

## **Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at 8pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in the Village Hall, Knightwick.**

#### **Present;**

Ms G Evans, M Horton, J Robbie

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

**Apologies:** S K Munday – Chairman, D Hughes (District Cllr), C Smith (County Cllr.)

**Visitors:** None

#### **Questions from members of the public: None**

In the absence of any questions from members of the public the formal meeting began at 8:00 pm

In the absence of the chairman the vice-chairman Cllr Ms G Evans took the chair.

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

The apology from councillor SK Munday was accepted. There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

To consider granting a dispensation up until the next ordinary election to all parish councillors who live within the parish to enable them to participate in any discussion or vote on any matter concerning the setting of the council's budget and annual precept.

The clerk had received applications for a dispensation to discuss precept matters from all the members of the Council. He explained the background to the requirement for this and the Council agreed unanimously to grant the dispensations.

#### **2. Confirm the minutes of the meeting on 17/09/2012, circulated in advance.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 were agreed as a true record & by the chairman

#### **3. Reports; County Councillor, District Councillors, Parish Footpath's Warden.**

District councillor Mr A Warburton described the current situation regarding the problems with the South Worcestershire development plan and the reasons for the hold up in the process. He expected that some compromises would be made and that a revised plan would go forward but at a somewhat later date.

He reported that the Malvern Hills district Council project to introduce two-weekly collections of domestic waste using wheeled bins was held pending an agreement from central government on the release of funds.

He indicated also that there was a general view that green belts should be defined around Worcester and that development should not spread outside the current limit on the south side of the town.

#### **4. Financial Matters;**

a) To consider the clerk's half-yr report, discuss plans for 2013-4 and provide direction to the clerk to propose the Precept and Budget at the January meeting.

The clerk's plans for the budget for the forthcoming year were discussed. There was a general view that some increase in the precept was needed particularly to cover maintenance of the village hall and possible increased expenses on the lengthsman. However it was felt that there was a need to remain within the government's guidelines and a figure of 3% was considered reasonable. The clerk was asked to develop a full budget statement and circulate this to members in advance of the January meeting when the precept would be decided.

b) Note payment – Hillend Sawmills - £132 inc vat

The clerk noted that it had been necessary to pay this account in order to proceed with additional work to repair the bus shelter. These repairs were in hand and would be done within the next few days.

The payment was noted

#### **5. Planning Matters;**

Consider proposals on Parish Clusters – circulated in advance.

The clerk explained the ideas being put forward by the county and district councils which would lead to small groups of parish councils clustering together to achieve economies of scale. This had led to a proposal from Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council for a clustering of the parishes based on the Alfrick and Leigh district.

Whilst councillors were in favour of this idea in principle most were of the opinion that it would be in the Council's interest to join with Martley rather than Leigh and the clerk was asked to correspond accordingly.

## **6. Clerk's Report & Correspondence**

A44 Layby spoil heap, Bus Shelter, Lengthsman's Funds, Village Hall maintenance.

The clerk said that he had been unable to obtain any sensible response from Worcestershire County Council but he would continue to press them to clear the layby and return it to its original condition.

He had already reported on the need to repair the bus shelter and additional funds for the lengthsman.

The builder who was repairing the exterior of the village hall had started work but it was thought that in view of the poor weather conditions it might be preferable to delay this work until the Spring of 2013. The clerk was asked to discuss this with the builder concerned.

## **7. Items for the next meeting**

Budget and Precept, Parish Clustering, A 44 layby spoil heap, Village Hall maintenance.

## **8. Confirm the date of the next meeting:**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed. 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

Chairman.....  
21/1/2013