# KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

# held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30pm at Trimpley Village Hall

**Present** Councillor Mr. J. Gammond (Chair)

Councillor Mr. G. Yarranton

Councillor Mr. C. Grainger Councillor Mr. B. Phillips

County Councillor I, Hardiman (left after item 5.) Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)

5 Members of the public present

# 1. Police Report

No police present.

# **Public Open Forum**

Questions/Matters raised by public included:

- **a) Re Velo Birmingham** Who is meeting the costs involved? particularly in respect of multiple County Council functions e.g. staff involved, additional grass cutting and road repairs.
- **b)** There used to be a 10m wide **grass verge near to "The Woodlands**" and this is now totally covered by encroaching tree branches. Could this please be investigated? There is also a bush above the entrance to the house which badly needs cutting back.
- c) Hoarstone Lane road surface particularly bad patch just inbetween the rock cutting
- **d) Fly Tipping** still continuing in Hoarstone Lane.
- **e) Blanket TPO Honeybrook** Clerk clarified to interested members of the public that this was not requested by the parish council, but a blanket TPO was put on the valley by the Arboricultural Officer as a matter of procedure and that only 3 trees had been identified (some time ago in a survey of the parish of ancient trees) as warranting TPOs. It was likely that following the blanket order, this will be refined to just the few trees identified. Matters concerning the footpath in this area had now been ratified, and the PPROW had supplied signs in connection with keeping dogs under control.

### 2. Apologies For Absence:

Cllrs. Mrs C Gammond and Mrs. L. Green, Cllr. R. Jennings and Dist. Cllr. B. Vale – apologies noted and accepted.

- 3. <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>: Cllr. J Gammond declared an interest in being members of the Village Hall committee. Cllr. Mr. Grainger declared an interest in any item in connection with Riddings Brook. Cllr. Phillips declared a pecuniary interest in respect of the Churchyard grant. Cllr. Yarranton declaring his role as a District Councillor.
- **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 were approved, following a lengthy discussion between Cllr. Yarranton and County Cllr. Hardiman and signed with an amendment in respect of those present, the apologies recorded and issues raised in reports, which are addressed further in these minutes.
- District and County Councillor Reports inc. progress reports on other matters Items reported for attention by District & County Councillor and other items of matters arising.

**District Cllr. Becky Vale –** had submitted the report below, which was tabled by the Clerk:-

"Ref: the large trees on the service road at the rear of the former council houses in Low Habberley.

I asked Alvan Kingston to investigate this issue. Unfortunately, from an inspection standpoint, there is a lot of basal growth which Alvan said made inspection impossible. However, from what he could see, the trees generally look to be in a reasonable condition, apart from some deadwood in the crowns of the trees. Once we establish who owns the trees, Alvan will write to them reminding them of their duty of care and recommending they have the trees inspected by a suitable Consulting Arboriculturist.

#### Flytipping

If the Parish would like some input into where we put cctv cameras in order to deter fly tippers, I would like to organise a day in October where we can show the relevant Officer the hot spots. I would be grateful if the Parish Council could suggest three possible dates which would suit the council and I will then try to get something fixed up."

In respect of the latter point, the Clerk asked councillors to clarify dates when they could meet with an officer to identify areas where fly tipping had been a problem. Cllr. Yarranton stated that he was amazed that officers did not have details of such sites, due to the number of incidents of flytipping which had been reported, and therefore did not see the necessity of such a meeting.

County Councillor Ian Hardiman submitted a report – the salient details of which were:-

- District Council still have £20,000 unspent in the **Localism budget** available for applications this year.
- The District Council forecast they will have a £2Million funding gap by 2020/21 and they feel that the role of Parish and Town Councils is vital to unlocking savings whilst preserving key services.
- District Local Plan review saw 2000 people responding, and more than 1800 visiting drop-in sessions.
- Highway Matters

**Hoarstone Lane** – Blocked gullies will be jetted, and large areas of the road will be patched, requiring a road closure, and therefore this will require a minimum of 3 months before the work could be done. Following the site meeting, Hannah Davies from WCC Highways stated that she hoped to put a camera down the drains to see if there had been any damage to underground pipework.

**Crundalls Lane** - assessed for re-surfacing due to slippy surface – and warning signage re horses will be checked. Dead Elm trees by the substation were identified, but no schedule set yet for the work to be undertaken.

**Flooding – Fountain Court** – it was clarified that this was not caused by the tank in the field. Hannah Davies would arrange to have the drains jetted.

**Mary Moors Layby** – the reasoning behind the request for closure was now better understood, following the site visit, and would be considered.

Councillor Hardiman stated that due to staffing problems at County Hall, it had been a difficult few months recently due to illness and holidays in the Highways Department, making for slow progress on matters raised.

Councillor Yarranton stated that he understood that there had been a recent remuneration review for County Councillors. Councillor Hardiman stated that although Cabinet Members had received an increase in remuneration, back benchers like himself had not. He also felt that this comment had been personally directed to him, and not made as a general comment, and therefore took exception to this remark. Cllr. Yarranton stated that he did not feel he had made this remark to be taken personally, but as a general fact of information for the parish.

# 6. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:

#### a) Previous planning applications

17/0407 Change of use and extension of an agricultural building to office/commercial use at property/land adjacent Highfield, Crundalls Lane, Bewdley Withdrawn

17/0460/FULL Proposed replacement garage and new access at 36 Habberley Lane, LOW HABBERLEY, KIDDERMINSTER, DY11 5RA

Awaiting Decision

17/0475/CER Certificate of Lawfulness - Use of property for permanent residence for more than 4 years "Sunkist", Hill Farm Awaiting Decision

### b) New Planning Applications

17/0512/CERTP Rear and side extension (Lawful Development Certificate) at WOODSIDE, CRUNDALLS LANE, BEWDLEY, DY12 1ND

**Comment:** "The Parish Council has no evidence to either support or object to the proposed application."

17/0527 Amendments to the previously approved 16/0145/FULL application 'Proposed extensions and alterations' at SEVERN LODGE, NORTHWOOD LANE, BEWDLEY, DY12 1AS.

**Comment**: "No objections and recommend approval"

17/0535 Single storey side and rear extension (Amendments to 15/0506/FULL) at HOWARD HOUSE, 17 HABBERLEY LANE, KIDDERMINSTER, DY11 5JT.

**Comment**: "No objections and recommend approval"

17/0567/S73 07/09/2017 DEL Variation of Condition 1 and removal of Condition 2 of planning permission 17/0320/FULL to allow retention of car park TRIMPLEY GREEN FARM BARNS TRIMPLEY BEWDLEY DY121NR

Comment: "No objections to the proposal and Recommend Approval.

However, in offering this, we would recommend removal of permitted development rights."

## c) Compliance Issues /Appeals.

- i) Easter Cottage
- ii) Crundalls Cottage
- iii) Sandy Lane Barn conversion

Nothing further received on any of these issues.

### 7. Progress Reports / Correspondence, and other Outstanding Items

- a) Trees at the rear of houses, along back road Low Habberley Further to District Cllr. Becky Vale's report, Clerk had given the owner's contact details to Alvan Kingston, and he would write recommending that they have the trees inspected professionally.
  - b) **Highways issues** covered in Cllr. Hardiman's report.
- c) **Fly-tipping and CCTV evidence** Re CCTV Evidence in Upper Birch Lane re Flytipping. i) the evidence submitted by Mr. Bagnall showed a vehicle which was found not to be the vehicle responsible for the flytipping, and lacked sufficient evidence to take it forward; and ii) re the evidence from the resident at The Bumbles the owner of the CCTV would not give evidence or sign a statement confirming where the images were taken from, and therefore, Cllr. Hardiman asked for this to be recorded in the minutes, as he felt the District Council could not be held to account for any apparent inaction in these instances.
- d) Velo Birmingham Event Clerk advised that she had requested signage, not only at Trimpley Lane in Shatterford, but also further afield along the A442 at Bridgnorth and hopefully also on the Wolverhampton road, so that traffic travelling from the North would know that there would be no access to Kidderminster or Bewdley to enable them to cross the Severn. This would, of course, involve authorities other than Worcestershire. She also advised that Jon Fraser would be present on the day, and gave details of a phone number to call in the event of difficulties.
  - e) **BT cover at Mary Moors** now repaired. Minute closed.

# 8. Lengthsman, Footpath work & Litter collection – :

- a) Worksheets None tabled
- b) <u>VA Sign</u> would be positioned across the common for forthcoming Velo event.
- c) Lengthsman Visible ID methods

Clerk tabled the 3 personalised HiViz Jackets – to be provided to the lengthsman.

**d)** Funding – with no guarantee of extra funding from County Cllr. Hardiman, parish Cllrs. were fearful that our contracted lengthsman may prioritise other, more lucrative contracts which they had over and above the work for the parish, and therefore not give it the immediate attention which it sometimes requires, and at worst, may decide that the lengthsman contract is not worth their while continuing. A discussion took place as to whether the parish could afford to offer some extra subsidy itself from the precept. Also, it was decided to make the lack of funding known to parishioners in the newsletter, and therefore a possible deterioration in the amount of care that could be afforded to local highways.

### 9. Financial Reports

#### a) Payments

## **Cheques signed:**

Trimpley Village Hall – Hire of Room (April – Sept 17) - £65 Definitive Furniture – Repairs to Noticeboards - £150 Clerk's PAYE - £0.40p

### b) Localism possibilities

Clerk reminded councillors that the District Council had £20,000 of funding remaining in the localism budget, which they could bid for, for an appropriate project.

c) Pension Staging – Clerk advised that she had met with requirements concerning the Pension Staging Deadline for the Council, advising the authorities that she did not wish to have a pension. Her reasoning behind this was, that for very little worth, she would be required to do extra work, and it would cost the parish further money in providing pension funds.

# 10. Worcestershire CALC

**Autumn Training Programme –** Clerk tabled details, and received approval from councillors should she decide to attend any training updates.

# 11. County and District and other Correspondence

- a) County De-registration of part of Trimpley Green Common Clerk tabled a copy of the report and recommendation from the County Council in respect of this, with a recommendation to refuse the application. Comment was made that the Parish Council were only a very small part of the consultation, and that the comment and representation made was unanimously made by this Parish Council and was based on facts that had been obtained by historical data, and not on local hearsay, although comment was made that some people may have expressed opinion that had been swayed by an anonymous letter which had been circulating locally. As Councillors had not taken this into account when formulating their comment, it was unanimously decided not to alter the comment already made, in opposing the application, despite the applicant (who was present) explaining the rationale behind why she was submitting the application.
- b) **District** Clerk tabled details of the Showcase of Services for Older People taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> September
- c) Worcs. CALC AGM Clerk advised that this would take place at County Hall on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November trade fair commencing at 5p.m. (with refreshments and cake available) and AGM at 6.30p.m. Places need to be booked by emailing caroline@worcscalc.org.uk. Clerk advised she would be unable to attend.
- 12. Road Accidents

Crundalls Lane – a van trying to steal some metal was crashed and abandoned.

**Date of Next Meeting** – confirmed as 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30p.m. Meeting closed at 9.50p.m.

Chairman :			