

Hill & Moor Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Lower Moor Parish Rooms on Thursday, 9th September, 2010.

Present: Mr N Butler, Mr M Hayes, Ms A Buckley, Mr E Cohen.
Clerk: Mrs C Morris.
In attendance: Mrs M English and Cllr Liz Tucker.

*The meeting opened at 7.30pm and was adjourned to hear from parishioner Ron Miller. See attached note.
The meeting re-opened at 7.45pm.*

The council noted that Councillor English had resigned her position as councillor in view of her application to take the clerk's job.

1. To consider apologies for absence.

Cllr Oldfield was unable to attend and her apology was accepted.

2. To consider: a) Declarations of Interest (Personal & Prejudicial) and b) Any changes to be notified to the Register of Interest and Gifts & Hospitality. None

3. To review the council's financial regulations and risk assessment.

It was agreed that the council would re-adopt the financial regulations and that the chairman and new clerk would review the risk assessment. Action Chair/Clerk

4. Minutes: Minutes of the meeting on 12th August 2010 to be confirmed and signed.

The minutes were signed by the chairman as a true record of proceedings.

5. To consider any applications for co-option to fill the council's vacant seat.

There were none.

Mrs English left the room for the following item:

6. To appoint a new clerk to the parish council.

The councillors agreed that Mrs English was an ideal candidate for the clerk's job and agreed to employ her from the date of the meeting. Her contract and payscale was agreed and it was agreed the present clerk would work on in tandem for another month in order to help with the transition. Action Clerk.

Mrs English returned to the room and was welcomed into her new job.

New Items:

7. To consider any issues surrounding the closure of the Lower Moor shop and post office.

The chairman agreed to donate his £50 annual chairman's allowance to the collection for Mr and Mrs Marshall – there was to be a presentation at the weekend.

It was noted that some consideration was still being given to the pub as a potential site for a post office. Cllr Tucker agreed to pass on details of the rural shops advisor.

It was also noted that a site would be needed for a new post box: to be put on the next agenda with the phone box issue. Action Clerk

8. To consider matters arising from the latest glasshouse planning application.

The letter detailing the parish point of view was finalised by general consent and sent off after the special meeting. Cllr Tucker reported that it appeared that the roundabout plan had been withdrawn from the application and that the retrospective application for increasing the size of the glasshouses would likely be approved.

Regular Items:

9. Finance:

9.1. To approve accounts for payment and note any receipts and approve accounts paid between meetings.

It was noted that the annual grant from Worcestershire County Council for mowing in the parish had been received. - £630. Also, the first payment, for £100, for hire of the playing field by a football club had been received.

The council approved an invoice for payment from GBD (Evesham) Ltd for mowing. £332.35.

9.2. Bank reconciliation.

<u>July in:</u>		
mowing grant		£630.00
Interest		<u>£000.63</u>
		<u>£630.63</u>

<u>July out:</u>		
C Morris	Clerk	£335.11
Orchard Bus Servs	Int Audit	£085.00
M Hayes	mileage	£006.40
Village Hall	Grant	<u>£150.00</u>
		<u>£576.51</u>

<u>Aug in:</u>		
football club		£100.00
interest		<u>£000.65</u>
		<u>£100.65</u>

<u>Aug out:</u>		
C Morris	Clerk	£287.29
NPower	lighting	£425.58
GBD	mowing	£345.45
Clement Keys	audit	£158.63
Wychavon Sport	games	£059.00
GBD	mowing	<u>£332.35</u>
		<u>£1608.30</u>

The bank reconciliation for July and August showed that in the current account, cheques had been deposited to the value of £731.28. Cheques had been written totalling £2,152.81. This brought the account total to £3,384.34. In the savings account, interest of £1.28 was accrued, which brought its total to £15,249.03. This meant that at the end of August, the council's total cash assets stood at £18,633.37.

9.3. To approve overtime/expenses for July/August 2010.

The clerk's expenses of £6.48 (mileage) were approved.

10. Planning:

10.1. To consider new planning applications.

W10/02088/PN **Johnville**, Salters Lane, Lower Moor. New detached two-storey dwelling plus driveway at front of property adjacent to Hillrai.

The councillors had no objection to the application subject to care being taken to ensure the culvert is not blocked or damaged and that there is no increase in surface water run-off from the new property.

W/10/01388/AC – a revised application for a new access at The Gains, **Hill Furze**.

This was received after the agenda to deal with under delegated powers. The council had

no objection, apart from some concern about the safety of the access which they would leave to the highways department to determine.

10.2. To confirm comments sent to Wychavon District Council between meetings.

The attached letter was sent in as the council's response to planning application

10.3. To note any Decision Notices received from Wychavon District Council.

W/10/01544/PN – Duffledown Farm, Wyre Piddle Bypass, Upper Moor. Creation of earth bank to reduce noise on site. APPROVED.

11. Street Lighting:

11.1. To note fault reports and hear progress on faults. No further faults to report.

11.2. To discuss action necessary to maintain/repair/update the lighting system.

Cllr Butler reported the good news that the electricity company had admitted it was liable for the cost of reinstating the power line to the Maytree Road/Bridge Street lamp which would save the parish several thousand pounds. He was asked to go ahead and ask Prysmian to replace its lamp and bracket and to install a new column at the Salters/Blacksmiths Lane junction, so that Eon could come and install the power supply as soon as possible.

12. Playing Field

12.1. To consider progress on any repairs/improvements necessary for the play area and field.

The clerk reported an incident while the cricket team were playing – a cricket ball hit a car and dented it. The PC was asked by the club to claim for repairs on its playing field insurance. The PC insurance company issued instruction that the car owner should pursue a claim through their own insurance company and it would be passed on if needs be.

After reports of an overflowing litter bin on the field, the clerk asked Wychavon to check if it was being emptied regularly. The officer said the litter bins are emptied on a Wednesday every week but recently the collection team have noticed 'that the bins are very full for a small recreation space in a small village – out of good faith the crew are going to return today to empty the bins but Wychavon won't be able to keep doing 2 collections per week - they may be a local person or an organization using the recreation ground but filling up the litter bins'. Councillors said they hadn't noticed a problem and believed that a bin collection had been missed.

It was noted that the Severn Waste grant which Cllr Hayes had requested on behalf of the play area fund-raising group to pay for a new gate to the existing play area had been approved. He was thanked for his work.

13. Village Hall – To consider any village hall issues: A hire agreement for using the village green. No further issues.

14. Lengthsman: To consider any lengthsman issues.

The council was pleased to hear that Nick Winter felt ready to return to work.

15. To consider any updates on any of the following ongoing issues:

Allotments – nothing to report

Website – nothing to report

Newsletter- it was noted some had not been delivered. Clerk to print a new batch.

Action Clerk

Flooding – No new issues

Wind Farm – Nothing new

Housing- Nothing New

PACT- News of a revival – Cllr Hayes to continue on the panel.

Glasshouse development – as above

16. Calc/Training issues.

Clerk to find out if the CALC training bursary was still available for clerk training.

17. Reports from councillors/ county and district councillor and Correspondence.

Cllr Tucker gave her report. She spoke about:

The state of the pavements and roads in the village – PC to write to the county to state the point again.

Action Clerk.

She spoke about the glasshouse application, as above.

She spoke about the drainage improvements and reported that there was now Network Rail agreement for the improvement scheme but there was as yet no agreement from one landowner who was being pursued – and would be taken through the courts if necessary.

Investigations in the Upper Moor area found that an electricity cable had been laid on top of a highway drain and smashed it.

She spoke about the Area Forum being held this time in Bishampton, about an upcoming transportation consultation and said the next tip liaison committee was to be held on October 27.

Correspondence:

- Poster to encourage people to send back their electoral roll forms. The clerk reminded councillors there was an election in May.
- 'No Need for Nuclear' campaign – for the circulation pack
- Pershore Area Forum – Thurs September 16th 7pm at Bishampton Villages Hall. Discussions planned on WCC budgets, transport plan, Health: 'Changes to GPs', flooding, policing.
- Worcs CC Grants information.
- Wychavon DC annual report – circulate.

Circulation pack: Clerks and councils direct/ Community First Newslines/ Carers and Caring News/ Nuclear Power /

18. Items for next agenda and to affirm the date of the next meeting.

The next meeting was confirmed for October 7th.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

.....(chairman)

.....(date)

C. Morris - Mrs C Morris. Clerk

Notes from the public session:

Mr Miller raised the issue of Cherry Orchard Road. He said trucks were coming through the village and vehicles were speeding up and down and some were not even stopping as they came out of the Maytree Road junction. He warned of an accident waiting to happen and suggested that one solution could be a wide sleeping policeman outside the village hall which could also act as a crossing place for hall users.

He also complained about the state of the road and that cars were again parking on the pavement, saying he had seen elderly people on sticks having to walk in the middle of the road because the pavement was obstructed.

Cllr Hayes said there was a planned revival of the PACT group (Partners and Community Together) which would be asked to take the issue of traffic in Lower Moor into consideration and Cllr Tucker took note of the complaints.

Mr Miller also complained about the state of the phone box and it was agreed this should go on the agenda for the next meeting. Action Clerk

He was also thanked for trimming the trees on the play area and he reported that he was invited to a county council event to thank him for his work looking after the trees locally.

Hill & Moor Parish Council

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Mr Jonathan Edwards,
Planning Officer
Wychavon District Council
Civic Centre,
Queen Elizabeth Drive,
Pershore,
Worcs WR10 1PT

August 23rd 2010

Dear Sir,

Hill and Moor parish council are writing to raise the following concerns regarding the revised application by Springhill nurseries **W10/01610/PN**:

- First of all, the council would wish to complain that yet again it was not included in the initial notification despite previous assurances that this would be the case. The council therefore requests that it is added to the list of neighbours and that its statement is accepted despite it being later than the original notifications to other residents stipulated.
- Paragraph 2.6.2 states that there was a public meeting held with the two parish councils. This is not correct. The two parish councils were invited to a private meeting with the applicants, but were constrained to only two councillors each and no members of the public were invited.
- Paragraphs 4.1.1 and 5.1.5 of the same document states that the new road layout will remove the development traffic from Salters Lane. As the devolvement has

been nearly completed, there is no longer any significant developer traffic entering the site from Salters Lane, so we do not believe this is a valid reason for need to change the access road layout.

There have recently been a number of attempts by refrigerated articulate HGVs trying, dangerously, to enter the site to pick up produce, contrary to the original application that only 7.5 tonne lorries would be used to pick up produce from the site. We have recently received confirmation from Mr Billie that articulated lorries will no longer be used to pick up produce, so removing the issues relating to HGVs accessing the site.

- Paragraph 4.8.5 states that an additional internal road would be required for access to the land at the east of the site, but it does not state the reason for this. At the meeting on the 17th June, the Parish Councils were told and shown plans that this would solely be for access to an anaerobic digester sited to the east of the existing glasshouse, yet the application makes no mention of this. This raises our concerns that this access road might be required for access to a new glasshouse, which is referred to in an article in the Grower magazine in which Mr Holt stated that it was the plan to continue expanding the business by adding new glass at the Springhill site.
- We would also point out that as the current site is already operating and dispatching tomatoes, despite being in breach of several conditions relating to the work required for safe access from the A44 onto Salters Lane, and from Salters Lane onto the site. Therefore, any employment opportunities predicted in paragraph 4.14.2 should now be filled, so the suggestion that this application will provide 30 jobs is not relevant.
- As the only reason for the new access appears to be to protect the residents of Salter's Lane from non-existent developers traffic, and that we have received confirmation from Mr Billie that as of the 21st July no articulated HGVs would be used to collect produce from the site, we do not feel that there is enough justification for the new Roundabout. At the 'Private' meeting on the 17th June, the key reason Springhill nurseries gave for requiring the new access was to cater for the increase in traffic for the digester, something that the council would be willing to consider.
Therefore, it is the view of the Councillors that any such change to access should only be requested as part of a request for the anaerobic digester, when there will be a need to bring more HGVs onto the site to bring waste to the digester.
- As the request stands, the Council would have concerns with the removal of hedges and trees along the hedgerow running north to south from the proposed entrance, which in our view would need to be mitigated by the use of soil bunds with grass and planting to provide immediate screening of the current site. We have a clear mandate from the majority of residents of the upper end of Salters Lane that they would prefer the hedge along Salters Lane reduced to its previous height and for no tree planting to occur inside the field along the boundary hedge, as they would prefer to have an open aspect to enable them to see over to the Cotswold escarpment.
- We would also require that the risk of flooding is a prime consideration. The statement states that the site is not liable from flooding from other areas, but with an opening onto the A44, we are concerned that the drainage plan is sufficient to

cope with all water running off from the A44 being kept to the north of the road, unless it can be shown that the SUDS can cater for the same amount of surface water runoff from the A44 that was encountered on the 20th July 2007. If this system is not effective, this water will run down Salters Lane and into Lower Moor village, according to the views of a resident civil engineer.

- Mr Billie, farm manager, also stated at the meeting that the nursery has the capability to pump water under the railway track in times of threatening rainfall. We would like to see a condition added to any approval that stipulate the generation of an emergency plan for such an activity with clear criteria of when it would be undertaken. We would also like to see a condition that requires the pumps to be fitted with two prime movers, electric and diesel thus ensuring they are operational during power outages. This would help to remove the fears of the local population of Lower Moor. The council would like to point out that the pipe is in place but not connected at present.
- Regarding the roundabout plans, the council and local residents are concerned that the roundabout may not improve the local traffic system and would like to see the traffic flow modelled. There are concerns that the speed of traffic coming away from the roundabout, coupled with traffic backing up to the Salters Lane junction, would cause dangers for traffic leaving and entering the village.

I hope you will be able to take these points into careful consideration.

Yours Sincerely
Carolyn Morris

Carolyn Morris (Clerk).