

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 21st September 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 (arrived 8.15)
Councillor Mr. J. Gammond
2 members of the public was present.

1. **Report by the Police**

The police were not present, but a report was tabled, stating that there had been little to report during the month except that some cars were broken into that were parked in the carpark by the Severn Trent Waterworks site, and secondly there was a shed broken into at the Park Attwood Clinic site where several tools were taken.

Councillors and the Clerk had noticed that several roadside signs had been pushed over, and indeed, one of the village signs was affected. Cllr. J Gammond had taken photos of tyre tracks, and it appeared that this had been done deliberately by a large vehicle, possibly a 4x4. Clerk to alert police to what had been happening.

2. **Public Open Forum**

Mr. Ben Corfield was present, and outlined the current Church appeal. At an estimated cost of £40,000 the roof of the church had to be taken off, fixed, and put back on. Also the guttering had to be replaced and some coping stones had slipped due to some settlement. Although the church had decided to go ahead with the renovations, having reserves in the bank, it would leave them with no reserve balance at all. Letters had been produced, and Mr. Corfield asked if these could be hand delivered by Councillors (in a similar way to the newsletters) to all households in the parish. Councillors agreed to do this, and the letters were distributed to those present.

Mr. Corfield also outlined a visit by the evacuees Isobel Priest and Hazel Gooch to the village on 27th September who would plant a tree in the churchyard to mark the 75th anniversary of when they arrived in the parish during WW2. Clerk would attend and take photos for the newsletter.

Mr. Ron Collins advised again that he was unhappy with the slippery surface of the road between the Mount and Trimpley Crossroads. Horseriders were not safe negotiating this stretch of road, as it was very slippery, and as the County Council had refused to do anything about this, he asked if Cllr. Yarranton could ask again – although anti-slip coatings required a specialist contractor at high cost. Failing any improvement to the surface, he asked if the trees adjacent to the road could be cut back, so that horseriders could use the verge. It was felt that the landowner, (as this was part of Trimpley Common) would not be willing to do this, and it would cut up the verge.

Mr. Collins also asked if the Parish Council should be making a representation about the West Midlands' Safari park's current planning application for an extension and water park. He drew to Councillors attention that Sat Navs could possibly take traffic approaching from the north on the A442 through the village of Trimpley, and that this could make the village more of a rat-run. Most Councillors did not think that this would be more of a problem than it already is. Cllr. G. Yarranton pointed out that the planning application had yet to be approved by the Secretary of State. However, Mr. Collins felt that it would be wise to make the comment now to the planners rather than after the application had been fully approved.

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

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. Mr. J. 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 family in fire service. Cllr. Yarranton advised he was Vice Chairman of the District Council Planning committee, Vice chair of audit on fire authority 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 17th August 2015 were approved and signed with amendment re Queensway traffic measures.

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

District Cllr. J. Phillips was not in attendance.

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

- **Flooding at Crofton Park** – under willow trees, near to Mount Pool After 18 months, the County Council have now addressed this matter.
- **Potholes in Northwood Lane** by crossing – reported for attention.
- **Resurfacing – Upper Birch Road** – Potholes to be repaired and top dressed. Water has been coming up through the road, and this has been addressed.
- **Drainage Chamber at Fountain Court** – work guaranteed to be done by end of October..
- **Weeds Low Habberley – Island** – alongside footpath - weeds need spraying. Councillor B. Phillips to check if Lengthsman qualified to spray.
- **Parking at entrance to Low Habberley Farm Lane** – Signs not yet up.
- **Salt/Grit for winter** – Clerk was instructed to order one tonne of grit salt for use on local roads, and for the lengthsman to top up bins as necessary. This to be stored by kind permission of the Chairman, at Grey Green Farm.
- **Spring Bulbs** – Clerk had purchased 1000 daffodil bulbs, and would get these to the Lengthsman. It was also agreed that she should purchase a large quantity (500) crocus corms.
- **CCTV sign opposite viewpoint** – permission had been obtained from the landowner and the sign will be put up.
- **Road from Low Habberley – Trimpey – Jacobs Ladder Bank** - Clerk to contact both the District Council (re Habberley Valley Side) and the County Council (re golf club side) of this road, advising that both sides need serious cutting back of tree growth, and high-sided vehicles have to travel over the centre white line to avoid invasive growth onto highway space.
- **Emergency services (Fire and Ambulance) in one central location** – Cllr. Yarranton advised that he supported this rationalisation to improve operations, and provide a better service, with better facilities, for all in the Wyre Forest area.

7. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) **Previous planning applications**

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

Refused – as insufficient evidence had been submitted to show permanent residency.

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**

15/0494 - Pollard Lime at 2 metres at HOLLYFIELDS CARE HOME, HABBERLEY ROAD, KIDDERMINSTER, DY11 5RJ.

Comment : *We have no real objections to the pollarding proposed, but will be guided by the Arboricultural Officer's views on this.*

c) **Compliance Issues /Appeals**

15/0113 – Appeal WFA1453 – Crundalls Cottage

Nothing further heard from the Appeal Inspector.

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

Severn Trent Matters

Gate at top of Reservoir Car Park

Clerk to write to Joe Upsall

Replacement Water Main – now scheduled towards the end of October, as correct notification had not been given to bus companies.

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

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, which the Chairman had inspected. The fence needs replacing. Cllr. James Gammond advised he could get materials, and would have a contact who could split the sweet chestnut into palings.

Parrots Feather – Marsh – it seemed to be under much better control than last year, but had regrown on piles which had been dragged out. A vote of thanks was given to Cllr. Mrs. Green and her husband for the work carried out on this.

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

Clare Witnell Blount Charity – Cllr. Green had looked into this and the “parish” area was the area of St. Mary’s church parish, and she advised that she may be able to recommend someone for the Charity properties tenancies, although there were currently none vacant.

Localism - Litter Picking – Clerk had submitted the contract to the District Council for this, but had not received it back. Additionally, at least two of the bins needed replacement, one at Low Habberley and one in the Arley Estate car park. Clerk would report this to the District Council. It was noted that the large refuse bin had arrived at the Village Hall.

9. **Lengthsman –**

.The Lengthsman had submitted two invoices – one in the amount of £200 for lengthsman’s work, and one for £104 for work around the Mount Pool. The latter was invoiced at £13 per hour. Clerk to query this with the lengthsman.

10. **Financial Reports .**

a) **Cheques signed**

C Grainger – Chairman’s Allowance - £100

Trimpley Village Hall – Room Rental - £65

PAYE re Clerk’s Salary - £56.40

UK Gardens Bulk buy – Daffodil Bulbs - £101.95

Curry’s Printer / Scanner - £89.98

Archer Brothers – Lengthsman’s Work - £200

Archer Brothers – non-Lengthsman’s Work at Mount Pool - £104 (query Rate)

- b) **Budget for next year** – Clerk gave every councillor a budgeting sheet to start to think of ideas for setting the precept next year. She also reminded councillors that criticism had been levelled at the Council by the external auditors for having too healthy a contingency balance, and this was running at over 3 times the current precept value, whereas it should only be around 2 times. Some ideas were discussed, including replacement of two of the noticeboards – one in Low Habberley, and one on the junction of Eymore Lane (Cllr. J. Gammond would get a quotation for these) and also the purchase of a solar-powered VA Sign. Clerk tabled some prices for these. Items were left for further discussion.

Speeding in rural lanes – a discussion took place about the necessity for a further VA Sign. Cllr. Yarranton questioned whether vehicles were, in fact, exceeding the speed limits, and to verify this, Cllr. Yarranton would make enquiries about putting down speeding “wires” in Trimpley village.

- c) **Transparency Code - Grant Fund Submission** – Clerk submitted the application form for approval to all councillors who agreed with the submission. Part of the Grant Submission included for Broadband connection at the office of the Clerk, as well as extra work hours to comply with the Code. As such, it was agreed to pay 1/3 of the connection charge current paid by the Clerk. To comply with requirements of the Transparency Code, Clerk had purchased, as agreed, a Printer Scanner (to be added to the Parish Assets) and had also booked into a training evening at County Hall at a cost of £10 on Monday 12th October.

- d) **Sale of Millennium Book** - Cllr Jennings gave the Clerk £5 cash from the sale of a Millennium Book.

11. **CALC & Other Correspondence**

Cllr. Mrs. Green gave a resume of the CALC meeting which she attended earlier in the evening. One major item was the current review of the District Local Plan, and the need for more affordable housing, and housing for the elderly. She advised that Councillors could go onto the District Website and respond/comment on the local plan.

12. **Other Matters**

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 19th October at 7.45p.m.

The meeting closed at 10.10p.m. It was noted that the Chairman and Vice Chair were both unable to attend the next meeting, and offered their apologies,

Acting Chair _____