

Wickhamford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting, 13th July 2016, 07/16

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

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Present J. Newbury Chairman, T. Waller V. Chairman, Councillors, D. Heeks, J. Poulter,
R. Gutteridge,
L. Eyre, C. Councillor, G. Brienza Highways
Members of the Public, J. Brotherton & K. Nash

1. Apologies

District Councillor, B. Thomas, PCSO, P. Schroenrock

2. Declarations of Interest

None

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

J. Brotherton vented her anger at the damage caused by th workmen on the Sandys Avenue Development This was discussed and a meeting is to be arranged

A discussion took place with G. Brienza from Highways regarding the possibility of re-siting the speed limit signs on entering the village to try and decrease the speed of motorists

4. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th May 2016 were agreed

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

None

6. Co-option of K. Nash

Kelvin Nash was co-opted onto the Parish Council by a unanimous vote agreed at the previous meeting.

7. County Councillors Report.

A 'challenge' session with Lord Heseltine was held on the 20th April 2016 to discuss Worcestershire's case for devolution. A team representing Worcestershire attended. (Leader of WCC, Leader of Wyre Forest, Deputy Chief Constable, Chair of the LEP, Chief Officer – CCG). Lord Heseltine was genuinely impressed that Worcestershire is working so well and in a joined up way. He was also impressed with the extent of economic growth and public sector reform.

Two things are clear now

- Government is currently working on larger geographic footprints than single counties.
- They still have a clear intent for directly elected mayors.
- They have bigger fish to fry at the moment.

Highways Sign Clearance Programme

WCC have now completed the first major cut of the rural roads network, including visibility splays and hot spots. Ringway are now moving onto the clearance of highways and safety signs on the Highway. The focus in the first instance will be on the A and B roads across Worcestershire. They have four tractors out and about doing these works and will complete this task as soon as practicable over the next few weeks.

In addition, and not least in light of the particularly strong vegetation growth this year, Ringway have two further gangs on standby for other safety signing clearance issues. If you are aware of any other safety signing including on C and Unclassified roads, where visibility is obstructed by vegetation, please let us know and Ringway will get this cleared as soon as practicable.

Please contact the Highways Control Centre by telephoning 01905 843070 or using our [online facility](#) if you wish to report any sign clearance issues.

23/6 Local Transport Plan Adopted 2011 – Workshop LTP 4 2011-2026 refresh

23/6 Scrutiny of the County's equality and diversity arrangements

I have asked for the following

Quick wins

1. Assurances that our equality and diversity approach is embedded into our QA mechanisms, reported on through our complaints processes and that our briefing is included in member training in 2017
2. That the County's briefing is shared with District officers and members and that the County works to develop a Countywide Public Centre Equality duties approach.
3. That WCC publishes the outcomes of its Equalities and Diversity work and considers how the Council can hold the Cabinet Member with responsibility to account for our Statutory Duties.
4. The County Council ensures its 3 duties are aligned with the Corporate Plan: equality of opportunity, eliminating unlawful discrimination, fostering good relationships.

Medium Term

5. Scrutiny examine if a gender pay gap exists within the council, if so what it is and how it can be reduced.
6. Scrutiny ensures user engagement with hard to reach groups is improved with support of the user groups themselves,
7. Ask that my work, reporting on commissioning outcomes, identifies in terms of providers the quality of their equality and diversity approach meets our standards

Longer Term⁸.

The scrutiny consider how Economic and Social Deprivation issues with regard to equality can be addressed and tackled (consider introducing a local duty to join directorate's strategies to look at the accessibility of services and the lack of equality: education, bus services, rural spend, mobile services and broadband services, social isolation.)

9. That the adult panel should look at Disability employment including SEN

Footway schemes in Priority Order Cost £39-40 k

Manor Road, Wickhamford, from bin outside Village Hall south for 84 metres to The Sheiling

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 sent

District Councillors Report

Fly tipping

We have for many years tried to get the message out to residents that they need to check that if they get people to take waste from their property are a registered carrier to avoid any come back on them. We've done this through media releases, articles in the magazine, social media, radio interviews, posters, leaflets and web content. We are also looking to spend a small amount on social media advertising to raise awareness. Flytipping still blights our countryside and we would like to ask if you can help us communicate it to residents as well. If you can encourage people to check for a licence, use our bulky waste collection service, garden waste service or simply take items to the tip that would be appreciated.

Unemployment continues to fall

The latest unemployment figures have just been for May 2016 and this identifies a fall of 40 people unemployed during the month. The current claimant count for Wychavon remains at 1%.

Enforcements action – Drysdale Close

Following recent communications to myself from both the Parish Council and residents I can confirm that Enforcements are still looking into certain allegations of planning breaches relating to this development.

One of the residents affected has been in contact with me and Wychavon and have received assurances that one of the issues is to be resolved, although we are waiting on a timeframe for this. Further issues are being investigated at present with findings due back once this has been completed.

8. Police Officers Report.

Since my last report, West Mercia Police has received calls from residents within Wickhamford between 6th May to date. This has resulted in three offences of fraud being recorded. Two are as a result of OAPs being cold called by phone from persons purporting to be either Police Officers investigating persons in custody or Bank fraud teams. This has resulted in the victims handing over large amounts of cash to couriers. Initially, there were few lines of enquiries to follow but the officers investigating have subsequently arrested four individuals from the London area, they are subject to extensive & protracted enquiries. The third fraud is whereby another OAP was cold called in person by someone touting to carry out some minor repairs but never carried out the work. Residents should be aware it is a breach of Trading Standards Regulations for cold callers not to supply written quotes on headed note paper with a seven day cooling off period before work commences.

9. Pact Update

The Chairman reported that it had been agreed for Badsey to have a Motorcycle Speed Camera and the question was asked as to the option for our village

10. Road Signs

Item discussed with G. Brienza Senior Highways Liaison Engineer during the public session

11. Telephone Kiosk

It was decided to re-paint the kiosk and to then look at the feasibility of installing a defibrillator

12. Neighbourhood Planning

The V. Chairman will look at case studies of the Neighbourhood Plan to ascertain if it is a viable option for our village

13. Play Area Equipment

The Chairman and the Clerk advised the meeting that they had met with Playdale to discuss the surfaces required for the new Play Area equipment. All agreed that wet pour was ideal.

The revised quotation is now £ 25,857.10 + Vat

It was also agreed to dispose of the Sports Wall as the outer fence has been damaged beyond repair and will need to be replaced due to the users of the Sports Wall climbing over to retrieve their ball.

14. Drysdale Close Building Site

Emails sent to WDC, District Councillor and our local MP by the neighbouring residents of the building site in Drysdale Close regarding the non-compliance of the planning approval

over the past four years and lack of response / action from the enforcement department. The Parish Council have also expressed their views on this matter.

15. Country & Western Event

The Chairman & the Clerk met with the Sports Club on 11/07 to discuss the incorrect documents supplied regarding the Temporary Event Notice and the Insurance for the C & W event. The Clerk was instructed to contact the Club and request the correct TEN and also a copy of their insurance schedule which should include the words "Public Liability for all Events on the Playing Field", or a letter from their insurers to confirm the same. To be provided before event.

16. Correspondence

Invoice sent to WCC for £726.00 towards our grasscutting costs.

Letters sent to all local Funeral Directors and Stonemasons advising of the changes to the cemetery burial and stone installation charges effective as of 11th May 2016.

Letter sent to all users of the Playing Field advising of the need for the production of the Insurance Cover and Temporary Event Notice (if applicable) to be submitted to the Parish Council **for all events held on the Playing Field** no later than 30 days before the event.

Copy of the draft minutes sent to Juanjo Alvarez at BayWe r.e. Solar Projects GmbH n behalf of INRG Solar Parks 14 Ltd regarding the conformation of the Parish Council's acceptance of the "Community Benefit Fund" as requested.

Telephone call from a resident of Drysdale Close re damage to their property caused by excessive water pumped from the building site adjacent to which WDC told them it is not a planning matter. (Item 14)

Contacted Calc on the above matter for advice and also B. Thomas

Contacted Safer Roads Partnership re road signage and asked if they would attend the next meeting to discuss alternative signage.

Email received from a resident of Drysdale Close reference the article in the newsletter regarding the building site in Drysdale Close. (Item 14)

Letter received from Wickhamford PCC thanking the Parish Council for the donation towards their Churchyard mowing costs.

Telephone call received from WDC enforcement with an update regarding their visit to the building site at Drysdale Close advising that a new planning application had been received re the amendments regarding the water harvesting system and the driveway material (Item 14)

Email sent to WCC Highways requesting their attendance at the next Parish Council meeting to discuss road signage.

Email sent to T. Collins at Rooftop re the planning application for the Sandys Arms regarding the encroachment onto their property. Meeting arranged 14/06 to discuss. Damaged drainage inspection chamber reported on Worcestershire Hub, 31/05 ref. 183555. Outside 22 Pitchers Hill.

Insurance documents received from Sports Club regarding inflatables on the Playing Field 11/06 for Littleton Football Club presentation.

Request from the Sports Club to use the Playing Field for car parking re the funeral of a local couple who had tragically died recently.

Letter received from a resident who owns a second property in the village reference a complaint from her tenant regarding her lack of a parking facility. A response was sent

Invoices sent to the Sports Club on 20/06 re half yearly rental and the donation for the use of the Playing Field for the C & W event.

Call from the resident to the right of the building site in Drysdale Close informing us that her garden has now subsided into the building site. A site visit was conducted.

She will be contacting WDC Planning, the District Councillor and our local MP and asked for the Parish Council to do the same on her behalf (Item 13).

Email sent to D. Perridge, Safer Roads Partnership & J. Champion, Police Commissioner re the speeding issue and the agreement for Badsey to have a motorcycle speed camera

Builders vans blocking the footpath at 8 Pitchers Hill reported to the Police.

17. Finance.

Balance sheets made available for Councillors.

Cheques signed,

Smart Cut, Grasscutting (Apr/May/Jun) £756.00

M. Parkinson, VAS Changeover £90.00

HMRC, 1st Quarter Tax £163.80

M. Smith, Office Rental etc. £1,000.00

M. Smith, Ink + Paper £19.73

WDC, Field Rental £10.00

L. Gutteridge, Lengthsperson (Jun) £144.00

Receipts,

WCC, Grasscutting Rebate £726.00

WSC, Half Year Rental £450.00. Overpaid by £25.00

18. Items for the next Agenda

Defibrillator

Community Benefit Fund

19. Date of the next meeting confirmed as 14th September 2016

Meeting Closed at 9.10

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

Notes of the Public Question Time