

**KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 7.45pm at Trimpley Village Hall**

**Present** Councillor C. Grainger  
Councillor R. Jennings  
Councillor Mr. G. Yarranton  
Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)  
Councillor Mr. B. Phillips  
Councillor Mrs. L. Green  
Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond  
1 member of the public was present.

1, **Report by the Police**

Police were not in attendance.

Clerk read out a report sent to her by PC Steve Thomas, giving details of an abandoned stolen trailer at Park Attwood Lodge, and reports of drug dealing and possession offences in Northwood Lane

Speeding in country lanes was again mentioned, and details of a Citroen Saxo almost hitting a horse near The Mount.

Boy racers were still operating in Eymore Lane. Cllr. Phillips, who witnessed this, tried to contact Police on 101 at the time, but could not get any reply.

Criticism was also levelled at the Police for not giving feedback on felons who had been caught.

Chairman Cllr. Grainger advised that there had been evidence again of illegal hare coursers operating on his land.

Clerk to invite David Rischmiller, North Worcestershire Rural and Business Crime Co-ordinator, to a future meeting.

2 **Public Open Forum**

Nothing was raised.

3. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr J. Gammond noted and approved.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. Mrs. C. Gammond declared an interest re the Village Hall, being a committee member. Cllr. Grainger declared an interest in any items in connection with Riddings Brook. Cllr. Yarranton advised he was Vice Chairman of the District Council Planning committee, and as such reserved the right to change his opinion on planning matters should new information be submitted by Planning Officers. Cllr. Ben Phillips declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to the Churchard Grant.

5. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were approved and signed with one amendment.

6. **District and County Councillor Reports inc. progress reports on other matters**

Cllr. Phillips not in attendance.

**Items reported for attention by District or County Council by Cllr. Yarranton and other items of matters arising.**

- **Flytipping in layby at bottom of Birch Bank** reported, and removed, and a further amount tipped there within 24 hours of previous amount (also reported).
- **Details of work in the Queensway given by Cllr Yarranton** and the speed humps being installed.
- Cllr. Yarranton gave details of the District Council being given powers for the compulsory purchase of Mill Street, and the demolition of Crown House in Kidderminster.
- **Review of Shatterford Polling Station and the Parish Rooms in Wribbenhall**, was taking place, as people at top of Northwood Lane had to go to Shatterford which they found inconvenient. Cllrs. asked if these voters were taken from Shatterford then Shatterford would remain open? Cllr. Yarranton advised that Shatterford would retain status as a Polling Station.
- **Concrete hard-standing at Trimpley Crossroads** - Lengthsmen to address snags. Chairman and Cllr Phillips will look at this.
- **Steps and Handrail from Valley Close** into Habberley Valley – Nothing further reported.
- **Resurfacing – Upper Birch Road** – Nothing further reported.
- **Drainage Chamber at Fountain Court** – work still required to be done.
- **Cover at drain Outside No. 11 in Low Habberley** – a piece of plastic had been left in the drain has been left after jetting. Cllr. Phillips would ask the Lengthsman to look at this.

- **Tree** – after a tree had fallen last month in Trimpley, barriers and cones had not been removed, despite asking for them to be taken away since 2<sup>nd</sup> August.
- **Dead Elm Trees by Electricity substation in Crundalls Lane** – Cllr. Grainger reported these, being right on the edge of the highway and likely to cause a hazard. Also he felt that trees adjacent to the fence of the substation may be at risk of being used to climb into the substation. Although the matter of tree removal would have to be dealt with by the Electricity Board, as the trees were right on the side of the road, a road closure (or partial road closure) may have to be applied for.
- **Parking at entrance to Low Habberley Farm Lane** – Signs not yet up. Lengthsman to be asked to put these up. A discussion also took place about a considerable increase in the number and type of **spring bulbs** which would be planted this autumn around the parish, including near to this site.
- **Verge Cutting** – This had been done very late this year, and in the opinion of parishioners and councillors, done badly. Lengthsman would be asked to address any problem areas left.

7. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) **Previous planning applications**

**15/0244 – Ashgrove, Hill Farm, Northwood Lane – Certificate of Lawfulness – use as a permanent dwelling**

Awaiting decision – Clerk to chase

**15/0288 Garage conversion with roof, single storey extensions and porch at Parkland, Trimpley Lane, Shatterford**

Approved

**15/0384 – resubmission of 14/0747 – New foul and storm water system to serve 48 properties – Hill Farm, Northwood Lane –**

Awaiting decision

b) **Planning Application considered by the meeting**

None

c) **Compliance Issues /Appeals**

**15/0113 – Appeal WFA1453 – Crundalls Cottage** – Clerk had submitted the same comments to the Appeal Inspector as offered on application – viz

*“We object to the proposal and Recommend Refusal.*

*The unauthorised extensions as built now are not in keeping with the character of the original cottage. (as can be seen from the attached photographs before the extension). We therefore cannot support either this retrospective application nor the appeal now lodged.”*

She had also sent to the inspector photographs of the original cottage before being extended. The submission had been acknowledged.

8. **Progress Reports on other Outstanding Items**

**Severn Trent Matters**

**Gate at top of Reservoir Car Park**

gate opposite the Arley Estate Eymore Wood Car Park was not locked. Clerk to write to Joe Upsall

**Replacement Water Main** – Shatterford Lane.

**BT Cover – Mary Moors** – the cover has been lifted off with the chamber now permanently open. Clerk followed up – cover still off.

Alveley have superfast broadband.

**Japanese knot weed – Mount Pool** – Archers had cut down the weed, and Chris Grainger had now got the poison to inject.

Discussion took place about a fence adjacent to the pool, and this would be checked also to see if it could be repaired.

**Parrots Feather – Marsh** – has been sprayed 3 times, and seems to be in decline. Much better than last year.

**CCTV Camera signage** – Not all signs had still not been erected. Hoarstone Lane one up, but Mary Moors not yet up.

**Church renovation works** Everything seems to be progressing. Contract given to Matt Riley – start beginning of October. A guarantee on the work would be obtained. Possible grants found would be looked into in a special meeting. Some of the guttering is difficult to replace as it is cast, and of a special size.

### Localism - Litter Picking

Clerk had drawn up a contract for Wyre Forest to sign, detailing the conditions under which the parish would undertake the litter picking. The Archer Brothers (Lengthsman) had also agreed to undertake this service. This required:

- 100% reimbursement to the Parish Council of the commercial litter contract paid by the village hall, in recompense for siting of the bin. Parish Council would then need to reimburse the village hall with the amount. Village hall would also use this bin.
- Replacement of all current bins with new ones.
- Provision of 1100 litre bin, to be sited at the village hall, and serviced fortnightly, with general refuse collection
- 7 bins were identified which the parish council would be responsible for emptying, and litter picking all roads within the parish except along the A442. However, the layby at the bottom of the Birch Bank on the A442 would be litter picked by the parish, and the bin emptied.
- Training on litter picking to be provided by Wyre Forest District Council – in particular in respect of health and safety.

Agreed by those present to go ahead with the contract. Clerk to progress the matter.

### 9. Lengthsman –

Clerk had received their official cards, (which she passed to Cllr. Phillips), which the Lengthsmen should carry at all times. This held their photograph, and confirmed that they had been trained to undertake Lengthsmen's duties.

There were lots of outstanding jobs for them to address, and Cllr. Phillips would be liaising with them as soon as possible.

One item raised requiring attention was the strimming of the hedgerow invasive vegetation at foot level of the hedge against the footway running from Low Habberley to Ferndale.

### 10. Financial Reports

#### a) Cheques signed

Grant Thornton – Audit Fee - £120

Clerk's PAYE - £54.60

Clerk's expenses – inc. No Parking signs - £80.79

Worcs. CALC – Chairmanship Training – Cllr. L. Green - £30

b) **Audit** – Clerk reported that a clear Audit had been given by the external auditors, but comment had been made that reserves were running high at 3.2 times the precept, implying that the Parish Council should be spending more. Evidence to show that this high level of reserve was earmarked for something was required.

c) **Budget for next year** – Clerk to prepare budget calculation sheet for Councillors to mull over for ideas on expenditure and budget setting for the next financial year.

### 11. Other Correspondence

**Clare Witnell Blount Charity** – following receipt of last year's accounts, and queries asked about the properties held in Franche, Clerk had received a response from Wendy Wright (representative on the Charity) that should the parish wish ever to nominate a potential tenant, tenancies are restricted to parishioners only.

### 12. Other Matters

#### Items for the next Newsletter –

a) **Dead Trees** - Reminder to frontagers of highways that trees in hedgerows are the responsibility of the landowner, and that damage caused to highway users would be for their account. This was brought about by a parishioner reporting a **dead tree in a hedgerow fronting Eymore Lane**. Clerk also gave details of the Wyre Forest District Ranger (Paul Allen) concerning a dead tree near to the top of the footpath coming out of Habberley Valley.

b) Smoky bonfires – clerk to remind parishioners about having care re smoky bonfires, causing nuisance to neighbours.

13. **Date of Next Meeting** – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.45p.m. Cllr. C Gammond offered apologies in advance.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Chairman – \_\_\_\_\_