

MINUTES OF INKBERROW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE PAVILION, SANDS ROAD, ON WEDNESDAY 20th JULY 2022, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.

Present: Councillors David Hunter (Chair), Rodger Fooks, Dinah Griffin, Chris Burdett and Richard Jordon.

In Attendance: Robert Wilcox RFO.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillor Jane Neal, Robin Lunn Anthony Hopkins, Audrey Steel and clerk Janet Cresswell.

DEMOCRATIC FIFTEEN MINUTES PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Phil Coathup gave an update on progress about the solar farm. Three Parishes are involved in the discussion. A survey conducted by local MP Rachael Maclean indicate an 80% opposition to the project. Wychavon have been asked to conduct a pre-planning screening and to date no information is available on this.

David Powis spoke about a recent Planning Application W/22/00032/OUT in Stonepit Lane and was concerned about the inconsistent approach from the Parish Council regarding applications of property development outside the existing permitted area for development. He quoted two examples of developments that had been passed by the Parish Council and Wychavon planning department which were outside the Parish Boundary. A development in Sedgeberrow of a similar nature was also mentioned.

Elizabeth Collins raised vegetation issues on the Tuer and Green Lane. She also wanted to thank Tony Tyrer, Jane Neal, Tony Perryman and John Bailey (and the Chair thanked Elizabeth) all of whom had kept the newly planted trees watered throughout the village area, . The Neighbourhood Plan had been drafted into an interim report, which remained in draft, but the Neighbourhood Plan Group would like a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss progress so far and receive feedback.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST were received from :-

Chris Burdett re agenda point 10

Book was not signed as not present.

MINUTES

Amendments from minutes of meeting from 15th June 2022

Under Progress Reports : Pepper Street – No sign of any hedge cutting happening. Action – we wish the clerk to report back to **County Highways** regarding this.

ALLOTMENTS

The Allotment judging had taken place before the meeting. Bob Berryman had no issues to raise. Winners would be presented at the September show.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Highways - The proposed diversion of path IB661 had not been agreed. However concerns were raised over the communication between the County Council and a couple of members of the village during the consultation period. **Action** – Dinah to forward Laura the correspondence and Laura to follow up with County.

Pinhills road surfacing had been completed and will be surface dressed from September, but it was felt that the work had removed the severity of the 'bump' in the road. A discussion regarding the diversion of traffic when Pinhills was closed requested that diversions used a 'one way' system with traffic using Stonepit Lane in one direction and Stockwood Lane in the other, due to the narrowness of the latter diversionary route.

Vegetation clearance of public footpaths had been cleared back by County.

Lengthsman – David reported that the Lengthsman had started working around the village and a site visit had taken place, with the Lengthsman working on the priority locations first. Some really good work had already happened including the clearing of vegetation from the road on Pepper Street, hedge cutting along the main road between NU:U and the bottom of Stockwood Lane, along the Main road from the Worcester end of the village to Stonepit Lane. The Lengthsman will work on the other areas over the coming weeks to get the village looking tidy again, after a two-year gap of not having an active Lengthsman. The area along the Tuer, behind the houses was raised and this was normally cleared by the Housing Association. Funding was raised, as it was felt that there was a backlog of work to be undertaken, which may see an over-spend on the allocated budget. Laura agreed to look at additional funding which may be available. **Action:** The Clerk to write to the Housing Association and ask for the Tuer to be cleared of vegetation. **Action:** The Clerk to write to the owners of the house on the corner at the bottom of Stockwood Lane and ask for the hedge to be cut right back to give better sighting up the road. **Action:** Parish Council to advise Laura on the estimated additional funding that would be required. **Action:** Councillor Gretton to ask Highways to completed the clearance of Pepper Street where the Lengthsman.

Neighbourhood Plan – The Neighbourhood Planning team have a plan “ work in progress” which was circulated before the meeting and an Extraordinary Meeting will be held in August or early September to discuss the Report. **Action:** Chair and Clerk to arrange a meeting once dates have been received from the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

SCI Legal Document – No progress, nothing heard from SCI – it is suggested that we get our solicitors to contact ISC re moving forward. **Action** - Anthony to provide some words, David to contact solicitor.

Bus Shelter – It had been arranged that the walls would be painted white, however, it was felt that this needed further discussion. Arts funding is available for the project. The lengthsman has been tasked with clearing the overhanging branches from above the shelter. **Action** – Clerk to raise at the next meeting.

Noticeboard - Suggestion of locating at the side of the shop. Would Chaz be willing to have a permanent board, rather than the A Frame. **Action:** David to speak to Chaz.

Police – Theft of a Grey van from Worcester Road on 21st June in the afternoon. Summer Burglary prevention advice reminds house owners to keep windows and doors shut when they aren't in the house, wheelie bins to be kept out of site (as they can be used to climb on a gain entry into houses), keep sheds, garages outbuildings locked, install security lights and keep any machinery, garden tools etc. locked away when not in use. Rebecca Lowe had also been appointed as the new local Policing Commander for South Worcestershire.

NEW BENCHES AND PICNIC TABLES

Some of these are now in place. An ongoing project.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gretton advised that concerns had been raised about the bus service throughout that area (timings, reliability, timetable provision) and that a Task Force had been set up to look at what could be done. Laura advised that once the bus contract had been set up, there was no control over the service levels then provided by the operators.

The pavement along High Street between NU:U and the school was to be resurfaced which would include the clearing of the vegetation. The Lengthsman had already cut back the hedges along this section. Work is also expected to take place to widen the area adjacent to where the school children cross the road (at the bottom of the Stockwood Lane) and place a barrier to allow people to stand before crossing the road. Parking on Stockwood Lane was also raised with complaints from bus companies who struggled to get vehicles up the road, it was also felt that emergency services would struggle to get up the road. The working of the 'School' flashing lights was also discussed. **Action:** Councillor Gretton and the Parish Council to ask the School to remind parents to park only on the 'downhill' side of the road and not on the opposite side, or right on the junction of Windmill Lane. Parents should try and park at the village car park where possible to ease any traffic flow issues. **Action:** Councillor Gretton to establish who should operate the crossing lights and their maintenance.

Laura was still investigating the installation of the white gates along the A422 and their chosen location.

There was also a discussion regarding the signage on the Worcester bend, which was still underway. An unsuccessful barrier had been installed which caused visibility problems and it was suggested that the original signage was the most effective.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

No issues were raised. The Parish Council sent their best wishes to Audrey.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The RFO had circulated the monthly accounts and report.

A discussion took place on the Lengthsman Budget was reported earlier.

Smart Cut to be asked to cancel the next round of grass cutting due to the dry weather. **Action:** Clerk to contact Smart Cut.

A meter reading was taken from the allotments.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None raised.

W/22/00032/OUT – was discussed following a concern raised in the Democratic session. After deliberation, the Parish Council noted the issues raised with regard to consistency and precedent, but our position remained as stated. ie refusal on the grounds of the development being outside the Parish boundary.

DEVELOPMENT RE SOLAR FARM PROJECT

It was advised that the planning application could be expected in August. No feedback had been received about the Environmental impact screening. It was agreed that once the Planning Application had been received, that an Extraordinary Meeting would be held within 14 days to seek the views of the Parish, to allow the Parish Council to decide on it's position.

PARISH CLERK – the meeting was advised that the Clerk would return on 1st August and we wished her well in her recovery.

REJOINING CALC – The Chair raised the subject that the Parish Council re-join CALC, which would be seen as beneficial. It was agreed and financial approval would be sought at the August meeting.

COUNCILLORS'/CLERK'S REPORTS & ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Bike / Dr. Bike event – correspondence had been received that the event would take place on the village green / Old Bull pub on 16th August between 1400hrs – 1800hrs. Agreed. **Action:** Clerk to advise the event organiser.

Solihull Cycling Club had offered a small donation for their recent event to a charity of our choice. It was agreed that this would be the Midlands Air Ambulance as per recent years.

Village planters – We had been advised that Shelia Williams who attended to the planters and water them at the Worcester end of the village, and even used to plant these up, would no longer be able to do it. We thanked Sheila for doing it in the past as they always looked well presented. We would need to seek a volunteer for doing it in the future. **Action:** Clerk to establish who will water the planters in future.

FURTHER COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Elizabeth asked if the plaque could be placed on the new seat at the top of Pepper Street. This was agreed.

Next meeting is at 19:30hrs on Wednesday 17th August 2022.