

SEDGEBERROW PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Sedgeberrow Annual Parish Council Meeting held at the Betteridge Room at Sedgeberrow Village Hall on Thursday 24th May 2012 at 7.15pm.

Present Cllr's Mrs M Pratt [Chairman], Mr R Hunt, Mr D Farmer and Mr A Stow.

In Attendance Ms J Shields (Clerk), Cllr R Kirke (District), Cllr E Eyre (County), Mr D May and Mr M Parker.

1. Election of Chairman.

Cllr Stow proposed and Cllr Hunt seconded and it was agreed to the election of Cllr Pratt as Chairman, who duly signed the acceptance of office.

2. Apologies: To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from CSO Williams.

3. Declaration Of Interests.

Councillors were reminded to update their register of interests and none were received for this meeting.

4. To Consider The Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Meeting Held On Thursday 15th March 2012.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

Mr Parker asked if the meetings could be held earlier in the month to allow for an article to appear in the Post.

Sedgeberrow Website has a page for the PC, would a councillor like to update it.

Mr May apologised for not being able to attend the Annual Assembly and asked for his report to be available on the website.

Mr May has written to Highways regarding the condition of the footway at Sedgeberrow Hill.

Mr May brought to the attention of the council the concern of parishioners regarding the spreading of 'Himalayan balsam'. The plant is non poisonous therefore the Environment Agency do not remove it, how ever it is an offense to allow it to spread on your property. The best time to manually remove or spray is in May, if it is handled now when in seed it will spread further. Mr Stow gave his permission for Mr May and others to remove the plant from his property. Mr May will contact other land owners. Mr May thanked the parish council for its support of the cycle path between Sedgeberrow and Evesham.

The Wychavon Way is now unofficially open.

The meeting resumed.

5. Police.

Please accept my apologies due to the Olympic Torch relay in Droitwich.

Report E mailed as follows.

Crimes that have occurred in the last three months.

Burglary Non Dwelling - One crime recorded

Criminal Damage - One Crime recorded

Assault - One Crime recorded

Please let me know if any police issues are raised at tonight's meeting.

6. County Councillor.

Cllr Eyres will not be providing reports in the future; however she has a “blog”.
<http://lizeyreupdate.blogspot.co.uk/>

7. District Councillor.

Evesham Bridge.

The bridge will take a year to replace, however it will only be closed for 10 weeks, July – Sept 2013. When completed the whole junction will be upgraded and resurfaced, including lights, banners and space for floral displays. Part of the garden, the car park and part of the play area will be closed for the duration due to health and safety issues. Fly Tipping is an increasing problem; please do report to Wychavon immediately. Dog mess is on the increase, irresponsible owners are to be named and shamed, and Wychavon will also use its powers to fine owners.

Faster broadband is receiving funding from the County Council.

Cllr Stow asked for a written report in future, circulated before the meeting.

8. Election Of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Farmer proposed, Cllr Stow seconded and it was agreed by all for Cllr Hunt to be elected as Vice Chairman.

9. To Appoint Representatives To The Following.

a) Worcestershire Association of Local Councils.

Cllr’s Pratt and Farmer.

b) Village Hall.

Cllr Farmer.

c) Police Group.

Cllr Hunt.

d) Transport.

Mrs Sylvia Brown

e) Footpath.

Mr D May.

f) Tree Warden.

Cllr Hunt.

g) Flood Warden.

Cllr Hunt.

Clerk to write to Mrs Brown and Mr May to confirm their appointment and to thank them for the previous years work.

10. To Review The Councils Financial Regulation, Risk Assessment And Insurance Requirements.

The Council agreed to update the Financial Regulations to - two signatories only. Clerk to notify the bank and to acquire the relevant paperwork to add Cllr Farmer.

The Risk Assessment was updated; Cllr Pratt and Hunt would inspect the council’s assets.

The Council agreed to use Came and Co for the insurance and take advantage of the three year saving.

11. Progress Reports For Information.

a) Clerk. (circulated)

The Clerk had completed and returned the Lengthsman contract with Highways (amount of scheme to be circulated to Cllrs), sent a new contract to Martin Woodhouse, applied for VAT reclaimed £297.08 and submitted PAYE (No 5C8D865CFFD14C2981C77ED4FCA2A145).

b) Main Street Play Area.

Cllr Pratt had met with Jem Teal and Guy Redmond on the 22nd March re the ramp leading to the playing field, it was agreed that the proposal was not

viable. However, it was agreed to spend £3,000.00 improving the fencing and steps.

The working group had met with Guy Redmond on the 13th April and had agreed for the work to start on Monday 21st May. Cllr Farmer had successfully obtained a reduction on the equipment. Work was now under way.

The council agreed to call the new Area the Jubilee Play Area.

Cllr Pratt to ask Jem Teal what happens to redundant play equipment removed for the play area in Evesham.

Clerk to write to Collette Malin who is holding funds collected in the village.

Clerk to complete and return Grant Application.

12. Correspondence.

The Council agreed to hold its meetings as early as possible in the month as requested by the Sedgeberrow Post.

The Council could not organise any work to be carried out to remove *the 'Himalayan balsam'* Cllr Farmer suggested that volunteers working on land with permission of the owner sign a disclaimer similar to that used by the 'litter pickers'.

The Council would endorse the letter written by Mr May regarding the footway on Sedgeberrow Hill.

The Council agreed to donate £50.00 to the Wychavon Bursary.

The Council agreed for the Chairman to update the Web Page on Sedgeberrow.com.

13. Post Office Facilities.

The Chairman had attended a meeting organised by Mr Parker on 4th May with Harriet Baldwin MP, Sue Huggins General Manager Network Services, Kevin Gillard Sales and Network Director of Post Office Ltd and 3 representatives of the village. The future return of a Post Office service in the village was discussed. It was stated that Post Office Ltd now had a new policy of growth and that the Parish Council and the proprietors of the village shop should apply to remodel the village and keep it under review.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Post Office Ltd asking for Sedgeberrow to be remodelled and kept under review and also to enquire about mobile Post Office facilities.

It was also agreed that the Clerk should write to Royal Mail asking for larger Post Boxes to be provided in the village.

14. Highway Matters.

The Clerk had reported the VAS was not working and it was being looked into by Highways.

Cllr Eyres had put forward Sedgeberrow Hill Footway for repair - again, this has been going on for several years.

Clerk to report to Highways, the culvert under the Mill being clogged with debris, after investigation the area belongs to Worcestershire Highways; the guard was bought and installed by the Parish Council, to stop debris from blocking this important water course. The Chairman will ask Mr De Paris to repair the metal guard.

The Council agreed to donate a £200.00 bursary for a litter pick to take place in September 2012.

Clerk to forward to all councillors details of the lengthsman scheme for the coming year.

15. To Discuss Jubilee Celebrations.

An advert had been placed in the Sedgeberrow Post inviting all children living in Sedgeberrow between 4 – 11 to register with the Clerk or the Chairman to receive a Jubilee gift. Only 9 nominations had been received, therefore as the number was too small to order a Sedgeberrow dedicated item, the Council agreed to purchase 9

commemorative mugs, and to give a donation of a £1.00 per child to the Jubilee Committee. Chairman to action.

16. Finance.

a) To Receive Bank Reconciliation As At 31st March 2012.

See d.

b) To Receive Accounts To Date.

The following remittance had been received;-

WCC Lengthsman £108.00, Precept £4, 750.00 and Vat Reclaim £297.08.

c) To Approve Payments.

The Council agreed the following payments:- HMRC £113.60, New Farms £120.96, W CALC £329.43. Church Grass Cutting £1,000.00, Lengthsman £108.00, Hall Hire £18.00, Mr I Selkirk £85.00, Clerks Expenses £66.54, Came and Co ins. £386.94, Green Landscapes £12,000.00, Wychavon Bursary £50.00, N Power £126.71,.

Clerk to investigate the removal of the electric supply at the de commissioned telephone kiosk.

d) To Approve Accounts 2011/2012.

The accounts were circulated at the meeting, Clerk will E mail a copy to all councillors. The Independent Internal Auditor reported that in all areas the accounts were deemed appropriate, all systems of internal controls are adequate for the purpose intended and there were no matters to be brought to the council's attention.

e) Application for Rate Relief.

None received.

f) To Consider a Donation to CAB.

The council did not like the tone of the letter and the clerk to respond accordingly.

g) To Consider a Donation to the Bobby Club.

The Council agreed to donate £25.00.

17. Planning.

a) To consider applications since last meeting.

- W/12/00527/CU Mill Bakery Cottage, Winchcombe Road.

b) To report decisions since last meeting.

Approved By Wychavon

- W/12/00032/PP Milldene House, 5 Main Street, Sedgeberrow. First floor side extension.
- W/12/00281/PN Longfurrow Farm, Sandfield Lane, Agricultural workers dwelling.
- W/12/00062/PP 44 Main Street Sedgeberrow Two storey extension.
- W/12/00247/PP Vinebrook, 87 Winchcombe Road, Sedgeberrow, Side extension to enlarge kitchen area.

Refused.

- W/12/00527/CU Mill Bakery Cottage, Winchcombe Road.

Withdrawn

- W/11/02877 Sunnysdene, 2 Winchcombe Road Double garage with store above.

The school were extending to the front of the building, two classrooms and an office, the council had investigated, as it had not received a planning application, apparently the extension is allowed with an application using 'Permitted Development'.

18. Items For Future Agenda and Councillor Reports.

The Chairman had attended a recent seminar on the 'Community Right To Bid and Challenge' which will come into being under the Localism Bill and 'Mayor Making' at Evesham.

Cllr Hunt had attended the recent PACT meeting, where 'Anti social' behaviour and the School car park had been raised – CSO Williams will be following up these items.

The Flood Group had walked the river, between the Mill at Hinton and the County Boundary, all debris had been mapped and photographed. The Group are going to visit the Environment Agency Incident Room.

Cllr Stow had attended the Pershore Chairman's Wine evening, which was very interesting.

Cllr Farmer asked for Neighbourhood plans to be placed on the next agenda.

19. Date Of Next Meeting.

Thursday 12th July at 7.15pm.