Note on Elections from CALC; an update on a Legal Topic Note on Parish & Community Council Meetings, including the confirmation that Clerks could now circulate meeting documents by e-mail (something which had been happening nationally for years)

13. **Any Other Business:** Cllr Yarnold mentioned a 50/50 Auction at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall (for Hall funds) at 2pm on 21st March. Items can be brought on the day between 10am and 1pm.

Cllr Williams confirmed that the Lengthsman had been able to move the badly sited sign on Middle Common, Bockleton.

14. **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 1st June, 2015 at 8pm. This will be the Annual Meeting and will follow the elections.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm