Clerk: Mrs Jo Adams Address: 43A High Street, Pershore, WR10 1EU

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held at Lower Moor Village Hall

Thursday 7th April 2022 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs T. Betteridge (Chairman), P. Jeanes, Mrs A. Jeanes and Mrs P. Stone and D. Nuttall

Also present: J. Adams, Clerk; County Cllr D. Boatright; District Cllr L. Tucker; 4 members of the public

1. Apologies: Apologies had been received from Cllr Saunders.

2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time

Notes can be found at the end of these minutes.

- **3.** To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 3rd March 2022: It was agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 3rd March 2022 were a true and accurate record.
- **4. District Councillors report:** Cllr Tucker reported that the latest information on the SWDPR would be published on the 19th May in time for Worcester City Council's meeting. Wychavon would discuss the SWDPR on the 18th June. The SWDPR was based on 19 policy documents only some of which were currently in the public arena. She suggested that the parishes should meet to start working on the response to the document. She would contact the neighbouring parishes.

The recently arrived policeman at Evesham had now been moved to another area and a PSCO was in post.

Cllr Tucker reported that she had spoken to the head of drainage at Wychavon who had said it would be permissible for the Parish Council to spend the £10,000 flood grant on any aspect of flood prevention, rather than being restricted to using it to pay for a flood survey. If the council wished to put the funds towards replacement of part of the restricted diameter pipe off Manor Road then the District Council would have no objection.

5. County Councillors report: Cllr Boatright reported that it had been ascertained that the Parish Council owned the streetlights in the parish. At some point in the past the County Council owned all of the streetlights and these were then handed to the parishes in which they were located. Some parishes had removed the streetlighting rather than take on the costs. Sixteen parishes still had their streetlights maintained by the County Council. He confirmed that the Parish Council could employ their own contractor to fix streetlights as long as they held the relevant qualifications.

The District and County Councils were working in partnership to provide support for Ukraine. Information was available on both of their websites. The County Council would be providing the safeguarding element. Ukrainian and Russian speakers based in the UK were being sought.

In other matters:

- A CCTV survey of the smelly ditch would be done at some stage.
- Works on the new A44 bridge were going well.

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- The County Council had been unsuccessful in its bid for funding for improvements to bus services in Worcestershire. Both Diamond and First Buses had said that when covid funding came to an end, services would be cut.
- The reorganisation of schools in Pershore and the surrounding areas from 3-tier to 2-tier had stalled. This was because an additional 259 places were needed at Pershore High School to accommodate Year 7 students. This would require seven new classrooms to be created and there didn't appear to be anyone who would be prepared to pay for this. The matter was further complicated in that some of the First Schools had already started the process towards becoming Primary Schools, with the assumption that the reorganisation would happen.
- **6. Parish Councillors reports:** Cllr P. Jeanes reported that the County Council had replaced the stolen metal drain covers with heavy duty plastic ones to prevent further thefts.

7. Progress reports

- a) Review of actions from previous meeting: The action points were reviewed.
- b) Playing Field and mowing: The new bird box was up. The grass on the playing field had been cut.
- c) Play area: The next inspection would take place in May.
- d) Floods / Drainage: The barriers around the culvert at Boggs Lane had not yet been done.
- e) Footpaths: Nothing to report.
- f) Village Hall and Events Group (VHEG): The Village Hall had been redecorated. Following Public Questions, the committee would make sure the hearing loop was operational. It was agreed that the WI donation held by the council on behalf of the Village Hall would be spent on new wall lights.
- g) Landfill Site: the meeting had taken place. A visit to see the Hartlebury incinerator was being planned. This will take place on a Friday in May.
- h) Lengthsman: Cllr Betteridge and Jeanes had drawn up a schedule for 2022/23. More funding had been made available.
- i) Newsletter: Nothing to report.
- j) PACT: Nothing to report.
- k) Urgent Decisions Group: Nothing to report.
- I) SWDP: Minuted at item 4.

8. Planning

- a) New planning applications: There were none.
- b) To receive Decision Notices:

Application Number	Address concerned	Description of works	Hill & Moor PC response	Wychavon Decision
W/22/00104/FUL	Land Adjacent, Barlwych Cottage, Hill Furze	Erection of open fronted garage block to be used in association with planning approval 19/01058/FUL, resubmission of application 21/02695/FUL.	No objection	Approved

c) To note or discuss Planning Correspondence, Information and Issues: There were none

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9. Finance:

a) To report on the financial situation of the Parish Council and to approve payments

Income since last report			
Date	Received from	Details	Total £
09/03/2022	Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest Mar '22	0.16

Payments for appr	oval		
Inv. Date	Payee	Detail	£ inc VAT
04/03/2022	GeoXphere Ltd	Parish Online - Subscription 2022/23	45.00
13/03/2022	P. Jeanes	Petrol for mower	55.20
06/01/2022	Midland Alarms	Midland Alarms	3,816.00
13/03/2022	Hensons	Path extension works	4,017.60
21/01/2022	BHGS	Tree stakes and ties	11.86
29/03/2022	Instantprint	Printing - Spring newsletter	97.29
31/03/2022	J. Adams	Salary Mar '22	405.38
31/03/2022	J. Adams	Phone/computer Mar '22	17.50
31/03/2022	WCC Pension Scheme	Pension contributions Mar '22	165.10
31/03/2022	HMRC	PAYE Q4 2021/22	229.80
01/03/2022	Eon	Playing field supply February 2022	13.27
21/03/2022	Wychavon	Annual cost empty/ clean Ch La. dog bin	93.11

Current account - Lloyds - A/c 01865441

Balance as at 01/04/2022 16,122.85

Savings account - Lloyds - A/c 07578509

Balance as at 01/04/2022 20,403.20

Total cash assets 36,526.05

Ringfenced		
Flood alleviation		10,000.00
CIL		0.00
Grant funds	Village Hall improvements	914.00
Bonfire funds		2,095.60
Total Ringfenced		13,009.60

Earmarked Reserves	
Asset Maintenance / Replacement /Disposal	2,000.00
Purchase Asset	0.00
Total Earmarked Reserves	2,000.00

General Reserve 21,516.45

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(Total cash assets less Ringfenced funds and Earmarked Reserves)

Lengthsman Expenditure to date including items on this document: £1,937 from a £1,937 budget. Total of the **Open Spaces maintenance** items on this sheet: £148.31, which would make total expenditure for this budget £3,324.62 from an annual budget of £4000.

It was resolved to approve the items for online payment.

- **b)** To review the council's system of internal financial control: The council's system of internal control was reviewed and agreed.
- 10. To discuss a banner to raise awareness of the Throckmorton development: It had been suggested that a banner should be purchased to raise awareness of the proposal to build a new town centred on Throckmorton airfield. It was agreed to set a budget of £100 to purchase two banners to display on the A44.
- **11. To discuss the Annual Parish Meeting**: The date for the Annual Parish Meeting was agreed as the 12th May. Refreshments would be served from 6:30pm. Cllr Jeanes would organise flyers to advertise the meeting.

12. Correspondence for Information

The following correspondence had been received and circulated:

- A letter which was read out regarding the proposed development behind Maytree Road.
- Notification that streetlighting costs would be billed on a pay-as-you-go basis rather than averaged over a year.
- A resident had asked if there were any minutes taken at the meeting with the developer. There were not but Cllr Jeanes would be happy to talk to the resident and explain what happened.
- The football club had asked if they could restart their training sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The council had no objection to this but it would be pointed out to the football club that they would not be able to use the car park on Wednesdays if the Bridge Club had booked the Village Hall.

13. Clerk's report:

- The application for funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner had not been successful. The council decided to proceed with the purchase of a VAS and would fund the shortfall.
- A letter had been sent round the residents of Haig Villas explaining the issues with putting up a
 road sign. There was little support for the proposal from residents therefore the council would
 not go ahead with the request to Wychavon. The residents would be notified. The council itself
 had no objection to the residents putting up an informal sign but would not be able to fund it.
- 14. Summary of Councillors' agreed actions: Cllr A. Jeanes would circulate the list round in due course.
- **15.** Date of next meeting and items for next agenda: Thursday 5th May 2022 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. The June meeting would be on the 9th June as the first Thursday was a Bank Holiday. Items for next agenda: Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman; a tree on the playing field requested by a resident.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

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Public Questions

A resident asked if the Village Hall's hearing loop was operating; councillors were not sure. He had donated towards its installation a number of years ago. Cllr Stone would investigate and get it up and running again. The resident further asked if the pictures on the walls of the hall would be put back up? Cllr Stone replied that the hall had been recently redecorated and the pictures would be put up in the near future.

A resident reported that the sale of Holly House had been completed. The owner would be putting in an application for listed building consent for the renovations, and work would start soon.

A resident attended the meeting to comment on the letter regarding a sign at Haig Villas. He noted that the majority of couriers had no difficulty finding Haig Villas and it came down to whether the courier company had invested in adequate maps. He was not in favour of the modifications to the addresses and change of postcode.

A resident asked if it would be possible to add a memorial bench in memory of a former postmistress and resident of the village who had recently died.