

KEMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Kemerton Parish Council Meeting held at the Victoria Hall on Tuesday 6th January 2015 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Mrs K Cartwright, Mrs C Ford, (Chairman) Sir D Logan, Mr A Darby, Mr S Papacostantinou, Dr C Renfrew, and Mr R Withnall.

IN ATTENDANCE Ms J Shields (Clerk), Mrs D Manns and Mr Gordon Long.

Mrs D Manns and Mr Gordon Long presented a plan of the proposed extension to the village Hall. They believe is important for the parish council to work with the Victoria hall to keep it sustainable.

1. Apologies For Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr A Hardman (County).

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.

3. To Consider The Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Meeting Held On The 4th November 2014.

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

4. Finance

a) Invoices To Be Paid.

The following invoices were agreed for payment.

HMCR £178.40, Mark Farey £75.00, Village Hall £14.00, Clerks Expenses £42.59.

b) To Receive Bank Balance To Date.

A Statement of Accounts were circulated to all councillors.

Clerk to forward an approximate end of year balance to all councillors.

c) To Discuss Pension Arrangements.

The council has to provide a pension to the clerk by April 2016, details to be circulated for the next meeting.

5. Planning.

a) To Ratify The Comments For Applications Submitted Since The Last Meeting.

W/14/02483/TC - Bredon Hill Radio Tower, Double Hedges Road, Overbury. The replacement of 4 antennas. Kemerton Parish Council is concerned that the antenna structures placed on this historic landmark are being made bigger, to the detriment of its appearance, and that Parsons Folly is not a radio tower as described in the application, but an important feature of the AONB. This application has now been withdrawn.

b) To Consider Planning Applications Submitted since the Publishing of the Agenda. None received to date.

c) To Report Wychavon Planning Decisions.

None received to date.

6. To Finalise Speed Calming Document For Submission To Worcestershire County Council.

Due to a lack of input from Overbury Parish Council, the council agreed for Cllrs Ford, Cartwright and Renfrew to finalise the document removing all information regarding

KEMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Overbury. The document will then be circulated to all councillors to be approved at the March meeting.

7. To Finalise The Precept For 2015/2016.

The Tax base has now been received by the council, to keep the Precept at the same level of £7,500, as the number of rate paying properties has reduced slightly on last year it will mean an increase of .62p per tax band D household per month a percentage increase of 1.83, which is acceptable within the guidelines of the Local Government Act 1992.

8. Application For Rate Relief.

The council agreed to a parish council contribution of £206.14 for rate relief for the Crown Inn, High Street Kemerton.

9. County Councillor Report.

No report provided.

10. District Councillor Report.

As always, most of my Wychavon council work has been concerned with planning.

I appeared as a witness for the council at the appeal against refusal of planning permission for 33 houses at Cheltenham Road, Bredon. The Inquiry was scheduled to be held at Wychavon offices from 2nd to 5th December, but in fact was not finished then and had to be adjourned for a further day on 16th December. There were four refusal reasons and my evidence related to the fourth which was the risk of harm to biodiversity resulting from the development.

Bredon Parish Council was represented by a barrister and Mrs Palmer gave evidence most effectively on its behalf. Three other Bredon residents spoke in support of the refusal, as did Paul Whitehead the local expert entomologist and landscape historian.

As I have stressed in earlier reports the key issue was whether or not Wychavon now has a five year housing land supply. An expert witness for the council argued that they now have nearly six years' worth, while a witness for the appellant argued that they had less than five years'. It will be of great importance, not only for this appeal but for others in the pipeline that the inspector was persuaded by the council's case.

As a result of my involvement with this inquiry, I did not attend the Planning Committee meeting on 4th December, and was substituted by Cllr Tucker of Pershore.

South Worcestershire Development Plan

I attended a meeting of the Joint Advisory Panel on 9th December. The consultation on the Proposed Modifications has now closed and will be considered by the inspector as follows

- Commencing 24 February 2015 at the Sixways Stadium, looking at SWDP policies one to seven (the basis for how the plan has been compiled, housing and employment sites selected etc) and the strategic sites (the major "urban extensions" proposed on the edges of Worcester, where some of the largest housing developments have been allocated)*
- Commencing 14 April 2015 at the Sixways Stadium, considering development management policies (the detailed rules that future planning applications will be assessed against, covering, for example, the proportion of affordable housing to be included in residential developments)*

KEMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

- Commencing 12 May 2015 at the Worcester University Arena in Hylton Road, focussing on proposed sites in the main towns and villages in south Worcestershire. The will be a Pre-Hearing Meeting will be held at 11.00am on Tuesday 13 January 2015 at the Worcester University Arena in Hylton Road. At this the Inspector will provide guidance and advice as to how he will conduct the remainder of the examination and how participants will be able to contribute. I will be abroad then and not able to attend, but it is possible that there may be some useful information revealed then which will be of relevance to Kemerton. If so I will circulate it in time for the PC to respond at the hearings at the end of February.

Appeal against Refusal for 98 houses at Tewkesbury Road, Bredon.

This appeal is due to be held 11th to 18th March. I will be attending this inquiry for some of the time as one of the refusal reasons is the effect on the Grade 1 and Grade 2 listed buildings and as Heritage Champion I opposed the original application. Once again Bredon Parish Council is strongly opposed to this application and will be appointing a barrister to represent it.*

Ward Walk

I carried out a "ward walk" on 28 November accompanied by two council officers, Tracy Perkins and Tony Jones. These events are run by the council to explain to residents the work of the council as per the attached leaflet.

I started by holding a "surgery" in the Star at Ashton under Hill and then visited various businesses in Beckford, Conderton and Overbury. I attach the "write up" produced by the officers after the event.

I apologise for not visiting Kemerton or Westmancote on my first event of this kind, but I assumed that those living at this end of my ward would know better how to contact me if they had any problems.

Budget

The council is proposing to continue its Grow Save Charge strategy that runs from 2012 to 2016. It is proposing a rise of 2% in its element of the council tax.

AMGD

6 January 2015

11. Progress Reports For Information.

a) Clerk.

The clerk had reported a blocked water course and drainage at the junction of Kinsham Lane and the High Street.

b) Chairman.

The chairman had been in contact with Worcestershire County Council regarding the meeting held in the summer and recent E mail exchanges, to date no reply has been received.

c) Bredon Hill Conservation Group Representative.

No report.

d) Victoria Hall Representative.

The council agreed in principle to the proposed extension but feels that the hall itself is in need of refurbishment and this should be included in any redevelopment of the hall, the council is also prepared to apply for planning permission of a plan approved by the parish council.

e) Area CALC Representative.

No report.

f) Footpath Warden.

KEMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Logan had cleared the footpath to Ashton on Carrant.

g) War Memorial.

Awaiting a further quote.

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

- Report form PCSO Tinkler
*We had one report of a burglary at Bells Castle on 1/12/14.
Your local Policing team wanted to take this opportunity to introduce the New Local Policing Officer for your areas after PC Sean Woods has moved to cover Pershore Town.
Your new Police Officer is PC Paul Acaster.*
- Copies of land drainage letters sent from Wychavon to residents in Hill Road had been received.
- The council agreed to engage Mr Selkirk to carry out the internal audit of the 2014-2015 accounts.
- The use of speed guns in the village is still in process.

13. Items for Future Agenda And Councillor Reports.

The use of speed guns in the village is still in process.

Broadband

Overhead cables update.

14. Date Of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 3rd March 2015.