

# BAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting of Bayton Parish Council held in Bayton Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Present:** Cllr Clarke (Vice Chairman),  
Cllr Miles, Cllr Adams, Cllr Carver

**In Attendance:** Clerk, Eight Members of the Public, County Cllr Ken Pollock

1. **Apologies:** Received and accepted from Chairman and Cllr Williams.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
  - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs are reminded to keep their registers updated.
  - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** –  
All Cllrs Item 12, Bayton Village Hall due to being residents of the Parish and using/supporting the Hall.
  - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – See above.
3. **Dispensations** –
  - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –  
It was agreed to grant a Dispensation to all Cllrs to speak and vote until May 2019 on Item 12, see above.
4. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes. The Chairman referred to Standing Orders concerning this item on the agenda.
5. **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
6. **County Cllr Report** – County Cllr attended, report circulated at meeting, see end of minutes.  
**Chairman agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7.56pm for public to raise issues with County Cllr.**  
**Chairman reconvened meeting at 8.10pm.**  
**District Cllr Report** – Apologies given, no matters to report.
7. **Progress reports for information** –
  - a. **Slow signs for Bayton Parish** – Cllr and Clerk continuing to obtain guidance for this issue, School are supporting slow speeds thorough the Parish next term.
  - b. **Centenary WW1** – Vice Chairman is working with Church, School, Royal British Legion and has invited Hall to join a working group. Date of 10<sup>th</sup> June has been suggested, ideas of Church Service/bring & share lunch, games. If you have any ideas please contact Clerk. PC agreed to discuss grant when more details known.
  - c. **Vacancy on Parish Council** – MHDC have advised no election has been called so the vacancy can be filled by co-option. Clerk to put notices up.
8. **Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk or Cllrs** –  
**WCC Conference 6<sup>th</sup> March** – Clerk attended, meeting was interesting, details circulated.
9. **Finances** –
  - a. **Payments made** – Bayton Village Hall (rent 2017-18) = £119.00.
  - b. **To report receipts since last meeting** – None.
  - c. **Bank Reconciliation February 2018** (circulated) – Signed by Cllr balance agreed as £20046.69 in cash book.
  - d. **To review Financial Regulations regarding payment of Direct Debits** – Clerk advised the PC a paragraph needs to be put into the Regulations to cover the Direct Debit payment for the WiFi. The paragraph was read out and all agreed with it being inserted into the document.
10. **Planning:**
  - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **None.**
  - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** – **None.**
  - c. **Plans for comment on tonight** –  
**18/00196/FUL – Common Farm, Clows Top DY14 9NY – Temporary use of land for the siting of a timber cabin for occupation by a rural worker.** After much discussion it was agreed by all to support the application and to ask for an agricultural tie to be added to any permission granted.  
**18/00314/OUT – Land at (os 7117 7200) Clows Top – Erection of one detached dwelling.** It was agreed by all to support this application.

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**18/00072/FUL Associated Ref: 18/00073/LB – Norgroves End Farm, Bayton, Kidderminster DY14 9LX - Change of use of Traditional Stone, Timber and Brick Farm Building to Residential.** MHDC have failed to provide all the details for this application. It was agreed by all to confirm comments by email when the Clerk has obtained the full details. Clerk apologised for not querying this with MHDC prior to this meeting.

## 11. Road report

- a. **Lengthsman** – Grips, gullies to be cleared.
- b. **Problems to report** – see below issues raised by residents.
- c. **Clerks Meeting with Highways May 2017** – Drains not jetted as requested. County Cllr is aware of all outstanding issues, some are listed below.
- d. **Houghtons Pole Bridge 7.5ton limit** – Clerk to check if signs are now up.
- e. **Clows Top crossroads** – No update given by WCC, Clerk to query. Flashing signs IS one option suggested.
- f. **2/3 Clows Top Road** – despite holes being marked no work has been done since last meeting. County Cllr to Query the state of the road with WCC.

12. **Bayton Village Hall – PC Offer of Lease** - To discuss letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> February from Trustees regarding Lease for Hall and Land and Ownership. It was agreed by all a letter be sent to Hall Trustees acknowledging Bayton Village Hall Trustees have declined the offer of a Lease with PC. Reference to the Constitution of 27<sup>th</sup> January 1987 as the Governing Document to be in letter and copies of relevant minutes to be sent. Clerk to draft reply for circulation.

## 13. Correspondence for information –

Email correspondence circulated - list in minute's folder.

**CALC Training dates 2018 circulated.**

**MHDC Parish & Town Council Forum 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018** – 5.30-8pm

**Leasowes, Bayton** – complaint regarding tree felling and machinery left on highway. This was passed to Dist Cllrs for action. Clerk to query with Dist Cllr, no update yet received.

**Data Protection** – Changes in law from May 2018 - emails to be sent to Cllrs about this change. Clerk will need to spend considerable time recording data held and destroying old records if not held for a genuine reason.

14. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting – None.**

## 15. Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda.

**Agenda items** – WW1 Centenary Celebrations, Vacancy on PC, Data Protection changes, Footpath by side of School from Recreation Ground, Clows Top Road potholes, WW1 Centenary, Coronation Corner improvements and garden area, Parking in village, project for Parish improvements for future.

16. **Date of next Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

17. **Cllrs to agree to close meeting to the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.**

18. **Lengthsman Contract 2018-19** – It was agreed to renew contract with present Lengthsman with no changes to hourly rate.

19. **Meeting Closed 9.06pm.**

Signed-----

Date 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Chairman

## Residents issue –

**Minutes of Meetings** – Resident asked if the minutes could be added to? The resident referred to a copy of the minutes dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018, item 11. Clerk and Chairman both stated the Clerks job is to give legal advice to the PC. The Chair gave the Clerk permission to answer questions directed at her personally as the Clerk was willing to answer. The Clerk advised if the PC fail to follow legal advice given the Clerk can put comments in the minutes stating that fact. The Clerk confirmed she had obtained advise from the County Association prior to finalizing the minutes.

**View of Resident** – One resident wished it to be noted in these minutes that they felt a person who lives in the Village and pays Council Tax should have their views heard and listened to by the PC. This resident stated people are entitled to ask questions and to express their views. The resident felt they had been spoken to in a disrespectful manner. The Chair and Councillors, whilst sorry the person felt that way, did not accord with that stated view.

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**Clows Top Road** – residents' complaints about this road continue. County Cllr to take the concerns back to WCC for urgent action.

**Church Lane** – water lying in road following resurfacing, reported by Clerk. Potholes by carpark to be reported.

**Gritting** - Clerk thanked WCC for clearing the roads so quickly in the Parish during the last snow.

**Finances** - Resident asked if PC could ask residents about spending of budget. This idea was well received by all present. Clerk to put notice on boards and in email. In the past the May Newsletter has asked residents to contact PC but only a few residents made suggestions. Clerk to email more to ask for ideas and update residents on road issues reported to WCC.

**Coronation Corner** – concerns were raised about parking on the junction. Can PC not find land to purchase for parking. It was noted the garden area is looking untidy. Clerk will put both issues on agenda for next meeting. The Chair reminded the meeting that Public Question Time is for questions and not public debate. At several times during Public Question Time the Chair reminded the meeting of Standing Orders. One resident asked if the meeting could return to the proper function of the Council. Having given extra time to Public Question Time due to the nature of the feelings of the meeting, the Chair brought the meeting to order and drew Public Question Time to a conclusion.

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## County Councillors Report

**County Council affairs** - March the 1<sup>st</sup> brought the dreadful and totally unexpected news of the death of our interim CEO Steve Stewart. He was only 64 and had made a huge contribution since starting last May, when our previous CEO, Clare Marchant had left to run UCAS. Steve was just coming to the end of his service with us, before our new permanent CEO, Paul Robinson starts work on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. He has been the CEO of Derby City Council, where he has run a unitary authority with a large budget and staff, comparable to this county. In the last month or so, we have recruited other senior members of the management team. They are the Chief Finance Officer, Michael Hudson, from Wiltshire, the Chief Commissioning Officer, Andrew Spice from Sussex, and the Interim Director of Adult Social Care Services, Avril Wilson from West Sussex. While there was never planned to be a handover period with both men in place, Steve's death casts a bit of a shadow over Paul's start in WCC. We wish the whole team well in getting started in post, and providing the vision and leadership needed for the large County council staff, and all those in the County that rely on the council for services and encouragement.

**Tenbury Public Realm** - The bad weather has delayed the completion of the work in Tenbury. The latest news is that the red tarmac will be laid overnight starting on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>, with the road being closed from 19.00. It will open again at 06.00. This operation should only take 3 nights, and the 20 mph roundels will be painted on the road surface at the same time. There are still one or two items of street furniture outstanding as Tesco has not yet fulfilled all its obligations under the S278 agreement it signed. We hope continual pressure will achieve the appropriate result before legal action is required.

**SWDP revisions** - Following its publication in 2016, the SWDP has been the basis for deciding the pattern of house building across south Worcestershire. Recently, the three councils involved have been considering revising the plan in the light of the publication last week of the revised National Planning Policy Framework. While this concerns WCC more from the infrastructure viewpoint, I have been keen to take part in the discussions. My impression is that while organic small-scale growth of communities is desirable, it could be that larger new settlements may be necessary. Should one or two "new towns" of around 5,000 dwellings be required, the location of such developments is crucial. Any strong feelings on such plans would be welcome by your local district councillor and the planning departments. Recently Tenbury Town Council considered an application to build 72 houses off Oldwood road opposite the high school. I would suggest that it would be advantageous to the school to have more young families in its catchment area. In addition, it is unrealistic to suppose that homes should only be allowed close to where there is an unmet need for employees. Minimising travel distance to work is desirable, but often unrealistic, and could be seen as a reason for allowing rural areas to become depopulated. A similar principle applies across WCC, and we should be prepared for organic growth of our villages and hamlets, as well as a growth in jobs in rural areas. It is in this context that better broadband is so essential and I have to report steady if slow progress at reaching the last 5% or so of premises not yet served by Superfast broadband.

**Road improvements** - I am happy to report that your clerk has been assiduous in seeking better repairs to the various poor road surfaces in the parish. While I cannot say that all the work is done or scheduled, I would like to assure you that I will be backing her actions to get the necessary repairs completed as quickly as possible. You will have noticed the better painting on the road at Clows Top. It is sad that a major accident was necessary before action was taken, and I would urge you to let Sue know of any similar problems, as I am sure she will press the highways people to remedy the matters quickly. In that she will have my full support.

**Divisional Fund** - I still have a small sum in my Divisional Fund and would be pleased to allocate it to good causes. If anyone knows of deserving enterprises that could benefit, I would be pleased to talk to them about whether I could help. Please pass this message to others in the community who may be unaware of the fund.

**Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 2BZ**

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