

Wickhamford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting, 11th May 2016, 05/16

Clerk to the Council, Mike Smith, 12 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford WR11 7RT

01386 830676 email wickhamfordpc@sky.com website <http://worcestershire.gov.uk>

Present J. Newbury, Chairman. T. Waller, V. Chairman, Councillors, D. Heeks, J. Poulter,
R. Gutteridge, L Eyre, County Councillor, PCSO P. Schroenrock & M. Smith Clerk

1. Apologies

District Councillor B. Thomas

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.

4. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th March 2016 were agreed

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

None

6. County Councillors Report.

PURDAH PERIOD was that period up to 5/5. This always impacts the work of the council.

PEER Review of WCC Following their visit four years ago, the Council invited a Peer Challenge team, led by the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, back to Worcestershire earlier this month. The Peer Challenge for the Council has been all about gaining external insight into how the Council work, what it has achieved and its plans for the future. The team, made up from the public and private sector, met with 120 people and attended more than 90 meetings. They met with front line staff as well as with the partners that the Council is working with to deliver services to Worcestershire residents such as the voluntary and community sector. In 2012 the review team challenged us to pick up the pace of change. This year they were asked them to focus on how the Council is working with communities to meet the challenges it faces. The team will deliver its full recommendations in May and those will be made public.

Working Group of Council - we have a new Member Group to review how members work - one example - the Opposition Groups putting forward amendments which ask to move millions of pounds minutes before the vote without the opportunity for officer professional consideration and advice. Given the sums of money involved it is suggested a more formal robust is required for alternative budget proposals.

Scrutiny – a recent consultation, carried out through many channels, with partners, staff, the public, and councillors brought forward, in a short period of time, 3,600 suggested items that others would like the County to scrutinise. Some suggestions related to the scrutiny process and members. These will be passed to the working group mentioned above. Others that related to the Districts will be shared with District Scrutiny leads. Key areas coming through for the County, following analysis and based on clear criteria are for example : communications, accountability in relation to commissioned services, services to support rape and sexual violence victims.

Unitary Council - the current leader, and I agree, think moving the deck chairs will detract from delivering key services.

Devolution: range of themes - the debate is around would there be opportunities to deliver differently at a local level. I feel this is a bit of a city centric conversation. The conversation unhelpfully involves elected mayors. Currently we have seen non city areas being stitched together and unravelling. Worcestershire has strong partnerships. At this moment I am not seeing anything in such a proposal that is in the interest of local residents.

Highway concerns - hub picks up potholes but more complex issues need to be handled in a different way – work is going on to develop.

Footway schemes in Priority Order Cost £39- 40 k

1. Manor Road, Wickhamford from bin outside village hall south for 84 metres to The Sheiling
2. Leamington Rd, Broadway – between 44 Leamington Rd round and 8 Sands Close **NOTE not round to * Sands Close**
3. The Dovecote, Charlton – repairs to worst sections

Aston Somerville/Hinton

- o Church Road – no plans to resurface just patching – requested resurfacing
- o Broadband still an issue
- o Send A46 accident data to clerk for distribution
- o Send Church Road request re residents parking to resident

Hinton

- Following up on sites that need attention: Severn Trent – 2 done

- o A46 Pumping station N 52 03 39.4 W 57 27 6 land surrounding very overgrown - needs regular maintenance
- o Pumping station adjacent River Isbourne Village bridge N 52 03 35.2 W 001 58 05.5 wooden fence alongside drive above river very unstable
- o Sewage works N 52 03 48.1 W 001 58 02.4 remove dumped rubbish adjacent entrance drive and cut verges on roadside
- o Layby on A46 - checking WDC to see if litter arrangements fall within WDC contact HP

Broadway

- Escape Lane signs and lane tidied up unfortunately another accident
- agricultural detritus from tenant along road to Childswickham - letter from Parish Council to local tenant.
- Seat requested near where R4 bus stops: corner off Sandcroft/ Sheldon Avenue
- Parking near chemist requested
- Pennylands bank - drainage problem
- Leamington Road - despite changes - holding tank manhole maintenance still problems 14/2.
- Leamington Road ditch clearance - requests to WCC
- Cheltenham Road - speeding, Move 30mph beyond pry lane, 50 down to 40 request not accepted yet,
- Lifford Gardens extending the markings further into Lifford Gardens but mindful this may push parking further into the cul-de-sac - added to the TRO list .

Planning Ref

W/16/00305/PP - Battridge Cottage, Church Street, Broadway, WR12 7AE Re.

W/15/02906/LB Swan dinning huts revised plan

Land West Leamington road - flood risk and water table issue

Visitor Management Group application for funding of Griggs exhibition application being submitted. Next VMG - car parking and county land ownership

Charlton

- Evesham to Pershore cycleway S106 monies
- Continuing looking at ways to improve safety on village roads: white village gates etc ?

Childswickham

- Murcot Business park and kerbing - minor issue
- Buckland Road/Business Park - siding out pavement
- Allens and drainage
- James Cutner - a one week traffic speed survey/traffic volumes/number of lorries results now through

Croptorne

- Cycle route- See also reference in Charlton section of report.
- Gypsy traveller consultation

Fladbury

- Evesham to Pershore – Porter's path – clearing and manging - issues.
- EVG Simon.Wilkes@worcsregservices.gov.uk awaiting affected villagers log
- A44 Wyre Piddle by-pass - parking area post refurbishment requested.
- Farm Street condition of footway
- Church Street – Butt Furlong to Weston Orchard there is now a footway advisory which will be ranked for possible inclusion in the 2016/17 maintenance programme. Church Street – Weston Orchard to Coach Drive and outside the school to be followed up

Sedgeberrow

- Funding to continue the footway from Churchill Road to the bus stop in the Cheltenham Road, so that school children do not have to walk in the road. Parish council prepared to make a contribution. Work in Progress
- **7.5 weight restriction Winchcombe Road** – looking at several angles
 - Measurements of road usage by all types
 - Better signage for lorries leaving saw mill and orchard industrial estate
 - Crossing from the playground
 - Sat nav correction re Winchcombe Road
 - 60 to 50mph one location
 - Other works

Wickhamford

- Pitchers Hill, No's 11 – 27- when Western Power install the underground cables the newly surfaced footpath will have to be reinstated as per Section 58.
- Grants available for individual households for flood protection measures for their homes: contact the EA

Speed on Manor Road an issue – latest info

District Councillors Report

Syrian Refugee update

It is anticipated the first group of Syrian refugees will arrive in Worcestershire over the next few weeks, potentially before the end of July.

A second group are expected later in the year around September.

Where they will be located will depend on housing availability, school places and a range of other factors.

Across Worcestershire the commitment is to take in 50 Syrian refugees before the end of 2016. They will be housed in private accommodation, not social housing, and the scheme is being funded by the Government from the foreign aid budget.

Money for infrastructure projects available

The Government has confirmed that a significant amount of money is being made available to support infrastructure projects to boost economic growth and support housing development.

A total of £2billion has been identified for infrastructure projects to support major housing developments and £1.8billion for Local Enterprise Partnerships to bid for a share of.

Discussions are taking place to determine which schemes bids should be submitted for to enable Wychavon to benefit.

Drysdale Avenue

Following a site visit on 28th April it was established that the development has some way to go before completion.

As to the construction of the driveway it is understood that a porous surface of gravel set upon a porous sub base is to be laid. The developer is cognisant of the fact that tarmac is not to be used.

With reference to the rainwater systems these are yet to be completed. It is understood that the developer wishes to alter the systems to allow the rainwater to go to soakaways and not to the approved tanking system.

Enforcements have advised of the need to comply with the planning approval otherwise a full planning application should be submitted for any desired alteration to the development.

They've also informed the developer of the need to fully discharge the planning conditions imposed on the site.

7. Police Officers Report.

Since 5th March last, West Mercia Police have received 35 calls from residents of Wickhamford, this has resulted in,

1 Burglary of a dwelling, 1 Burglary of an out building, 1 Theft from motor vehicle, 1 Dog worrying of livestock and 1 Theft from the open air (trailer) being recorded.

8. Cemetery Charges

A suggestion by the Chairman to increase the cemetery charges was discussed, with the Clerk having already checked other Parish charges, after a discussion it was decided to alter our charges as follows,

Fee for Burial Plot £275.00

Fee for Interment £150.00

Fee for Ashes Plot £150.00

Fee for Ashes Interment £100.00

Fee for Installation of Headstone £100.00

Fee for the installation of Tablet £75.00

These charges were agreed unanimously. All Funeral Directors will be notified of the changes.

9. Road Signs

The V. Chairman commented on the lack of speed restriction signage throughout the village compared to other villages. We will contact the Safer Road partnership and Highways to discuss new signage.

10. Bus Shelter Notice Board

The V. Chairman asked if we could dedicate the notice board at the bus stop on Longdon Hill as being solely for the Parish Council. He also suggested that we attach a Parish Council sign to the notice board.

11. Community Benefit Fund & Rooftop Fund

A cheque for £5,000.00 had been received from Rooftop Housing towards the new Play Area equipment as agreed.

We have been notified by BayWe r.e. Solar Projects GmbH on behalf of INRG Solar Parks 14 Ltd that the agreed "Community Benefit Fund" of £100,000.00 has been transferred into the Parish Council bank account. This was confirmed by the Clerk with the receipt of the latest bank statement

This was gratefully accepted with thanks by all Councillors.

12. Play Area Equipment Update

The Chairman & the Clerk met with Playdale to finalise the requirements to purchase and install the new Play Area equipment. The 2 old Springers and the Multi Play will be removed over the next few weeks. The spaces will then be available to have a 4 metre high Climbing Net and a Multi Play unit to be installed.

13. Councillor Vacancy

An application to become a Councillor was received from Kelvin Nash and discussed. It was agreed to co-opt him at the July meeting. Clerk will advise Kelvin of the decision.

14. Lengthsman Vacancy

The Lengthsman vacancy has been filled by Linda Gutteridge. The relevant paperwork has been completed and forwarded to WCC therefore the contract can begin.

15. Sports Club / User Events Insurance

It was decided that, after the recent tragic event of a child losing her life after being "blown away" whilst using a Bouncy Castle at an outdoor event, all future events held on the Playing Field must be correctly insured.

Therefore the Parish Council will insist on a copy of the insurance schedule for any event at least 30 days prior to any event to be conducted on the Playing Field.

Failure to comply would leave the Parish Council no other option than to cancel the use of the Playing Field for the event.

16. Parish Council Insurance

As our fixed 5 year insurance is nearing an end, and as agreed previously, I have met with Came & Co. along with the Chairman to discuss a possible new policy.

The renewal quote received from Zurich was as follows,

1 year	£ 1,655.73
3 year fixed term	£ 1,583.21 Index linked
5 year fixed term	£ 1,510.69 Index linked

The quote received from Came & Co. was as follows,

1 year	£ 839.55
3 year fixed term	£ 797.57 Index linked

The three year deal with Came & Co. was accepted by all Councillors

17. Correspondence

Loose kerb stones on the corner of Manor Road / Coombefield Road reported on Highways website on 28/3/16, ref. no. 6888943

Emailed B. Thomas (WDC) on 28/3/16, re building site at Drysdale Close regarding rainwater harvesting system. Enforcement have been informed by B. Thomas.

Emailed P. Schroenrock (Police) on 28/3/16, re long term parking (abandonment) of a vehicle at Coombefield Road.

Tele con with Rooftop Housing (29/3/16) re residents' complaints regarding parking issues.

Email from the project manager confirming the completion of the Solar Farm at Mount Farm and also regarding the Community Benefit Fund contribution to the Parish Council. (Item 11)

Emailed T. Collins at Rooftop Housing to discuss complaints received from Rooftop residents regarding parking issues. Follow up meeting arranged.

Contacted Rooftop Housing, WDC Enforcement & B. Thomas regarding complaints received from residents of Sandys Avenue of lorry traffic to building site before the agreed time of 10.00am for deliveries.

Request received from a resident for the Lengthsman position. Requested details, & contract sent. Awaiting return of contract copy & details. (Item 14).

Email from Councillor T. Waller reporting an incident of a child falling down a hole on private land. Possibly an old well. Local PC will follow up with landowner.

Telephone call received from resident re twin trailer lorry attempting to deliver to Sandys Avenue building site at 7.00 pm on 18/04/16. Also attempting to deliver the following morning at 7.30 am. Builders & Rooftop contacted.

Telephone call and further letter received from Rooftop re our application for funding. (Item 11)

Meeting arranged with Came & Co. (4/5/16) re insurance quote. (Item 16)

Request received from a resident to become a councillor. Details sent. (Item 13)
Meeting arranged with Playdale (3/5/16) to finalise Play Area quotation

18. Plans (if applicable)

P Windward House, Murcot Turn, Appeal Dismissed

W/16/00115/PP, Lower Field House, Longdon Hill
"No objections" uploaded to WDC planning portal

19. Finance.

- a) Balance sheets made available for Councillors.
- b) Audit agreed and signed for external audit

Cheques signed,

M. Smith, Newsletter (March) £30.00
Wickhamford PCC, Mowing Donation £250.00
G. Evans, Lengthsman (Mar/Apr) £288.00
Smart Cut, Grasscutting (Mar) £226.80
Calc, Affiliation Fees £373.19
Smart Cut, Grasscutting (Apr) £226.80
P. Burch, Internal Audit £75.00
M. Smith, Printer + Ink Card £187.98

Receipts,

WCC, Lengthsman (Feb) £144.00
WCC, Lengthsman (Mar) £144.00
WDC, Precept + Grant £5,000.00
HMRC, VAT Reimbursement £2,349.79
Rooftop Housing, Community Fund £5000.00
INRG, Community Benefit Fund £100,000.00

20. Items for the next Agenda

Telephone Kiosk
Road Signs Update
Discussion on Funding

21. Date of the next meeting confirmed as 13th July 2016

Meeting Closed at 9.25

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

Notes of the Public Question Time

None