

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 9th February 2016

At 7.30 pm in Beoley Village Hall

Attendees:

Cllr Bland (Chairman)
Cllr Barry
Cllr Merrell
Cllr Morgan
Cllr Brown
Kelly Dawe (Parish Clerk)
Two members of the public

1. **Apologies**
Received from Cllr Hall and Cllr Luck.
2. **Declaration of Personal/Prejudicial Interests**
None given.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting**
The following corrections were noted:
 - cheque for hall rental covered the months of Oct/Nov/Jan
 - reference to war memorial should read Parish War Memorial at St Leonard's Church
4. **Approval of Minutes:**
A motion that the Minutes of the previous meeting be approved was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Barry; all being in favour the Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
5. **County Councillor Report/District Councillor Report**
None received. The Chairman brought to the attention of all attendees the sad news that County/District Councillor Roger Hollingsworth had passed away during the previous week.
6. **Path Warden's report**
No report expected at this time of year. The Chair reported that he had received several comments from the public regarding the condition of the footpath from outside the Old Post Office on Beoley Lane into the land belonging to Mr Chambers, and asked

for any suggestions of how to manage this. The path is notoriously boggy and waterlogged for most of the year - all agreed against putting down hardcore but that pruning of the overhanging trees would no doubt help. Cllr Brown suggested that if the path had drainage dug into it and the path itself was raised it would also help. **Action:** Chairman to liaise with Parish Lengthsman and speak to Dick Gardner for advice.

7. **Lengthsman's report**

Reported that some branches have been blown down during recent storms. During this period of high rainfall he had monitored the situation at the brook and confirmed it to be satisfactory. No other issues to note.

8. **Matters Arising**

Footpaths: The Chairman reported that Cllr Griffiths has confirmed repairs to the footpath from the Church to Icknield Street are now to be done under next year's budget.

Hillside: Cllr Barry asked that it be noted in the minutes that the Planning Application for this site has been refused by BDC.

Brass plaque from village hall bench: This was handed to Cllr Bland and will now be fixed to the bench.

Parking: The Chairman reported that he is still waiting for confirmation of who owns/is responsible for the lay-by outside Cllr Joynes' property. **Action:** Chairman to chase highways for a plan and pass to Cllr Joynes for review in an attempt to establish exactly who owns the land before the issue can be considered further.

Beoley Manor: The Chairman is still waiting for a response from BDC regarding ongoing work without planning on site.

Roundabout towards A435: noted that work still not finished – Cllr Barry reported new tyre marks now on the centre of the grassed area of the roundabout. **Action:** Chairman to contact Jim Gardner for progress report and regarding the latest damage to the landscaping.

9. **Correspondence and consultations**

Letter received from parish resident Helen Barker, raising the following concerns: -

a) National 60mph speed limit in force from Chapel Lane to Bleachfield Lane: Chairman reported that, in his view, this is clearly an unsatisfactory anomaly and he has met with a representative of County Highways to discuss. If the speed de-restriction is to be removed then this would be equivalent to imposing a new 30mph limit. This would involve a legal process and consultation must be undertaken to remove the speed limit. **Action:** Chairman will write to the county council to formally request removal of the de-restriction signs.

b) Drainage: (Bleachfield Lane and others) Cllr Barry reported that he had received a letter to say the affected lanes will be closed for a week in March for the drains to be dealt with.

c) Grass triangle landscaping at the bottom of Bleachfield Lane: **Action:** Lengthsman to review the damage and report back.

d) Removal of trees and hedgerow at Hillside: it is unclear who owns the trees and hedgerow that were removed by the owners of the land at Hillside – the Chairman confirmed that he had met with a representative of County Highways and if they were in the hedge line, they belong to the landowner; if not they were the responsibility of County Highways who, now the damage has been done, could do little more than replant saplings. If proven the trees belonged to highways, legal proceedings would be taken to force the landowner to reinstate. Failure to comply with such a request would result in County Highways carrying out the work and re-charging the landowner. Cllr Joynes asked for copy of plan for land outside Hillside and he could determine legal boundaries. **Action:** Chair to obtain and pass plans to Cllr Joynes.

e) Objections to Hillside planning application: the Chairman noted that this was a matter to be taken up directly with the planning departments at Bromsgrove District Council by those whose comments weren't recorded. However, Cllr Joynes stated that if an appeal is posted later, those comments should be available as a matter for public record. The Chairman noted that individuals whose comments were not available online should follow this up with BDC directly. This to include the Parish Council's own correspondence subsequent to the recent application amendments; this too has been omitted from the web site. **Action:** Chair instructed to raise the issue with BDC and request an explanation.

Dumblepit Lane: the Chairman reported that the lane would be closed for ten days from 18th February 2016 for line painting.

Campaign to raise funds for a defibrillator for Beoley First School: The Chairman proposed a donation from the Parish Council. Some debate was had regarding an appropriate amount, and whether the Parish Council should agree to underwrite any shortfall in funding. Cllr Merrell suggested a better location for the defibrillator would be on the village hall wall rather than at the school. At this point, a member of the public interjected to update the Parish Council and noted that the charity involved had already installed a defibrillator at the school on account of the health of a pupil, and the identified location site at the school is ideal due to the temperature control required for the unit. Cllr Barry proposed a fixed contribution of £500 to made by the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Brown. All agreed that should the funding target not be achieved, the school should get in touch with the Parish Council who when then review the situation. Cllr Brown noted he had undertaken the defibrillator training course which was simple and straightforward should anyone want to be trained.

Funding request from Citizens Advice Bureau: A vote was taken and the Parish Council agreed unanimously against funding at this time.

Smartwater kits from West Mercia Police: Action: No immediate interest was forthcoming from those present and it was agreed that information would be pinned to Parish notice boards for any interested households.

New Environmental Services Contacts: Action: Parish Clerk to pin contact details for reporting tipping/dog fouling/waste etc, to Parish notice boards.

Eastern Redditch Development proposal: information received on the proposal had been circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting. Noted only observations required at this time.

CALC reports: Action: going forward, the Parish Clerk to provide a brief summary at future meetings.

10. **New Matters**

Cllr Morgan noted an advertising van is regularly parked on the pavement on the flyover of the A435, providing an obstruction and distraction to drivers below. **Action:** Chairman instructed to write to local police liaison to advise of obstruction.

The Parish Clerk reported that the Parish Council section of the Worcestershire e-services website is now populated with previous

minutes and details of the Parish Councillors, with some information still to be provided. **Action:** Cllr Joynes to send photo and background information to the Parish Clerk to update the site.

Noted that with the absence of two of the three signatories, cheque payments would be delayed. Cllr Merrell proposed, seconded by Cllr Joynes, that the Parish Clerk should be added to the list of signatories. All in favour. **Action:** Chairman/Parish Clerk to action with Lloyds Bank.

11. **Finance**

Current bank balance: £12,499.07

Budget: Cllr Merrell provided the missing handwritten outline budget from last years' budget meeting. There followed some discussion and debate regarding items that could be increased and those that could be cut back. The Parish Clerk noted the difficulty in reconciling payments and receipts following the handover of duties from the previous Parish Clerk, and that an extension had been granted for submission of the Precept request until the end of the week (Friday 12th February 2016). In the interim it was agreed that no increase/decrease should be made to the budget. **Action:** The Chairman and Cllr Morgan to review the accounts and report back to the Council giving suggestions for adjustments within the overall current budget.

£210.12	payable to A Brown for Lengthsman duties
£250.00	payable to K Dawe for Parish Clerk duties Nov/Dec and home office allowance.
£500.00	payable to Beoley First School (Defibrillator)

12. **Planning**

No new applications received.

Oaklands: Cllr Joynes reported that an appeal has been lodged contesting the grounds for refusal (green belt, satisfaction of special circumstances). This calls for an enquiry which will last four days, with two witnesses in support of the application. No date has been given for the enquiry yet. Cllr Joynes reiterated that he would not be in a professional position to speak on behalf of the Parish Council but offered any advice and help he could.

13. **Items of Parochial Interest**

Jazz night continues on the 4th Wednesday of the month
Next film night 16th Feb "*Testament of Youth*"

14. **Date of next meeting – 8th March 2016**

Signed _____ **(Chairman)**

Dated:.....