

Monthly Meeting of Grimley Parish Council

**Monday 12th July 2021, 7.30pm
Peace Hall, Sinton Green**

Minutes of the meeting

	<p>Present: A Bretherton (Deputy Chair), A Atkinson, P Ayers, J Izamis, G Moore, A Taft, S Wilson.</p> <p>Attending: DCllr Dean Clarke, Cllr Scott Richardson Brown Parish Clerk Lisa Stevens. Public Nil.</p>
74/21	<p>Points of order Welcome. Information provided at the beginning of each parish council meeting. Cllr Izamis welcomed to his first meeting.</p>
75/21	<p>Public open forum not legally forming part of the meeting. No questions.</p>
76/21	<p>To consider any apologies for absence Cllr Passey. Cllr Stanley (Chair).</p>
77/21	<p>Declarations of interest. Register of interests reviewed and updated for all Cllrs.</p>
78/21	<p>Minutes of previous meetings – Motion to approve previous minutes.</p>
a.	<p>21st June 2021. Duly considered and approved. Prp GM. Scnd AA.</p>
79/21	<p>To receive the report of the District Councillor – Dean Clarke.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update ref recent planning applications. No solar application has yet been received. Once/If an application is received, residents and parish cllrs will need to treat this as an entirely new application. Previous representations on screening opt. will not be carried over. - Road closure in centre of Hallow, 22nd July for up to 12 weeks. DCllr has been liaising with CCllr to try to reduce the impact for residents of Grimley, Hallow and Holt. - Application for log cabins adjacent to Moorlands, Monkwood Green has been refused. - Enforcement actions down Camp Lane have been suspended whilst planning application process is in motion. No planning application has yet been submitted. - Hallow Neighbourhood Plan was accepted with 91% approval by residents. (34% of electors voted). - SWDP will be published in October 2021. - PC application to footpaths officer ref end of Camp Lane – route can be demonstrated as being a direct link to Hallow Heath (Old Hallow Village).

80/21	<p>To receive the report of the County Councillor – Scott Richardson Brown</p> <p>- Parish Councils regularly raise the issue of speeding. County Council is starting to gather information to look at the problem. Not an easy fix. Comes down to enforcement and encouraging cycling and walking. County Council now charges £250 to place down the rubber road survey tubes for speed monitoring.</p> <p>- Road closure in centre of Hallow, 22nd July. Trench will be outside Ladygo Store 250m long and 4m deep for a new fresh water drain. Road will be closed both sides. Official diversion is via Ombersley but of course local traffic will take country lanes. CCllr has asked for diversion signs to be changed so that motorists will be warned earlier. No business compensation will be offered.</p>	
81/21	<p>Planning - to consider, comment and resolve to respond to the following applications.</p>	
a.	<p>20/01872/SCR - Land At (Os 8036 6145) Sinton Green EIA Screening Opinion for solar photovoltaic farm and</p> <p>21/01039/SCR EIA screening opinion for Birchall Green.</p> <p>No update available. Submission expected shortly.</p>	
b.	<p>To note that the Wagon Wheel application for inclusion in list of public assets has been accepted by MHDC and the public house has been placed on that list.</p>	
82/21	<p>Infrastructure, highway matters, drainage and flooding</p> <p>To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p>	
a.	<p>Update on any matters relating to highways and rights of way. Shirley Penn (Rights of Way Officer) has asked Cllr Taft to make contact to discuss outstanding issues. The locked gate along 598(D) A443 has recently been unlocked. Cllr Taft to check.</p>	Cllr Taft
b.	<p>Camp Lane rights of way enforcement.</p> <p>Awaiting planning application to be submitted. No further action by planning officers within this given timescale.</p>	
c.	<p>Application regularise long standing use of right of way 635.</p> <p>Application has been drafted and Cllrs had no further input to provide. Motion to submit to WCC unanimous. Prp: AT. Scn: AB.</p>	
d.	<p>Update on bin order, Sinton Green.</p> <p>Glasdon are out of stock and have stopped responding to emails. Clerk instructed to order from difference company and also order another one for Monkwood Green to be placed by bus shelter. Cllrs agreed that a bin with a lid is essential. Prp: SW. Scn: AB. <i>Post meeting update: lead time on Glasdon bin is October 2021 due to lack of parts and Glasdon have confirmed the order is still being attended to.</i></p> <p>Clerk to write to dog owners at Monkwood Green ref dog fouling on the Common. Prp: SW. Scn: AT</p>	Clerk
e.	<p>Flooding in road outside Church Farm, Grimley, update if any.</p> <p>Clerk has reported the flooded road at this location for nearly two years and continues to chase. Summary of previous reports received from WCC officer:</p> <p>- <i>The area was surveyed in 2016 as a new system was installed near the telephone box. There is very little fall on the road surface which has proven it difficult to install or continue any drainage system in this section. There is one gully but the pipe doesn't go anywhere. I have asked for trial holes (Dec 2020)</i></p> <p>- <i>Had the monthly meeting with the Drainage Engineer. He has put a job back together to dig down on the current inlet gully and</i></p>	Clerk

	<p><i>physically trace the system (dig it out) to find the outfall. After getting a better idea of where the system goes to, he can then start to look into the available options" (March 2021).</i></p> <p>The parish council was later led to believe that work is looking to commence in 2022. However no information on what work is actually proposed. Officer in charge (HD) is on long term sick leave. Therefore re-reported in entirety to WCC Highways by Clerk.</p> <p>Bus shelter graffiti at Grimley.</p> <p>B.J was previous contractor for repair and paint of the outside of all shelters and to be approached again to spruce up the insides of all shelters and remove graffiti. Cllrs debated colour but settled on status quo – brown. Prp: PA. Scn: SW.</p> <p>Rights of way maps – order of replacements for bus shelters.</p> <p>Since publishing agenda, Footpath Officers had explained that they are working from home and are not able to access printers until they are back in the office – not date for return to office as yet.</p> <p>Overgrown hedges and trees opp bus shelter Grimley.</p> <p>Report again to County Council and then get CCllr to assist if no progress. Previous Parish Council correspondence to land owners have gone unanswered.</p>	Clerk
f.		Clerk
g.		Clerk
h.		Clerk
83/21	<p>Commons and Village Greens</p> <p>To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p>	
a. i.	<p>Sinton Green.</p> <p>Mowing for village green</p> <p><i>Cllr merged this with debate regarding the Lengthsman</i></p> <p>Cllr Bretherton continues to liaise with S.S. and with previous consent and email consultation of Cllrs has issued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a new Lengthsman contract offering improved Lengthsman pay rates (increase from £13 to £17 per hour, with increased maximum of £2054 to £2686) - allowance for mileage claims. £0.45 per mile. - updated Sinton mowing contract, offered at £75 PER CUT (Max 15 cuts, roughly equating to 2 cuts per month March til Sept) and £120 per cut yellow area once per year. - odd jobs and rights of way maintenance offered at £17 per hour restricted to April to July, our visits at 5 hours per visit, ie cap at £340. This is to tackle the issue of poorly maintained rights of way, which currently Simon does not tackle under Lengthsman contract, as this is prohibited by WCC. - clear acceptance of ability to contact S.S and his prompt return of texts emails or phone messages. <p>Above terms were reaffirmed at the meeting. Prp: GM. Snc: SW.</p> <p>So far no response has been received to this offer and the contract has not been signed and returned. Difficulties with communication continue and have not improved. Currently Lengthsman only attends the parish one day a month (as demonstrated by June worksheet), which residents do not find satisfactory and means that some jobs wait several weeks before being attended to. Cllr Bretherton to mention this to S.S.</p> <p>Cllr Stanley had previously confirmed prior to meeting that new contract remains for annual renewal each year (March 2022 is next</p>	Clerk
		Cllr Bretherton

renewal) and is subject to annual PC approval. Cllr Stanley has enquired elsewhere as to desirability of Lengthsman position and found that it is generally considered to be a lot of work requiring specialist equipment for not much pay, hence the difficulty county wide in filling Lengthsman positions.

Cllr **agreed** that it was right that an improved level of pay had been offered to match that offered by other parish councils and in particular to match the pay rate offered to S.S in his employment with other local councils. Latest Lengthsman timesheet June 2021 **approved** for payment at new rate of £17 per hour as a good will gesture. Prp: AB. Scn: AT. Cllrs **agreed** to place a three month time limit on return of new contract and to review again in six months. Position to be put to tender elsewhere if no response by mid October 2021. Cllr Bretherton to chase. Prp: AT. Scn: AB.

Clerk
Cllr
Bretherton

b.

Monkwood Green.

i.

Management update.

Young steers currently grazing petty whin area. Commoner in question has been re-reminded of annual time limits on fencing off sections of the common and has been encouraged to move cattle to areas near The Fox.

ii.

Drains and ditches update

Clerk and Cllr Wilson have created a map indicating all ditch and drainage directions using local knowledge. This information going back 30 years gives detailed account of the drainage of the Common, including confirmation that some areas of the Common have always flooded or remained wet. This includes the area outside Langdale and blackberry. Ditches on land belonging to Green farm and Worcestershire Wildlife have either been changed or not attended to and now do not drain in a circular northerly direction back round beyond Whitehouse farm back round to the common. This issue can be tackled once Worcs Wildlife take control of the land, as it is understood will happen. Cllrs **agreed** that previous decision to focus on headwalls and under road pipes was a correct and cautious one, since no properties are directly affected or being damaged and to see if this has an effect before planning heavier work to ditches or the creation of new ditches - which would have a much greater impact on wildlife and would likely be subject to greater scrutiny by Natural England.

Contract to BP focusing on clearing under-road pipes, headwalls and ditch entrances has been issued and verbally accepted to Cllr SW. Contractor is a well acknowledged local resident who typically does not deal in paperwork – a situation very prevalent amongst the local residents of the Common. Cllrs **agreed** and accepted BP verbal contract in lieu of signature. Natural England have been sent a copy of the information within the contract – no response has been received.

Old logs on Common do need chipping but are also good for wildlife. Clerk had received quote for hire of equipment at £175 per day plus transport costs to site. Cllrs **declined** to approve this work for the time being. Burning at specific sites has been approved by NE in previous years and could be sought if nec.

	<p>Butterfly info received from Worcs Wildlife attached as appendix and confirm need to avoid cutting Common until September each year.</p>	
iii.	<p>Potholes on service roads update Contractors for work still sought. Cllr Ayers to chase up possible names for contractors. Highways have failed to answer correspondence. Roy Fullee (previous employee Highways) has offered a couple of suggestions which Clerk is following up. Worcester Wildlife to be approached again. Cllrs agreed to Cllr Wilsons suggestion for ordering MOT type 1 stone by the bag to fill potholes in the time being but hold off until next meeting to see if contractors can be found.</p>	<p>Cllr Ayers Clerk Cllr Wilson</p>
iv.	<p>Water seepage outside Langdale Previously discussed as part of agreed contract for headwall work</p>	
v.	<p>Worcester Wildlife correspondence ref Monkwood Worcestershire Wildlife Trust are beginning to raise funds to purchase land at Green Farm, on the western edge of Monkwood to extend and protect Monkwood, a truly ancient woodland that has been there since the last ice age, and a fixture of the parish since records began. Aims: - Maintain some of the fields as meadows, particularly those of higher quality running alongside the wood. The other fields we plan to re-wood through a combination of tree planting and natural regeneration. - Make Monkwood, bigger, better and more joined up. This should benefit the species that rely on the site, from dormice and butterflies, to woodland fungi and much more. - Undertake some other improvements to the car park surfacing and bridlepath trackway to improve accessibility. - improve on site signage and information to help others understand and value the woodland. - Work with local schools, scout groups and others to engage them in the history of the woodland and its ecological importance. Cllrs agreed to support this project and agreed to arrange a date to meet up with Mike Perry, Worcs Wildlife Resources. No financial discussions took place.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
vi	<p>To note flytipping and rotten meat dumped at Monkwood Cllrs thanks local residents at The Fox for clearing up the mess under their own steam. It was noted that dogs are particularly at risk from this type of flytipping. PCSO and Worcs Wildlife informed and photos submitted.</p>	
vii.	<p>To note fallen branch near pond and to retrospectively approve resident assistance with removal. Resident RP kindly assisted with his chainsaw to remove the fallen branches. Wood was left to resident to dispose of as he saw fit. Footpath and right of way cleared and Cllrs thanked RP for his quick intervention and Cllr Wilson for alerting residents of the hazard via the WhatsApp group. Clerk noted that the nec. chainsaw licence and evidence of training had been provided to the parish council during a recent project. Receipts for chainsaw fuel might be forthcoming and</p>	

	Cllrs agreed to receive and inspect these with a view to paying as and when required.	
84/21	Reports from other Projects and Representatives To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.	
a.	Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022, including tree planting and option for a beacon Possible locations – Sinton Green village green, churchyard and school. Cllr Stanley to approach church committee and school. Cllr Stanley could obtain 30% discount for trees. Clerk to ascertain level of interest, types of trees that would be popular and then Cllr Stanley to investigate other preferences ref roots/soil (ie with soil or bare roots). So far 15 residents have expressed an interest with mixed requirements for oak and fruit trees. Willow trees are not required. Clerk still has three Willow saplings left which are genetically specific to Monkwood Green and should be preserved - residents of the parish can have if they approach the Clerk. The Clerk was instructed to advertise on Facebook to see if any local contractors would be willing to make a beacon. Also instructed to obtain quotes. Also instructed to check with MHDC whether planning permission was required.	Clerk Cllr Stanley
b.	Broadband projects update Grimley, Monkwood Green and Sinton Green. Cllr Stanley has yet to hear back following a formal complaint with Openreach ref their lack of customer service. Sinton Green project has formally folded after a number of residents pulled out due to personal conflicts with regard to local planning applications. Monkwood Green project is proceeding with a new kerbside box being installed at the Wichford end in August.	Clerk
c.	Climate emergency and net zero banking Cllr Bretherton had consulted the Clerk and considered that changing bank accounts after the recent 5 year battle to confirm three valid signatories and to obtain online banking was not an advisable route. Cllrs agreed that a better option was to open an additional bank account with a net zero group and migrate over to it gradually. Local businesses could be encouraged to go down the same route as the risk is lower. Previous advice obtained from CALC: " <i>The Council will need to satisfy itself that it's money would be safe. If you are below the £85,000 it would be best to ensure it has the government protection on the account. Unity Trust bank have a specific online only account for Parish Councils and are active in the sector.</i> https://www.unity.co.uk/who-we-help/ " Cllr Stanley had previously been assured that co-op do handle accounts for councils and schools. Clerk instructed to proceed with exploring options for an additional bank account with either of the above and report back. Prp: PA. Snc: JI, AB and AA.	Clerk Clerk
d.	Peace Hall. Meeting due 15 th July. Cllr Bretherton continues to forward agendas and minutes as required. Covid restrictions will be removed on the	

	<p>19th July and Cllrs hoped that the hall would fully open after that date. Cllr Bretherton to mention idea to buy a beacon for the queen's celebrations next year. Parish Council has no plans beyond this (and the tree planting) and Cllrs agreed to fully support any event organised by the Hall Committee. Committee are still looking for still looking for someone to quote for clearing the brambles round the edge of the grounds. Cllr Bretherton to check when the anniversary of the Hall is.</p>	<p>Cllr Bretheron</p> <p>Clerk</p>
e.	<p>Lengthsman – Previously discussed.</p>	
f.	<p>Project to improve facilities at church. Cllr Stanley gave an update on progress with maintaining the churchyard and on the project lead by the church volunteers to install a kitchen and toilet at the church. Regular tidying of the churchyard continues for which Cllrs are thankful. Cllr Taft's previous suggestion to apply for wider funding from professionals who specialise in adapting churches for wider community use, has been passed to Kalantha. The Clerk notes that both projects are being run by volunteers and not the parish council. The donation from previous County Cllr P.Grove £565.00 towards new church facilities remains in the care of the parish council until it is needed by the project group.</p>	
g.	<p>Defibrillator Grimley village and phone box repairs. Cllr Taft continues to liaise with resident volunteers. Leaflet has been drafted and waiting for approval from SR. District and County Cllrs have given backing to project. Clerk is liaising with BT ref condition of phone box, ensuring all permissions are in place. Community Heart Beat Trust has advised a 6 month waiting list. Quoted cost of £1670 plus installation. Amount to be advertised to public is therefore a rounded figure of £1800. Cllrs agreed to proceed with Heart Beat Trust as their package of service/maintenance and online reporting is second to none. Paint has been ordered and due to arrive shortly. Stickers and signage for defib in phone box will be supplied along with equipment as part of the purchase price.</p>	<p>Cllr Taft Clerk</p>
hi	<p>Project to provision of defibrillator at Sinton Green. Clerk has approached Heart Beat Trust for a template hosting agreement between hall and parish council. Draft leaflet will be produced shortly.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
71/21	<p>Finance and Administration - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice</p>	
a.	<p>To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts. Cllrs asked Clerk to explore direct debit for future payment to Information Commissioners, which would give a £5 saving. Prps: GM. Scnd: PA. Motion carried.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
b.	<p>Latest bank statement for June had yet to arrive from Lloyds. Clerk to check.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
85/21	<p>Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda.</p>	
	<p>Nil.</p>	
86/12	<p>Date of next scheduled meeting – Monday 23rd Aug, 7.30pm. Peace Hall, Sinton Green. The press and public are cordially invited to attend this meeting.</p>	

Appendix 1 – Payments to be made (or date paid if contracted monthly payment)

Mr S Skeys	Lengthsman June worksheet 2021	£143.00 originally submitted. Amended to £195.50 at new pay scale.	VAT nil
Mr S Skeys	Mowing Sinton Green June 2021	£75.00	VAT nil
Information Commissioners		£40.00	Payment cancelled subject to exploring direct debit option
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly expenses July 2021	£24.50	VAT under calculation
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly wage June 2021	£576.48	VAT nil

Appendix 2 - Monkwood Green Butterfly briefing

As a Site of Special Scientific Interest Monkwood Green is well known for some unique qualities. From the point of view of butterflies and day flying moths it offers enhanced diversity to the adjacent wood, with 23 of the 58 UK butterfly species regularly recorded. This diversity will assume increased importance with the acquisition of Green Farm. Butterfly flight periods can vary a little from year to year subject to weather conditions but the following are good indicators:

1. First and foremost the Wood White, introduced to Monkwood in 2016, has two broods and flies over a long period. Peak times are late May and end of July. It breeds within the wood but several observers including me, have noted it feeding out on the Green. It prefers to lay its eggs in more shaded spots so may not breed on the Green. The opportunity to feed outside the wood helps dispersal to other sites
2. Another key species, the Marbled White, found from mid June to mid August, has increased on Monkwood Green with a maximum count of 79 in 2016, but only 15 next year when the grass was cut in early July. In 2019 it bounced back with a record of 89 **due to later cut in September.**
3. The yellow Brimstone is found in good numbers. It hibernates through the winter, one of the first seen in Spring –a harbinger of improving weather. It breeds through to emerge as an adult in late July/ August, and particularly likes feeding on Betony, plentiful in the area on the Green adjoining the wood.
4. A widespread but declining species, the Small Copper feeds on Sorrel which is present here. The summer brood is July to August, having bred through as a caterpillar in May and June
5. Common Blues vary in numbers from year to year nationally and fly on the Green in August where its foodplant, Birds-foot Trefoil grows well.
6. A closely related species, the Brown Argus, is found from time to time especially in the last few years when it seems to have prospered by switching to feed on Cranesbill and other members of the Geranium family rather than plants found only on limestone. Again it is on the wing late July –August with caterpillars present in the preceding six weeks
7. Among the 23 butterfly species others are Small Heath, Large and Small Skippers and Peacock. These are species reducing in numbers and subject of national concern. So maximising suitable habitat is crucial.

A range of nectar sources is vital not only for butterflies but other insects including day flying moths such as the red and black Burnet, and Bumblebees. Some significant flowers which fit this bill on the Green include Knapweed, Oxeye Daisy, Betony, Trefoil and various Umbellifers –all flowering at the height of summer. A variety of grasses add to this mix –foodplants for the Marbled White and Skipper caterpillars.

In summary it is vital to avoid disturbance during the early summer. Butterfly Conservation would urge the Parish Council to tailor its management plan to take account of when key species are active on the Green, and cut in August/September.

Source: Worcestershire Wildlife and Butterfly count volunteers

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