

Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at 8pm on Monday 15th July 2013 in the Village Hall, Knightwick.

Present;

D Kirkbright – Chairman,
Messrs; F Budden, P Edwards, B Munt, A Warburton (District Cllr.) G M Brewin (Clerk).

Apologies:

Cllrs: Ms G Evans, S K Munday, Ms M Horton. P Tuthill (County Cllr.), D Hughes (District Cllr.) B Lee Footpaths Warden.

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;

None

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence and members' declarations of interest.

The apologies from Cllrs Ms G Evans, Ms M Horton, S K Munday, were accepted

2. Reports; County Councillor, District Councillors, Parish Footpath's Warden.

Cllr A Warburton (District Cllr.) Briefed the meeting on the current situation at M HD C. Closes with particular reference to the situation on the management of revenues and benefits which is operated jointly with Worcester City and Whychavon district councils. He also gave the meeting his views on the current state of refuse collection and the need to keep this as a vital activity for the local council.

3. To Declare a Casual Vacancy by virtue of Cllr Ms J Robbie leaving the area.

The Council declared a casual vacancy and asked the clerk to proceed with the process to fill this vacancy.

4. Confirm the minutes of the meeting on 20/05/2013, circulated in advance.

These were confirmed as a true record signed by the chairman

5. Financial Matters;

a) Consider the application for Discretionary Rural Rate Relief from Business Rates - The Village Shop, Knightwick and the following resolution; 'In pursuance of the power conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, the council agrees that this business is of benefit to the local community and it would be reasonable to grant the relief, and agrees to make a financial contribution of £39.00 so that the full 50% Discretionary Relief may be awarded.'
Agreed

b) Approve payment - Clerk's Expenses, Jan – June 2013 - £58.50
Agreed

c) Approve Payment – Village Hall Insurance £166.12 (2nd payment of three-yr agreement)
Agreed

d) Support the Wichenford Heritage Group – (as discussed at the last meeting)
It was decided not to support this group

6. Planning Matters;

a) Note delegated responses to the following applications:

i) Application No 13/00404/HOU,
Two storey side extension, Gold Hill, Doddenham, Broadwas, WR6 5NZ -
No Comment

ii) Application 13/00715/FUL
Teme Cottage, Knightsford Bridge, Knightwick, WR6 5PJ Side and rear single storey extension. New vehicular access to existing road. Change of use from agricultural land to domestic curtilage. New boundary retaining wall –
No Comment

iii) Application 13/00585/S73 Ankerdine Farm, Bromyard Road, Knightwick, WR6 5PH
Removal of Condition 16 on application 10/00464/PEX which presently limits use of Units 1-8 to B1 office use. -
No comment.

All these decisions were noted.

b) Consider responding to the following applications:

i) Application No 13/00766/LBC

Replacement of windows with new oak framed units in existing modern brick extension and original timber framed dwelling, The Goulds, Rectory Lane, Knightwick, Worcestershire, WR6 5QF

It was agreed to support this application.

ii) Application 13/00713/HOU

The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Knightwick, WR6 5QF Refurbishment of pig pens for use as store rooms.

After a discussion and a review of the photographs of the existing situation it was agreed that the Council had no objections to the redundant buildings being used for storage but recommended that the pen walls with the distinctive top course of half-round blue bricks be retained to mark this historical feature.

7. Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area

Confirm the council's joint application with Martley Parish Council for the designation of a neighbourhood area in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The application will be made by Martley Parish Council, which has agreed to be the lead or named parish in taking forward this neighbourhood development plan.

The council discussed this matter and on the recommendation of the chairman agreed unanimously to join this application for a neighbourhood area.

8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence

A44 Lay-by spoil heap: He noted that the clearing of this site was now complete but the newly exposed road surface was in a poor condition and he had requested WCC Highways to repair this if at all possible.

Village Hall; Commercial prospects. The clerk reported on an initial meeting with a representative of Andrew Grant Estate Agents. The main problem to selling the village Hall would be the limitations on its use, currently for community purposes only. This would limit those interested in buying it, and it may be difficult to achieve a sale in a reasonable time. The clerk suggested that prior to considering a sale. The Council investigates the possibility of obtaining approval for a change of use to office, workshop, storage, etc. In order to do this each house in the parish could be sent details including the expense and income details of the village Hall over the last 10 years and the reasons why the Council considered the Hall to be no longer appropriate to the village's needs. Depending on the results of this survey it might then be possible to make an application for change of use and then proceed more easily to sell the property. He proposed that such a document could be circulated at the same time as the questionnaire relating to the neighbourhood area which is currently in hand with Martley Parish Council and he would draw up a proposal and circulate it to Council members.

Village Hall maintenance: The builder had been unable to start again as during the delay when the state of the roof structure was under review the surrounding undergrowth had grown to such a degree as to make work impossible. He had arranged for a local contractor to clear the vegetation including that on the gravelled areas at the front of the building and once clear to treat the area with herbicides that would reduce the regeneration of the vegetation. Once this is completed in the next week or so the builder will come on-site and complete the work on the guttering, soffit and fascias.

9. Items for the next meeting

Fill vacancy on the council, Village Hall Matters, Neighbourhood Plan Survey,.

10. Confirm the date of the next meeting:

Bimonthly Meeting of the Council - 16th September 2013 Confirmed

Chairman16/9/2013