

HANLEY CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 17th May 2012 at 7.10pm in Hanley Swan Village Hall.

Present: Councillors: Sue Roberts (Chairman) Sue Adeney Tony Atkinson
Jackie Bass Alex Grimwade Wendy Roberts-Powell John Taverner

In Attendance: Mike Andrews (PPW) WCCllr T Wells* 5 parishioners
Mrs Susan Hughes (Clerk)

72/12 Apologies: Cllr Francis Harcombe

73/12 Declarations of Interest: a) Declarations of Interest (Personal & Prejudicial): Cllr Sue Adeney declared a personal interest in Min 52/12 below as former Leader of the Local Youth Club; Cllr Tony Atkinson declared a personal interest in Min 52/12 below as PC Trustee of the Village Hall & also in planning applications in general as the owner of a shop selling OS maps; Cllr Sue Roberts declared a personal interest in Min 52/12 as a Vice president of the Cricket Club: Cllr Sue Roberts declared a prejudicial interest in Min 81b/12: Rural Rate Relief as a local business owner **and b) any Changes to be Notified to the Register of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality:** There were none.

Closure of the meeting to allow the public present to speak on any matters relating to Hanley Castle Parish. There were no matters raised at this time.

74/12 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council held on 19th April & 3rd May 2012 having been previously circulated were **approved** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

75/12 Matters Arising & Progress Reports not Listed elsewhere on the Agenda

a) Min 51/12: Update on the Jubilee Celebrations: Cllr Adeney advised that the preparations were well underway for all events: a detailed invitation and programme would be delivered to each household during the following week. Cllr Grimwade volunteered to deliver the invitations to outlying homes within the parish.

The organisers of the evening Barn dance had sought permission for participants to park on the field. This was readily **agreed** subject to the usual weather and ground conditions.

b) Min 58/12: Noticeboard adj to the Former Hanley Castle Post Office:

Following discussions, members **agreed** to investigate the possibility of siting the board close to Hanley Castle High school sign or close to the Post Box.

Action: The clerk & chairman to investigate further.

76/12 Projects Related to the Section 106 Funding

a) Arts: The Village Society's constitution did not allow for it to take on the ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the sculpture. To allow the project to proceed to Stage 3 (Sculpting and erection) members were asked to consider agreeing to owning and maintaining the sculpture (subject to planning approval - if needed).

The chairman advised that from the details recently exhibited around the parish, it appeared that the stone seat and stepping stones was to be sited on land maintained by the Parish Council on a 99 year lease from Harden Housing Association. The clerk had been unable to find a copy of the lease and further details had been requested from the Housing Association.

- e) *Update on Possible Enforcement Actions: Merton Cottage, Welland Road:* Members noted that one mobile home had been removed the property and agreed to monitor the remaining buildings.

78/12 Highway Matters

a) *Update on various matters incl Speeding Enforcement from the Parish Meeting:* Members reported on very positive feedback from several parishioners and **agreed** to seek further information in relation to costs and income from the Safer Roads partnership.

Action: The clerk to contact the Safer Roads Partnership

b) *Report & Works for the Lengthsman:* Cllr Taverner advised that the Lengthsman had completed his training in relation to VAS signage and that the latter was now sited within the parish.

c) *Carriageway Surfacing:* Members highlighted concerns over a very deep pothole in Hangmans Lane and various potholes in Gilberts End, a designated cycle route.

Action: The clerk to advise the Highways Authority

* WCCllr Tom Wells arrived at this point in the meeting

79/12 District & County Councillors Reports

a) *District Cllrs Mike Morgan & Tim Perry:* Neither member was present.

b) *County Cllr Tom Wells:* Cllr Wells once again expressed his concerns over the amount of money spent on replacing the footway and road surfacing along the B4209 when other areas of the parish, such as Worcester Road were in urgent need of repair. Several members remarked that the footway appeared to be well used and with the verge planting (see Min 80a) the area would not appear to be so stark. Members took the opportunity to remind Cllr Wells over the concerns relating to the footway from Roberts End to The Holloway.

Cllr Wells had received representations from a parishioner to extend the 40mph speed limit westwards to include Oakmere. He was reminded that the police had raised objections to a similar proposal 12 months previous.

He noted that the Lengthsman had completed his formal training in relation to VAS signage and was now responsible for moving the sign around the three neighbouring parishes at the ten detailed locations.

Finally, in the absence of both DCllrs, Cllr Wells advised that the draft SWJDP would be presented to a special meeting of the Full Council on 3rd July. Following that meeting there would be a specified consultation period (approx 3 months) on the options proposed. Co-incidentally, he had met with a local landowner who had recently submitted a site for consideration for the building of sheltered accommodation units.

Members took the opportunity to highlight their concerns over the Section 106 process, the double refusal of the MHDC Chief Executive to meet with members, the lack of response to e-mails to the joint chairmen of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the loss of a £2k discount on the Youth project as a result of the slow process. Cllr Wells advised members that there was a scheduled meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Cttee the following week.

80/12 Report of the:

a) **Parish Paths Officer:** Mike Andrews introduced his successor, Colin Rowley who, subject to the WCC training course, would take up the post in July (contact details to be circulated at that time).

Mike advised that further footpath signs had been erected throughout the parish and generally most paths were in a good condition.

Colin expressed concerns over the loss of the handrail at Tickeridge Bridge which he would report to the County Council.

b) Pond Wardens: Neil & Gigi Verlander had advised earlier in the meeting that all was progressing well at the pond although concerns remained over the amount of grain and bread being fed to the ducks, the surplus creating debris and a possible rodent problem.

c) Playing Field Warden: There was no update for this meeting: Graham Holmes was meeting with contractors and the clerk to following day to discuss the play project.

80/12 Environmental Matters

a) Verge Planting B4209: Cllr Sue Adeney advised that she had received a detailed list of possible plants, shrubs and trees for verge planting, subject to relevant highways permissions. Further advice had been sought from a parishioner with expertise in the subject matter and a possible planting scheme would be devised within the coming months.

b) Quiet Sundays: Members requested that a reminder about Quiet Sundays be placed in a future edition of the Parish Link.

*Cllr Wells left the meeting at this point.

81/12 Finance: *a) Payment & Receipt of Accounts:* Members **approved** the payments and receipt of accounts as in the presented schedule (attached).

b) Application for Discretionary Rate Relief – Hanley Swan Village Stores: Members unanimously supported this application for Rural Rate Relief under category B.

c) Annual Audit Return: Members noted and **accepted** the previously circulated accounts and copy Section 1 of the Annual Return. The relevant Section was signed by the chairman as a correct record and the detail of Section 2 also **agreed** for signature.

Action: The clerk to contact the Internal Auditor

82/12 'Think Localism'

a) Think Local in Worcestershire: Members noted the Consultation on Worcestershire County Council's approach to Localism and **agreed** to monitor matters further over the coming months.

b) MHDC Localism Workshop: The clerk had attended the workshop; presentation details had been circulated.

83/12 Topics Raised by Councillors, Committees and Parishioners

a) Neighbourhood Plans: Item to be placed on next agenda.

b) Three Counties Liaison Meeting: Cllr John Taverner reported on the meeting held earlier in the day. He advised that the Chief Executive, Nick Vincent was retiring in November, the showground had made a profit during the past year but it was anticipated that due to adverse weather conditions the attendance numbers had been down for the Spring Gardening Show.

Members agreed to invite Nick Vincent to the September or October meeting.

84/12 Date of Next Meeting: 21st June 2012

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed Date: 21st June 2012
Chairman