

**At the Meeting of Grimley Parish Council held on
30th October 2017
in The Peace Hall, Sinton Green commencing at 7.30pm**

Present: E A Taft (Chair), D Stanley (Deputy Chair), A Atkinson, P Ayers, B Jones, D Lewis, A Marsh, G Sweeney, R Woodhouse.

In Attendance: Mrs L Stevens – Clerk, District Cllr Dean Clarke, County Cllr Phil Grove, 3 Members of the public, Mr Bowdige, Tree Surgeon Sinton Green

Apologies: None.

147/17 Declarations of Interest – none.

148/17 Minutes of the previous meeting

a.	18 th Sept 2017 Grimley Parish Council Meeting. – Duly approved .
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Cllrs voted to amend the order of the meeting at this point, in order to allow the public to participate early in an agenda item. Item 8a was duly brought forward.

149/17 Monkwood Green - Preparation for meeting with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust ref future leasing agreement.

a.	<p>The Chair suspended standing orders and members of the public were invited to address the Council. A number of points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encroachment has historically not been tackled except via recent efforts by volunteers. In response Cllrs noted that this sort of detail would not be covered by the leasing agreement but that this would be checked at the negotiation stage. Any agreement would be covered by an annual review, at which point concerns such as this could be raised. Cllrs felt that WWT could be relied upon to deal with encroachment due to their expertise/history of managing such sites. - If signing a leasing agreement, would WWT manage the site with the current Management Working Party and volunteers? Cllrs noted that WWT previously confirmed the value of local input. - Lack of new volunteers coming forward. A number of members of the Management Working Party have or are due to stand down. - A final public consultation will be undertaken once the leasing agreement has been drafted. - Cllrs spoke ensuring that WWT sufficiently see the benefits of taking on management of such a nationally important site. - 'References'/further details of other successfully managed WWT sites would need to be distributed in order to reassure residents. - Ensure that WWT are fully aware of the volume of scrub on site.
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Clerk

150/17 Public question time

a.	None.
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151/17 To receive a report on the state of parish trees (NB public land/unadopted verges)

a.	<p>Motion to accept the advice of the tree surgeon for immediate action on trees (council land) posing a danger to public.</p> <p>Cllr Marsh and the tree surgeon Mr J Bowdige had surveyed all trees on public and parish council land, looking at work for public safety and health of the trees. A quotation for necessary works had subsequently been received from Mr Bowdige. Cllrs voted by majority to accept one urgent recommendation - <i>Removal of deadwood posing a danger from several trees around parish £250.00</i></p>
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Clerk

b.	<p>To debate and Motion to accept recommendations on less urgent tree works up to a threshold of £300, subject to obtaining permission for tree works from MHDC.</p> <p>Cllrs voted by majority to accept two recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pollard to Sinton Green willow by pond £200.00 - Removal of metal tree cages (1 x Sinton, 1 x Monkwood) £100.00. <p>Cllrs declined (by majority vote) to commission two additional jobs and these are to be added to a future agenda in 2018/19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Works to the Ash canopy (part crown reduction of various Ash on Sinton Green to reduce overhang across road) £300.00. Cllrs felt that the current risk to public is low. - Removal of horse chestnut on Sinton Green nr Slate Cottage £350.00. This tree is showing signs of terminal disease with a life expectancy of only ten years. Cllrs felt that the current risk to public is low/medium due to mild risk of limbs dropping. <p><i>The order of the meeting was again amended at this point. Cllrs discussed the following single item later in the meeting, once it became apparent that sufficient time remained. The discussion is presented here for continuity.</i></p>	Clerk
c.	<p>To debate and motion to approve to remove the scrubby tree on un-adopted verge/visual splay at the junction with New Inn, Sinton Green, as a matter of public safety.</p> <p>Cllrs agreed that safety for the school bus remains an issue at this junction and that visibility is poor. The Clerk reported that research indicates that the tree is on unadopted verge. The tree is a hawthorn like, overlarge bush, with no single, main trunk. Cllr Taft reported that the inn keeper had been consulted and had given his verbal approval that the tree be removed. Cllrs ask that Highways be consulted before the Lengthsman be approached for this work.</p>	Clerk

152/17 To Receive the Report of the County Councillor – Phil Grove

a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essex County Council has been formally appointed as the Worcs Improvement Partner with ref to Children's Services. - Department for Transport has announced multi-million pound funding for the A4440/Carrington Road bridge dualling project and £6.6 million to help ease traffic congestion in wider Worcs. - League tables: Worcs schools perform above national average, - Newly launched 'travel wallet' is to help residents with disabilities overcome communication barriers whilst using public transport. Residents interested in receiving a 'wallet' can contact their social worker at County Hall or via a range of local charities. - Velo Birmingham took place on 24th Sept experiencing both support and opposite from local communities, with some regrettable incidences of deliberate sabotage on the route. - Police and Crime Commissioner John Champion is submitting a full business case on taking on the governance of local fire services in a bid to improve public safety and to safe guard vital services. - Parish Cllrs requested that CCllr Grove ensure that the County Council contribution to DEFRA 'plastic bottle deposit/returns system debate' covers ALL drinks containers and not just bottles. - Cllr Atkinson asked for clarification on the relationship between the Highways budget and the cap to precept rise. 	CCllr Grove
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153/17 To Receive the Report of the District Councillor – Dean Clarke

a.	DCllr Clarke clarified a number of parish related historical points.	
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154/17 Monkwood Green – To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

<p>b.</p>	<p>Item 'a' had been discussed previously.</p> <p>Feasibility study. Feasibility study in principle had previously been voted and agreed upon by Parish Cllrs, as being a necessary stepping stone towards a Stewardship Grant. The Common and SSSI has complex issues that need to be fully assessed. The study will investigate the options available for management, focusing on the practicalities and implications of grazing the Common. The plan will propose a series of options that will form part of the higher tier countryside stewardship application, aimed at beginning in Jan 2019. Natural England had confirmed that they would pay for 80% of the study costs. Likely cost to Parish Council is therefore £3,000. The Parish Council would receive the grant from NE after the entire bill has been paid. Cllrs agreed without dissent to proceed on this basis. Cllrs approved the draft specification without amendment.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>c.</p>	<p>Service road repairs update. The Clerk reported on a recent experience during a site visit to obtain repair quotations, where a resident had disagreed with the need for the work. Cllrs felt however that the work is necessary. Cllrs approved the Clerk approaching Roy Fullee of Rural Highways Worcestershire to ask for a) a quote for a site visit and refining the specification and b) a quote for managing repairs. The solicitors are to be approached for clarification regarding properties on Monkwood Green that do not have a completed deed of right of access.</p>	<p>Clerk Clerk</p>

155/17 Grimley Village - To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

<p>a.</p>	<p>Motion to accept quotation for installing additional zebra bollards in Grimley approach road (to supplement visibility of knee rail fence). £20 per bollard. Cllrs approved this quotation.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>b.</p>	<p>Grimley lakes, outflow pipes – flood mitigation in relation to public footpaths. Cllrs instructed the Clerk to write to the landowner ref keeping the outflow clear and also a separate reminder about cutting hedgerows facing onto public highways. A letter is also to be sent to the Environment Agency notifying them of the risk of flooding from this feature.</p>	<p>Clerk Clerk</p>
<p>c.</p>	<p>Missing stile (footpath between Priory Cottage/Clerkenwell). Footpath leading to Severn way path has now been cleared of all obstructions by John Harper and as such is reinstated as the official footpath. It would benefit from the installation of a gate to replace dilapidated non-existent stile. The Clerk confirmed that a request had been sent to County Hall also suggesting part funding of a gate for disabled access.</p>	
<p>d.</p>	<p>Ancient fishponds footpath proposed repairs – update/date for site visit. To be added to future agenda.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>e.</p>	<p>Grimley bin re-location (closer to hedge) and installing of bin liner – update. Cllr Woodhouse to phone contractor to chase up.</p>	<p>Cllr Woodhouse</p>

156/17 Sinton Green facilities- To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	<p>Ditch adjacent to New Inn. Motion to accept quotation for clearance of debris left by resident during ditch clearance. Cllrs approved Simon Skeys to clear for £80.</p>	Clerk
b.	<p>Deep drain outside Glebe Cottage (ownership still being ascertained). Local residents park on this verge over the drain, so Cllrs agreed that it is unlikely a bollard or any form of protection would be accepted. On this basis, no further action is to be taken.</p>	
c.	<p>Drains and ditches on Sinton Green wider Common, including:</p> <p>i. Proposal (and motion to proceed) for Clerk to obtain quotes to clear (with mini-digger) those existing ditches requiring maintenance. Cllrs agreed to proceed on the consideration that the ditches must be maintained in a functional condition.</p> <p>ii. Proposal (and motion to proceed) with re-establishing the now lost ditch on the Common, adjacent to Kingsmill, Glebe Cottage and Mayfield Cottage. Clerk to obtain quotes if approved. Cllrs agreed to proceed.</p> <p>iii. Debate as to necessity for bollards on deep drains on the Common itself. Motion to proceed. Cllr Taft and the Clerk had visited and highlighted several drains that need improved visibility. Cllrs approved purchase of three verge protector type bollards and two additional to protect the culvert at Monkwood Green.</p>	Clerk
d.	<p>Residential parking on verges, adjacent to Mayfield Cottage. The police declined to get involved as the vehicles were not causing a traffic hazard at the times they checked. The vehicles are not breaking traffic restrictions (double yellow lines). This is unadopted verge, not Parish Council land and since the law is not sufficient in this area, pass to District/County Council ref lobbying Gov.</p>	Clerk

157/17 Parish wide facilities - To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	<p>Hedges – ongoing issues with overgrown hedges. Previously discussed.</p>	
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158/17 Lengthsman - To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	<p>Motion to receive and approve future items of work. Cllr Woodhouse to speak to the Lengthsman to ascertain reasons for apparent delay in completing various works. Lengthsman to be invited to future meeting. Lengthsman has agreed to submit monthly timesheets (as requested by County Hall) and the Clerk is to provide envelopes and stamps for this purpose.</p>	Cllr Woodhouse
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159/17 Reports from Representatives - To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	<p>Peace Hall Management Committee The committee had requested assistance in repairs and new lock to the Peace Hall noticeboard and for a replacement parish footpath map. Cllr Jones to schedule repairs. Clerk to obtain a new map from County Hall.</p>	Cllr Jones Clerk
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b.	Tarmac Quarry Liaison Committee. Cllr Stanley reported how reinstatement has stalled following issues of applying for licence for additional top soil.
c.	Grimley Smaller Charities The land owned by the charity been rented as a pony paddock.
d.	Parish and Town Council Forum – 23rd October. Issues of electronic charging points at parish/village halls and information security were covered.

160/17 General Finance and Administration - To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts – Duly approved.
b.	To receive and motion to accept the Bank Reconciliation and Q2 report – Duly approved.
c.	Completion of NEW bank mandate variation form. Cllrs Stanley and Lewis to be added as signatories.
d.	To note reimbursement from SME solicitors for £20 for unused funds: Monkwood deed of access negotiations. Duly noted.

Clerk

161/17 - Items for future agenda

a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hedge cuttings, Old Vicarage. - Bricks adjacent to bridle way, Priory Cottage. - Correspondence ref Himalayan Balsam in Grimley village.
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Clerk

162/17 - Correspondence

a.	Correspondence from Cllr Marsh. Cllr Marsh duly offered his resignation. Cllrs thanked Cllr Marsh for his contribution and offered their best wishes. The Clerk was instructed to start procedures.
b.	Letter from resident, ref drain on Sinton Green Common.
c.	Correspondence from Nick Skilbeck, RSPB, confirming that the offer of a grant towards coping with illegally parked cars in Grimley village has now been withdrawn, in part due to residential objections. This item is not planned for any future discussion.

Clerk

146/17 Date of next scheduled meeting 20th Nov, 7.30pm, Peace Hall.
Appendix 1: Items for payment.

Simon Skeys	Lengthsman July, Aug & Sept	£402.50	VAT nil
Simon Skeys	Sinton Green mowing July Aug & Sept 2017. Order code: GPC201701.	£280.00	VAT nil
The Binding Place	Binding of historical PC minutes and repair for mildew etc. GPC201723	£150.00	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [September]	£365.44	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Expenses. GPC201703.	£131.83	
Lisa Stevens	Additional work (11 hours) outside contractual hours . GPC201704.	£125.62	VAT nil

Chair (20 November 2017)