

KEMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Kemerton Parish Council Meeting held at the Victoria Hall, Kemerton on Thursday 7th July 2011 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Mr A Darby OBE, Ms M Fittus, Mrs C Ford, Mr S Papacostantinou, Sir D Logan (Chair) and Dr C Renfrew.

IN ATTENDANCE Ms J Shields (Clerk) and a parishioner.

A Kemerton resident expressed concern regarding recent developments at Ashbury Orchard. A meeting of residents had been held on the 5th July. A number of planning and environmental issues were raised. Planning Enforcement at Wychavon had been informed. The current work, which was intended to extend a hard surfaced area into farmland, had been suspended pending consideration of a planning application. (Item 16d).

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Dr R Withnall.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Councillors were reminded to update their registers of interest and to declare any personal or prejudicial interest in items on the agenda and their nature.

Cllr Ford registered a prejudicial interest in item 15a (i) and did not take part in the decision making process.

3. To Consider The Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Meeting Held On 10th May 2011.

The minutes having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. Election of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Darby proposed, Dr Renfrew seconded and it was agreed to elect Cllr Ford as Vice Chairman.

5. County Councillor Report.

There was no report.

7. District Councillor Report.

Councillor Darby reported on progress with the new South Worcestershire Development Plan. The three district councils had just agreed on the preferred options document to be submitted for public consultation in the autumn. This was very important because there was a risk that, if the production of the SWDP was delayed, developers might take advantage of the fact that the housing numbers in the superseded Regional Spatial Strategy would arguably still be valid. These envisaged 20% more housing in the region than the new draft plan, and until the latter was adopted, provided the baseline against which Wychavon was required to show that it had a five-year housing land supply. He also reported that he had been in contact with the enforcement officers at Wychavon about the development at Ashbury Farm. See item 16 d below.

8. To Review The Council's Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Risk Assessment And Insurance Requirement.

All items had been reviewed and no alterations were necessary at this time.

9. Progress Reports for Information.

a) Clerk.

Complaints had been received regarding the disposal of grass cuttings. The Chairman had spoken to the contractor. The situation will be monitored. Clerk to inform Mrs Maber of the role of the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

b) Chairman's Report.

The Chairman congratulated and thanked the organisers of the Country Fair for this highly successful event

The Chairman had informed the publican of the concerns of the Council about opening hours of the Crown in connection with the granting of rate relief.

c) Bredon Hill Conservation Group.

The Clerk of the Group had resigned. The next meeting will be in November. The Council agreed the Group should continue to pursue the objective of getting the Tower classified as a listed building.

d) Vehicle Activated Speed Sign.

The Council agreed that the Clerk should contact other neighbouring Councils with which to cooperate in the purchase and deployment of a Sign, and should investigate the possibility of using solar power to reduce the high cost of replacement batteries to run the system.

e) Printing of Parish Plan and VDS.

Quotes had been obtained. However, these were high. Cllr Ford to investigate further.

10. Correspondence For Information. (Listed on the Clerk's Report.)

-Parishioners were concerned about the overgrowth of the verges in Job's Lane – Clerk to investigate.

-Cllr Fittus had been contacted by Worcs. County Council regarding the role of footpath warden and unfortunately would be unable to carry out all that is required. Cllr Fittus had put up posters advertising the position on the village.

-Clerk to report blocked ditch on Castle Hill.

11. To Approve The Parish Council Accounts.

The accounts for 2009/10 were agreed by the Council, having been audited.

12. To Discuss The Appointment Of A Lengthsman.

The Clerk to contact other Councils regarding the possibility of sharing a lengthsman. If not filled in this way, the position will be advertised locally.

13. To Discuss A Reply To The Strategic Partnership Priorities.

The Council agreed not to complete the questionnaire. However the Clerk would inform Wychavon Council that Kemerton Parish Council would like to see "Protect and improve the local environment" included in the list of Approved Priorities for the Wychavon Strategic Partnership.

14. To Discuss A Reply To The 'Consultation On Landscape Character'.

Cllr Darby informed the Council that this was an important part of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (formerly The South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy). The Chairman and Cllr Darby will draft a response.

15. Finance

a) Invoices to Be Paid.

Victoria Hall £44.00, HMRC £91.20 and Clerks Expenses £101.27.

b) To Receive Bank Balance To Date.

Bank Balance was presented to the Council. The Clerk to reformat the presentation. Cllr Renfrew to investigate better interest rates. Clerk to close Post Office account.

c) To Consider a Grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Council agreed to donate £100.00 to CAB.

16. Planning.

a. To ratify the comments for applications submitted since the last meeting.

W/11/00949/PP Fairview, Kemerton Road. Kemerton. Extension and alterations to existing dwelling. No objection.

b. To consider planning applications submitted since the publishing of the agenda.

There were none.

c. To report Wychavon planning decisions.

Approved by Wychavon.

W/11/00949/PP Fairview, Kemerton Road. Kemerton.

d) Ashbury Farm.

The Council was concerned by the steady intensification of use, machinery, and buildings over recent years. Complaints had been made about the enlarged entrance from Castle Hill, and planning permission for this had eventually been granted retrospectively. With respect to the recently erected barn, there had been an undertaking that there would be no external lighting which would affect neighbouring properties. However, there had then been complaints about the lighting, and concerns about light pollution still remained. Besides concern about development, there were also environmental issues; neighbouring properties were affected by vermin, the smell of animal excrement and slurry, incinerator fumes etc. The Council agreed that whilst it was desirable to maintain a farm within the village, it should operate in ways which would not impact adversely on neighbouring properties, the landscape or the environment. The Clerk was asked urgently to contact the Planning Enforcement Officer in connection with the extension of hard standing into the orchard to the north of the farm buildings, which, amongst other concerns, in the Council's view contravened the provisions of ENV12 relating to developments affecting Conservation Areas. The Clerk would also raise the Council's environmental concerns about the farm with the Wychavon Environmental Health Officer.

17. Items For Future Agenda and Councillor Reports.

- Clerk to write to property owners on the north side of the Overbury road between Castle Hill and Hill Road to ask them to trim the hedge, which currently overhangs the path excessively.
- To invite a CALC representative to next meeting to give advice on the role of councillors.
- Queens Diamond Jubilee and HMS Kemerton celebrations.
- Clerk to contact WCC regarding the re surfacing of Kemerton Road between Westmancote and Kinsham Lane.

18. Date Of Next Meetings.

Wednesday 31st August and Tuesday 1st November.