

Stoke Bliss, Kyre and Bockleton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September, 2013 at Bockleton Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Burgess Adams, Michael Bowdler, Dave Clarke, Brian Farmer, Jessica Middleton, Chris Rodgers, Oliver Turner, Andrew Yarnold (Chair)

In attendance: District Cllr Phil Grove, County Cllr Ken Pollock, Mr Gerry Brienza (Worcs CC), Mrs Louise Gibbs (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence:** apologies had been received from Cllr Adam Berry (riding accident), Terry Powell (working). Absent without apology were Cllrs Peter Basford, Charlie Rea, Jayne Williams.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** there were none
3. **Report from District Cllr Phil Grove: The Fulhams at Sutton** (there were no declarations of interest on this subject) although the planning application had been withdrawn, weekend activity has continued and is being monitored in various ways regarding noise, nuisance etc. Cllr Grove expressed his displeasure with the speed of progress regarding the enforcement. Cllr Middleton asked about the '28 day rule' in relation to The Fulhams but Cllr Grove wasn't able to answer.
Planning in Tenbury - plans for more social housing in Oldwood Lane have progressed. The planned 70 houses to be built between 2012 and 2030 have increased to 114. Issues regarding the flooding from Oldwood into Tenbury have been considered. **Recycling** - recycling wheelie bins are now in the system and MHDC are on track with 38% target of recycling. **Car parking enforcement** - starts on 12th November. In the first 2 weeks, warning notices will apply, and after that, fixed penalty notice will be issued. The measures have been introduced to reduce levels of dangerous and illegal parking and to improve road safety. Cllr Yarnold commented that in small towns which struggle to survive, such parking measures might deter visitors.
Report from County Cllr Pollock: the broadband contract has been signed and is up and running. There is a need to stimulate demand. The overall County Council budget is not good and austerity measures continue to be employed. Public Realm work in Tenbury - it is hoped that it will be done during 2014 but this depends on the Tesco timetable. The recycling site will be moving to the Bromyard Road Business Park to make more parking spaces available in the swimming pool car park. The Police Station 'replacement' has still not been decided upon in Tenbury (drop-in centre).
4. **Welcome to Gerry Brienza**, Senior Highways Liaison Officer at Worcestershire County Council. Council has some prepared questions which were responded to as follows:
What is the Council's long-term strategy and plan for the more permanent repair and resurfacing of rural roads in the area rather than the current short-term potholes? Gerry explained the Rural Roads Scheme initiative. Priority for road repairs is given to roads with the highest volume of traffic so country roads such as those in our parishes are a low priority. All rural roads are inspected every 12 months. The machine used will give an accurate indication of the roads' substructure and a decision will then be made as to what type of repair is needed, whether a patching job or something more substantial.
Why aren't workmen allowed to use their initiative when repairing potholes and deal with adjacent holes which may not have been marked but are often just as bad? Ringway have been given authority to use their initiative and we can report to Worcs CC when it hasn't been done. All small repairs to be made are marked first with spray paint.

What are the criteria for deciding when a pothole requires mending and also when a road is beyond patching and needs resurfacing? 20mm is a borderline depth of pothole. See attached information sheets. If there is a danger to road users, the repair will be made ASAP.

What actions, if any, were authorised following your visit with Cllr Pollock to Bannals Lane in Autumn, 2012? GB thought that the jobs had been completed, but will now check with Highways about a return visit. Drainage problems still exist and the road surface in several places still needs repairing.

Gerry can authorise a jetter to be used for a day in the parishes. The Clerk will ask the Lengthsman to compile a list of jobs to do and if deemed enough for one day, will ask GB to arrange.

A discussion followed about the clearing of drainage ditches (farmers' responsibility) and gullies/culverts (County Council's responsibility)

5. **Minutes of the last meeting on 20th May 2013** were agreed as a true record and were signed accordingly.
6. **Matters arising therefrom:** There were no matters arising.
7. **Planning matters:**
 - 13/00316/FUL, Mill End, Kyre – permission has been granted
 - 13/00826/FUL, Little Birches, Bockleton – site visit took place with Cllrs Clarke, Middleton, Rodgers, Yarnold – plans are for the demolition of the existing house and construction of a replacement. All at the site meeting had recommended approval.
 - 13/00307/FUL, The Fulhams, Sutton - plans have been withdrawn
 - 13/00744/HOU, Stonehouse Cottage, Bockleton - permission has been granted for the two small extensions and the replacement garage.
8. **Finances:**
 - a) bank balance as at 31st July was £952.32
 - b) payments made since the last meeting: £49 to repair the notice board at The Oaks, Stoke Bliss, Lengthsman x 2 @£236. Payments for consideration: £365 Aon insurance, Clerk £220 plus £55 to HMRC, Lengthsman £236.
9. **Parish Plan update:** Cllr Clarke said that the final proof is now ready for approval. Printing will be done during the week beginning 23rd September and then distribution can take place. The file will be circulated to the Parish Plan committee for approval. Distribution could be done via the Parish magazines and the Clerk will arrange.
10. **Clerk's update:** there is a need to recruit two Councillors for Stoke Bliss – it was suggested that the Clerk contact Jason Pound at Mill End and Mr Gallimore at Perry Cottage as potentials. There had been a request for a contribution towards signs for Bockleton Parish Hall from George Jarvis of the Hall committee. The committee had been quoted £800+ by Worcs CC. It was acknowledged that the Hall had already received a donation this year from the Parish Council and that the quotation was very high. The Clerk was asked to report to the Hall committee that there are no available funds in this occasion, and suggested that it might be cheaper to have signs made elsewhere. A drainage mapping scheme had been initiated by Worcs CC and the Lengthsman will be assisting in completing the project.

- 11. Correspondence:** Cllr Yarnold had received a thank you letter from the Pound family at Mill End following the Parish Council's recommendation for approval of their planning application.
- 12. Any Other Business:** dates for 2014 meetings – 3rd March, 2nd June, 1st September, 1st December
- 13. Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd December**