

At a Meeting of Whittington Parish Council held at Whittington Village Hall on Tuesday 13th January 2009, at 19.30 Hrs.

Democratic Period/ Question Time: No members of the Public were present.

In the absence of M. Baker, J.W. Stanford was elected (SM/NH) to chair the meeting.

2009.01 Attendance.

Present: N. Hodgetts S. MacLeod, J.W. Stanford.

In Attendance: P.S. Roe, Clerk.

Apologies: M. Baker, R.A. Phillips, R.C. Adams District & County Councillor.

2009.02 Declarations of Interest and Ethical Matters.

a There were no declarations of Personal (non prejudicial) Interests in items on this Agenda.

b There were no declarations of Prejudicial Interests in items on this Agenda.

2009.03 Co-option of New Member to fill Casual Vacancy.

No applications or nominations had been received.

2009.04 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th December 2008, having been previously distributed, and corrections notified to Members, were taken as read, and were adopted (JWS/SM) without amendment.

2009.05 Planning.

a. New and Unresolved Planning Applications: There were no new Planning applications. The Clerk reported that Wychavon District Council had advised that no listed building Application was required in respect of the works in connection with Mr & Mrs Guy's Planning Application W/08/03084/PP for the replacement of pre-fab concrete garages with double garage and dependant relative accommodation at The Elms, Walkers Lane, Whittington. He had not thought that WPC would have further comment and had advised WDC accordingly; he sought confirmation of this which was given.

b. Previous consultations: None.

c. Planning Decisions: None.

d. Other Planning Consultations:

SWJCS: Invitations, from Worcester City to attend public consultation briefing meeting at Guild Hall on 15th January at 5:30 pm for 5:45 pm start and from Wychavon DC to a similar briefing to be held at The Chamber, Wychavon Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore on Monday 19 January 2009 at 5:30 pm for 5:45 pm start, were reported by the Clerk.

No one else wished to attend so the Clerk offered to do so if required, which offer was gratefully accepted.

Further consultation was planned that likely to be most relevant to Whittington being at the Countryside Centre on 18th February.

e. Other Planning Matters: None.

2009.06 Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.

a. **Wychavon Flood Grant:** The Clerk reported that the AquaSacs had been ordered, but delivery was to be arranged. N. Hodgetts offered to receive, and store them under cover, at Pond Farm.

b. **Other Matters:** None

2009.07 Finance.

The Clerk reported as follows: -

a. Receipts: £168 had been received on 12/12/2008 from WCC re the Lengthsman scheme.

b. Payments: Invoices and requests for payment were submitted as follows: -

Whittington Parish Council - transfer funds to new accounts.	£5000.00	£5000.00
S. Gwilliam - Lengthsman & Litterpicking Services for December 2008	£195.00	£195.00
P.S. Roe - Clerking Costs	£110.93	£113.49
Analox Environmental Technology Ltd - Aqua Sacs	£770.00	£885.50
Totals	£6,075.93	£6,193.99

Payment of these was agreed (NH/SM) subject to J.W. Stanford reviewing and approving the Clerking Costs which had only just been submitted to him.

A receipt had been received from Whittington DCC in respect of the Churchyard upkeep grant.

c. Proposals for Expenditure. None.

d. Review of effectiveness of Internal Audit Arrangements. The date for this was agreed by N. Hodgetts with the Clerk; being 26th January 2009 at 14.00 hrs.

e. Banking Arrangements: The clerk reported that the new accounts were established, and the transfer in process.

2009.08 Highways & Byways.

a. Highways:

General: No matters raised.

M5 Noise: No matters raised.

Maintenance:

Works for the Lengthsman: None.

Previous Matters: The large pothole in Church Lane reported & acknowledged, Members indicated that it had not been attended to and the Clerk was asked to seek urgent attention as it was now considered dangerous.

S. MacLeod wished R.C. Adams to be thanked for his prompt attention to the need for gritting of Church Lane.

New Matters: None

Traffic Management:

Previous Matters: HGV's accessing Pond Farm: N. Hodgetts advised that normal delivery/collection instructions recommended access via Walkers Lane off Swinesherd Way, but that this could not be made mandatory, as the route from the Swan Roundabout was equally a public highway and available for public use.

New Matters: The Clerk advised members of a temporary 30 m.p.h. speed limit on the B4084 from J7 to Pershore. (Order valid for 18 months - but expected to last only 3 weeks from 9/2/2009.)

b. Byways:

General: No matters raised.

Bridleways: No matters raised.

Footpaths: N. Hodgetts asked if WCC could be approached for advice regarding spraying of footpaths to prevent overgrowth, and if the lengthsman could be tasked with this. The Clerk advised that a formal approach was unlikely to meet with approval and that such work would not be within the Lengthsman's remit. He suggested that N. Hodgetts - in his capacity as Parish Paths Warden - take this up on a specific path basis.

2009.09 Training.

The Clerk advised members of the NALC arranged "Stepping Stones" regional at conference at Coventry on 11/2/2009 (cost £96.00 + VAT). No one wished to attend.

2009.10 S.M.J. Tanner Memorial.

In the absence of M. Baker no progress report was available re the "red hawthorn"; N. Hodgetts felt the matter should be dealt with soon in view of the planting season.

S. MacLeod reported no progress with permission to plant an oak on "the Tump".

This matter would be re-tabled at the next meeting.

2009.11 Wychavon Bursary.

A nomination for the Wychavon Bursary 2008/9 had been received from M. Hallmark, and details circulated to Members. After some debate, no local nomination being forthcoming, and the nominee having connections with the village it was agreed (NH/JWS) that Mrs Annie Price be nominated. The Clerk was to make an appropriate submission based on M. Hallmark's circulated citation.

2009.12 Flooding in Whittington.

a. Arrangements for delivery and storage of Aqua-sacs: Delivery and temporary storage had already been resolved. It was agreed that if R.A. Phillips had not made arrangements, S. Gwilliam be asked if he would lay a suitable base. The Clerk was to liaise with R.A. Phillips &/or L.R. Wiltshire to agree an appropriate location and commission the work.

b. Members considered comments relative to "Parishes" contained in the Worcestershire Joint County and District Councils Scrutiny Report on Summer Floods 2007, and noted the recommendations. However they felt that in Whittington's case the damage had been minimal and totally unforeseen and that the provision of the aqua-sacs was sufficient action. No further provisions were proposed.

c. Members were apprised of the main facets of the WDC Parish Flood Data Action Plan for the Parish, and agreed that the Clerk be delegated to respond to those items where WPC input was deemed appropriate.

2009.13 Use of Rear Access to Whittington School.

The Chairman (M. Baker) had requested that this item be included. In his absence the matter was briefly discussed and then adjourned to the next meeting.

2009.14 District and County Councillors' and Police Reports – For Information.

Neither the County and District Councillor, or a representative of the Police was present.

2009.15 Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas.

- a) Reports of Committees, Working Groups, and of Councillors representing the Council on outside bodies: None.
- b) Reports of Councillors on other matters: None
- c) Inclusion of specific items on a future agenda: The Clerk indicated that the Council's response to the consultation on the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity would be included.

2009.16 To recommend items for inclusion in the Parish Magazine.

Casual Vacancy on the Council, Lengthsman's work, Consultation events re SWJCS, and flood alleviation measures.

2009.17 Correspondence.

A note of correspondence received had been periodically sent out to Members under the "Clerk's Digest" since the last meeting. Notice of WCC Budget information evening on 27/1/2009 @ 6.30 p.m. @ County Hall, and the WDC Standards committee Meeting 21/1/2009 6.15 at Committee Rooms Pershore Civic Centre, elicited no desire to attend.

2009.18 Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be Tuesday 10th March 2009 at Whittington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.35 Hrs.