

At a Meeting of Whittington Parish Council held at Whittington Village Hall on Tuesday 10th July 2012 at 19:30 Hrs.

Democratic Period/ Question Time: M. Baker was present and raised questions about illegal parking on Old Road and Church Lane. The Chairman advised that at the last PACT meeting this had been given a priority rating and that he anticipated that the Council would be seeking enforcement action from the police. He also submitted his report re the Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison Group - see item 2012.92 a.

2012.75 Attendance.

Present: S.L. Brooker, A. Lodge, P.J. Wood.

In Attendance: P.S. Roe, Clerk; District & County Councillor R.C. Adams, pcso Ben Allchurch.

Apologies: S. MacLeod, C.A. Smith.

2012.76 Declarations of Interest and Ethical Matters.

- a. There were no declarations of Personal (non pecuniary). Interests in items on this Agenda.
- b. There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interests in items on this Agenda.
- c. Ethical Matters. Members were reminded of the changes to the ethical regime about which information had previously been disseminated. Members were reminded of the need to complete new Declaration of Interests forms and of **their** personal responsibility to keep their Register of Interest entries up to date.

2012.77 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th May 2012 having been previously distributed were taken as read, and adopted (SLB/PJW) without amendment.

2012.78 Co-option of Members to fill vacancies on the Council.

There were no candidates for co-option to fill vacancies on the Council.

2012.79 Planning.

- a. New and Unresolved Planning Applications:

New applications: None

Amendments to Applications: None

Appeals: Planning Ref W/11/02349/OU - Planning Portal Ref PP-01676472 - Land off Walkers Lane, Whittington, an appeal had been started relating to Condition 1, the time limit.

- b. Previous consultations. None since last meeting.

- c. Planning Decisions: To receive reports of Planning decisions and Appeal decisions notified to the Council.

Application Number: W/12/00755/PP

Applicant: R. Lander, Elms Close, Old Road, Whittington, Worcs. WR5 2RL

Location: Elms Close, Old Road, Whittington, Worcs. WR5 2RL

Proposal: 2 storey extension to side and rear of existing dwelling and single storey extension to rear of existing.

Decision: Approved STC (time, materials, bat survey, fenestration)

Application Number: W/12/00883/PN

Applicant: Rev K. Boyce, Whittington DCC, Parish Office, St Martin's Church, London Road, Worcester. WR5 2ED

Location: St Philip & St James Church, Church Lane, Whittington WR5 2RQ

Proposal: Removal of temporary building providing meeting room and WC facilities: erection of single storey building to provide meeting room, store and WC.

Decision: Application withdrawn.

Application Number: W/12/00994/PP

Applicants: Mrs White (previously Ashby Building Consultants)

Location: 14 Berkeley Close, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RF

Proposal: Extension to ground floor to enable kitchen adaptation and improved rear access.

Decision: Application withdrawn. (Before any WPC response was submitted.)

- d. Other Planning Consultations: None.

- e. Other Planning Matters: To consider other "Planning" related Matters reported to the Council prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Worcester F.C.: Members noted that formal Approval was given at the end of April 2012.

SWDP: PJW had not attended the WDC Briefing on 26/6/2012 as anticipated.

Uffnells Farm development: A telephone call and an e mail had been received from Roger Smith of Savills: requesting a further (informal) meeting with the Council or Councillors before a revised application was submitted. It was agreed that the Clerk try to arrange a meeting for 25th July 2012 at 16:00 Hrs.

2012.80 Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.

None.

2012.81 Finance.

The Clerk reported as follows: -

- a Receipts: since the last meeting: WCC re. Lengthsman - £ 138.60 February, £277.20 April, & May, 2012; HSBC Interest c21p/month;

- b Payments: a list of invoices and requests for payment totalling £1064.73 was submitted, of which £772.94 had been paid. These included a net amount of £504.95 for the jubilee mugs - some £50.00 more than anticipated due to set up and carriage costs, it was agreed (SLB/AL) that £50 be vired from the Public Transport budget provision to meet this S137 expenditure, the Clerk was asked to congratulate the Jubilee Committee on the success of the event. All payments were approved (PJW/AL).
- c Proposals for Expenditure.
 - i) Budgeted Expenditure: None
 - ii) Other Expenditure: None
- d Other Finance Matters:

Audit date was 16th July, the Clerk would send off the papers on the 11th July.

Quarterly Accounts report to 30/6/2012 e-mailed to Members 5/7/2012. The Clerk offered to take questions, there were none; the report would be tabled for formal approved at the next meeting)

PAYE: The Clerk informed the Council that due to changes in his personal circumstances his tax code had been changed and tax of £78.80 was due. This had occurred post payment of salary so the Clerk had paid the Tax to HMR&C. His tax code had now been amended again so as not to incur PAYE tax liability for WPC in future and a refund of the £78.80 was anticipated - any refund would be due to the Clerk.

2012.82 Highways & Byways.

a. Highways Matters:

General:

Swan Roundabout Improvements: Kate Passant had been unable to attend. It was agreed that with the nearing of “completion” of the works the Clerk write to the Highway Authority regarding the following matters:-

Positioning of yellow cross hatched boxes.

Effect of work on egress from the Village, including 3 lane traffic circulating on the roundabout.

Visibility from Whittington Road (eastbound) to Swan Access Road (to see emerging vehicles).

Inclusion of “gating” on Swan access Road in the scheme.

Agreement to, and provision of siting for, use of DFS on Crookbarrow Way (approaching Whittington) and Whittington Road, (both ways)

Grit Bin near School entrance: Members noted the School’s response to the Highway Authority’s refusal to accept responsibility for the bin, and considered that further action was not necessary.

“Highways Focus Group”: The Chairman outlined, and Members considered, D Hallmark’s proposal. It was agreed that the Clerk respond expressing the Council’s view that a thriving and representative group might serve a valuable purpose but that with the shortage of Councillors it was not the time for the Council to be seeking to establish such a group though it would be prepared to consider participating and supporting any such group if formed. The Clerk was to respond to Mr Hallmark appropriately.

School Parking: D. Hallmark had proposed that land adjacent to the school drive should be acquired for “school run parking”. A similar idea had been considered by CSO Allchurch, but had been subsequently discounted. After considerable debate it was agreed that the land proposed was not suitable for the suggested use due to the limitations of the site and danger to children using the School drive. The Clerk was to inform Mr. Hallmark to this effect.

M5 Noise

Nothing to report

Maintenance:

Works for the Lengthsman: No new work proposed.

Previous Matters: }
 } Nothing to report

New Matters: }

Traffic Management:

Previous Matters:

M5 Motorway J7 roundabout:

Speed Limit: Response had been sought (without success) from WCC as to whether/when they were going to address the speed limit anomaly?

Pedestrian/cycle “path” on paved area of overbridge:-

Members were advised of the negative response from the Highway Authority. Various alternatives were put forward and it was agreed to try to arrange a meeting with the Traffic management Team manager

Speed enforcement B4084. No response had been received to Councillor R.C. Adams’ approach to the Road Safety Partnership.

Village Gatings: These had been formally requested by the Parish Council on Walkers Lane, and payment arrangements advised. There had been no further response. See above re Swan Access Road. P.J. Wood suggested that provision of village signs, e.g. to Church and Village Hall, might be considered in the next budget.

New Matters:

The matters of abuse of the “access only order” and long term parking which exacerbated the problems of school parking were considered at some length. It was agreed that the Council should write to the Chief Constable asking for PCSO’s to be given the authority to issue fixed penalty tickets for breach of parking and

access only orders, and that in the meantime an authorised officer should be available to issue such notices to long term repetitive offenders.

It was suggested that a No Parking Order (double yellow lines) should be sought round on the bend in Church Lane adjacent to the property known as "Langland". After debate this was agreed (PJW/AL) by a majority.

DFS: The latest reports were included in the Circulation file

b. Byways Matters:

General: } No matters

Bridleways: } raised

Footpaths:

FP 502: It was reported that the stile at the Pond Farm drive end remained blocked with barbed wire, despite being reported to the PPW. The Clerk was to raise this with the relevant Access Officer.

2012.83 Complaints by a member of the Public.

- a. Complaint against the Council relating to its handling of Planning Application W/12/00883PN.

The Chairman reported formally on this matter following his meeting with the complainant who was prepared, whilst not in agreement therewith, to accept the response by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council.

- b. Complaint against the Clerk about his handling of the above matter.

The Chairman advised that following his discussions with the complainant the latter was insistent that the Clerk should supply him with a copy of the process/protocol under which the Clerk analyses and evaluates Planning Applications in order to advise the Council. There was no set protocol each application being reviewed individually, and on its merits.

The Chairman stated that he considered that the Clerk, as an employee of the Parish Council, was accountable to the Parish Council and not to the Public, it being the Parish Council that was accountable to Parishioners.

Members concurred and it was agreed (PJW/AL) that the Chairman should submit a formal response in this vein to the Complainant.

2012.84 Whittington Parish Council Code of Conduct.

A copy of the draft Code of Conduct supplied by WDC at a briefing on 20th June 2012 had been supplied to Councillors prior to the meeting, as had a copy of a later revision (with minor modifications by the Clerk) received from Worcestershire CALC. The latter was the draft now under consideration.

The Clerk advised that the draft Code was not mandatory but was recommended to Local Councils throughout the County for reasons of "standardisation". He advised further that having reviewed the documents he considered the only area where the Council (on past evidence) might take issue with the draft code was in respect of withdrawal from meetings upon declaration of an interest.

Members considered the draft Code and with amendment of those items requiring Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or Other Disclosable Interest to withdraw from the meeting room: i.e. amending the relevant items [12. (1) (b) and 12. (4) (b)] to read "withdraw from the Meeting and take no part in discussion. Members may remain in the public gallery, unless required by the Council to leave the room": agreed (SLB/AL) unanimously to adopt it.

With the adoption of the revised Code of Conduct the Clerk advised that some alteration of the Council's Standing Orders might be necessary. Members agreed (SLB/AL) unanimously to authorise the Clerk to alter the Council's Standing Orders as necessary to dovetail with the new Code. Any such alterations would become effective immediately, but would be subject to ratification by the Council at a later date.

2012.85 Training.

Forthcoming CALC training - details had been sent out by e-mail, one of the sessions had been cancelled due to lack of attendance.

Future CALC training was detailed in a Training Bulletin in the Circulation file.

2012.86 Parish/Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk referred to his attendance at the "Front Runner" seminar on 28th May and cautioned the Council that it needed to understand the process more fully before taking further significant action, and that before real progress can be made the SWDP needs to advance to the stage where it becomes relevant to Planning Considerations, i.e. when it is finalised and ready to be submitted to DCLG. The Chairman and Clerk were to meet to discuss these matters.

In accordance with his earlier undertaking the Clerk reported that he had spent 3hrs 50mins on Neighbourhood Plan specific work since the last meeting.

2012.87 Parish Council Entry on Facebook.

In the absence of C. Smith this item was deferred.

2012.88 Litterpicking in Whittington.

- i. Possible representations to WDC. Mr Merrick of WDC had declined to attend a meeting with the Parish Council but had agreed to speak with the Chairman. In the light of this and his earlier response it was felt that this would serve little purpose and no action was proposed.
- ii. Recruitment of a suitable appropriate contractor/person. Having regard to the Council's current financial situation and the response from the District Council it was agreed (SLB/PJW) not to take further action at this point although it might be a matter for budget consideration in future.

2012.89 Wychavon Youth Bus.

The Wychavon Youth Bus had been booked for 5th July and 15th August. The July booking had been cancelled by the operators. It was agreed that the Village Hall/Church Lane site was not best suited and the Clerk was to seek approval from the Head Teacher to use the School drive out of School hours. It was decided to review future usage after the August visit.

2012.90 District and County Councillors' Report – For Information.

District and County Councillor Adams reported on the County Council's provision for youth (13-18) facilities in the County, indicating the change to project specific grants instead of general funding. Potential partners were urged to submit bids for such funding within the 6 week deadline. He noted the success of the Norton Youth Club with an increase from an initial 13 to present attendances of 83. He reported on the Queen's visit to Worcester (11th July) and the County Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant intended to support servicemen and their families in resettling to civilian life. Parishes would be invited to support this on a web-page soon.

The government were reintroducing the right to buy" for Council/Housing Association tenants, details were still emerging but included provision for proceeds of sale to be used to fund new accommodations.

2012.91 Police Report - For Information.

PCSO Allchurch had participated in discussion re Highways matters. Questioned regarding the spate of thefts from vehicles at Norton he advised that the main targets had been satnavs and sunglasses. He added that there had been 2 crimes reported in Whittington since May, one theft from a vehicle and one non domestic (vacant dwelling) burglary.

2012.92 Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas.

- a. Reports of Committees and Working Groups and of Councillors representing the Council on outside bodies.

WPC staffing Committee: Nothing to report

Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison Group: M. Baker reported that the last meeting had been cancelled due to non attendance and asked the Council to ascertain the date of the next meeting and advise him by telephone as his broadband connection was off line following his house move. He had noted a reduction in glass levels on the B4084 but believed that this was due to the recent heavy rains washing glass particles into the drains. Litter was still being regularly cleared.

West Wychavon PACT: The Council's representative C. Smith was not present but see "democratic period" report above

Worcestershire CALC: Nothing further to report

Whittington School: S.L. Brooker was waiting to hear from the Head Teacher.

Whittington Village Hall: P.J. Wood made no report.

- b. Reports of Councillors on other matters. None.

- c. Inclusion of specific items on a future agenda. None Requested

2012.93 Inclusion of items in the Parish Magazine.

No items were submitted for inclusion this month, the current issue being for July & August.

2012.94 Correspondence.

Some correspondence received since the last meeting has been periodically sent out to individual responsible Members specifically, other more general items were included in the Correspondence File for circulation and were noted in the "Clerk's Digests".

2012.95 Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Meeting of the Council would be Tuesday 11th September 2012, at Whittington Village Hall.

The Chairman. expressed the Council's sincere appreciation of the service, support, and contribution made over her almost 4 years of service by Councillor Ann Lodge who had indicated her intention to resign at the end of the month, before he closed the Meeting at 21:37 hrs.