

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 23rd June 2022 at 19:30hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present: Cllr B Martin, Chair,

Cllrs: Ms B Prodger, R Ashton, N Catlow, T Clarke, A Crockford, G Lowe, G Messervy-Whiting, E Mutter.

D.Cllr P Whatley, G M Brewin (Clerk), Mr S Warr Parish Tree Warden

Apologies; C.Cllr Ms K Hanks, D.Cllr Ms S Rouse,

Visitors: Six.

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;

Opening the informal discussion time the Chair said he would like to review agenda -6 future S106 funded projects and the Village Hall involvement first. MHDC S106 Contracts and Development Manager Mr M Hammond who had been invited to the meeting was unable to attend. The clerk read out his contribution – see appendix -a. There was a general discussion on how to implement the expenditure of about £80k on a new tennis court. The Chair thanked all for their contributions which the council would consider when discussing this formally.

He then moved on to review agenda – 7. There was a general view that improved access to the Jubilee Plantation would be beneficial and that the thirty-years or so continual free passage along the access footpath between the Plantation and Knightwick Road should be preserved. Again the Chair thanked all for their contributions which the council would consider when discussing this formally.

Reports: County & District Councillors, Footpaths' Warden, Tree Warden, Village Hall, Community Shop, Knightwick Surgery Patient Participation Group

C.Cllr Ms K Hanks had sent a report on the development of improved bus services which the clerk read out. See appendix -b

District Cllr P Whatley reported on the activities of the MHDC noting the financial situation and other local matters.

The Parish Footpaths' Warden reported on a number of access problems which were in process of being resolved.

The Chair welcomed the new Parish Tree Warden who said that he was in the final stages of accreditation by WCC and was discussing the way forward with Dr D Bradley the outgoing warden.

The formal meeting commenced at 20:40hrs

AGENDA

1.

Members' Apologies for absence

All members were present.

2.

Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest in agenda items.

3.

Confirm the minutes of the annual meeting held on 26th May 2022 (circulated in advance)

These were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4.

Financial Matters;

a) Note the following payments made under the 'Delegated Action' procedure since the last meeting.

27/05/22 Duffy Regan & Comp, Annual inspection of accounts, £50 inc vat - Noted

13/06/22 Printed Banners, Play Area Sign, £42.00 inc vat- Noted

13/06/22 Kompan Ltd, Additional turf and topsoil, £600.00 inc vat- Noted

13/06/22 M.C.B. Landscapes, Playing Field Maintenance. £384.00 inc vat- Noted

14/06/22 R A Wilks Lengthsman, Work in May. £126.00 inc vat- Noted

b) Note Bank Acc at 23/06/22 - £27143.89 - Noted

c) The clerk advised that the internally examined accounts for 2021-22 were now published on the council's website as was the the 'Notice of Public Rights...' which sets the availability for examination dates as 13/6/22 to 22/7/22. He also advised that as there was a considerable amount of VAT to be reclaimed as a result of the Play Area expenditure he would apply for a refund at the end of June.

5.

Planning and Environmental Matters;

Review status – Clay Green Farm development. The parking of heavy vehicles on footpaths has resulted in considerable damage and hazard. The clerk had reported this to WCC Highways and the Chair would discuss it with the site management to seek a resolution.

6.

a) Future S106 funded projects.

The Chair reviewed the earlier informal discussion and councillors discussed in detail how best to provide a new tennis facility in the village considering the finance available. There was general disappointment that the Village Hall Committee and Tennis Club were reluctant to take up the project. It was noted that the new facility, if implemented by the Parish Council, would have to be completely the property of the council for the life of the facility at least, and freely open to all to enable the expenditure to be free of vat.

After further discussion the Chair proposed that Cllr Ashton together with the clerk prepare a project document for consideration at the next meeting.

b)New Play Area

Cllr R Ashton proposed installing five new bench seats in the Playing Field to implement facilities for users of the play Area. This was agreed and Cllr Ashton and the Clerk would prepare an application to MHDC for additional S106 funds.

c) Agree on a method of management for the Play Area.

The clerk reported that no-one had come forward to take up the stewardship of the Play Area and the search would continue to fill this post.

7.

New Public Right of Way

The Council to make an application Definitive Map Modification Order establishing a new Public Right-of-Way from Knightwick Road via the existing public path to the Jubilee Plantation, through the plantation to the boundary at the existing gate; turning right and following the field boundary until it meets existing footpath 536(B).

This will regularise the current situation dating from 1989 when visitors to the Jubilee Plantation would avail themselves of access to the adjacent field and onwards to footpath 536(B) to gain access to Folly Road.

(Circulated in advance; Map of proposed path and Advice on the procedure to achieve a Definitive Map Modification Order)

The Chair reviewed the earlier informal discussion and councillors discussed in detail how best to implement this. After a substantial discussion it was agreed that the clerk would prepare a draft application for a Definitive Map Modification Order for approval by the council at a later meeting and in advance of this discuss with the owner of the adjacent field how to implement a formal right-of-way from footpath 536(B) to the plantation.

8.

Clerk's Report -

Correspondence received and Actions from the previous meeting.

The matters of vat recovery and Play Area supervision had already been covered by the meeting. The sale of the 'old' VAS was ongoing.

Earlier in the year he had committed the council to support the Platinum Jubilee Party on 5th June for which the total cost was £132.37. The council's share was £44.13 and he proposed the council cover this from the Old Storridge Charity which existed for such matters.

The council - sitting as the corporate trustees of the Old Storridge Charity – agreed to this.

9.

Items for the next meeting

Refer to agenda 6 and 7 above.

10.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: July 28th 2022

Agreed.

The meeting closed at 21:05 hrs.

appendix -a

- The Clay Green Farm planning application dates back to 2014. Accordingly, when my predecessor would have been undertaking her review of local need and no doubt engaged with the local community at the time, the identification of additional playing field space and a new tennis court would have been identified. This local need is then captured with the S106 agreement. Due to planning regulations with regards to the 'pooling of S106 contributions' at the time, we had to be very specific as to what the contribution would be spent on. You'll be aware that we are able to now be a lot more generic with our definitions which allowed us to fund your play area.

1. As above, additional playing field space was identified back in 2014 and the S106 agreement wording was set (it cannot be changed). As you have subsequently received confirmation from the neighbouring land owner that there is no opportunity to extend the existing playing field, the funding will need to be allocated for Tennis provision

2. As you state the existing tennis court is in poor condition and has also lost part of the corner to the village hall extension. The slight relocation of the existing footprint to allow a new open for all court to be provided would therefore be an appropriate (and only apparent) option.

3. As above

To be honest, this matter is a very simple one and doesn't need to be over complicated:-

- I believe the tennis club has a long term lease on the existing court. Accordingly, they will require the land area/location in the lease to be modified slightly to allow the club to accommodate a new court. Once this is in place the club will be able to apply for the S106 funds in order to deliver the project. The club will have to comply with MHDC's eligibility criteria.

- Alternatively, as freeholder, the village hall committee could apply for the funds and deliver the project.

- Fundamentally, there is no active role the parish council needs to take in this project. The only way the parish council would/should be involved, is if you were going to take on a lease or transfer of the land and you then lead on the project.

In short, my recommendation is to leave this project to the village hall and tennis club

I have copied in councillors Rouse and Whatley as I am unable to attend your next Parish Council meeting.

Kind Regards

Mark

appendix -b

A Bus Travel Task Force for Worcestershire is being set up to review current bus provision and to ensure bus travel is able to meet residents' needs across the county.

This group will be comprised of the County Council, bus operators, passenger groups, and the individual constituency Members of Parliament for Worcestershire.

The Task Force meetings will be an opportunity for all key partners and the County Council to hear about the challenges that are currently being faced by bus users, bus companies and bus employees. The Task Force will travel to each constituency within the county to ensure it is close to the issues in the local areas.

The aim of the task force is to provide a platform for new solutions and ideas on how the current issues can be addressed, these can then be shared with the Department for Transport.

Local Councillors will also be invited to the Task Force and residents are being encouraged to have their say by contacting their local councillors or by using passenger forums, who will be represented at the meetings.

Councillor Mike Rouse, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport said: "We know how important bus travel is to residents across Worcestershire, especially those who rely on their local services on a regular basis to make appointments, get to and from work or even see their family. Since I have come into my post, this is the number one issue brought to my attention by our residents. As such, I have increased the amount I now travel by bus to try and experience first-hand, the issues our residents raise. My ongoing experiences highlight that we need to work alongside our operating partners to work out how we make bus travel sustainable for all involved in this area. I'm hoping the task force will give the opportunity for some much needed discussions to be had and awareness raised of what is an ongoing issue for several local authorities not just us here in Worcestershire. "

Councillor Karen Hanks
Malvern Link Division
Worcestershire County Council