

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 19th June 2017 at 7.30pm at Trimpley Village Hall

<u>Present</u> Councillor Mr. J. Gammond (Chair)	Councillor Mrs. L. Green
Councillor Mr. G. Yarranton	Councillor Mr. R. Jennings
Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond	Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)
2 Police officers	3 members of the public

1. **Police Report**

There had been reports of some criminal damage to windows in Trimpley (possibly from ball bearing projectiles) and a garage break in at Low Habberley. There had been speed monitoring undertaken in Low Habberley, and it was suggested that police also undertake this across Trimpley green. Motorbike activity on fields at Low Habberley had appeared to have stopped.

Public Open Forum

Rights of way Problems

Bridleway 572B – Trees overhanging the bridlepath, and branches obstructing riders.

Footpath 573 – Advised as being obstructed with brambles.

Hollies Lane – County Council workmen had been digging out the “catchpot”, installed to stop wash-out onto the main A442, and a complaint was made that the arisings of grit, mud and sand were being disposed of back up the lane. This was not felt to be a solution to the problem, as it washes back down. Cllr. Gordon Yarranton explained that we had asked for extra funding for the parish lengthsman to do this, but the County Council had refused. The County had advised that they would keep the catchpot ditches clear, but the agreement included disposing of the contents back on Hollies Lane, further up. This had been done successfully for the last few years.

2. **Apologies For Absence:** Cllr. C. Grainger, Cllr. B Phillips and Cllr. Becky Vale.– apologies received and accepted.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. Mrs. Gammond and Cllr. J Gammond declared an interest in being members of the Village Hall committee. Cllr. Yarranton declared his office as District Councillor.

4. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th May 2017 were approved and signed.

5. **District and County Councillor Reports - inc. progress reports on other matters**
Items reported for attention by District & County Councillor and other items of matters arising.

District Cllr. Gordon Yarranton

He had reported flytipping on side of road at Eymore Lane. He expressed his delight that the District Council had brought about a successful prosecution to a flytipper in Wolverley. He had made several requests for surveillance cameras to be deployed in this parish to catch flytippers.

County Councillor Ian Hardiman

- in response to items brought to his attention by the Clerk

He advised that a grant (as Kidderminster Foreign had enjoyed for many years from Cllr. Yarranton's locally determined funding) for £1300 to support the lengthsman could not be guaranteed, and it was too early in his term to agree to this.

State of Highways – he noted the carriageway works required in Crundalls Lane, Hoarstone Lane, and Shatterford Lane (by Little Gains). He also noted that the tarmac repairs undertaken on Hoarstone Lane had been substandard, and would follow this up for the parish. Cllrs. Green and C. Gammond had previously taken Alex Ellson on site to show him these problems.

6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) **Previous planning applications**

17/0166 Alterations and rear extensions at Red Ridge, Sandy Lane, Kidderminster

Approved

17/3020/PNR – Honeybrook Farm, Bridgnorth Road - Change of use of agricultural building to Dwellinghouse

Refused Permitted Development as a new wall had been built, and therefore the building no longer complied with the conditions required by the GPDO for allowable conversion.

17/2025 Application for: Condition 7 of Planning Permission 12/0402/FULL at THE RIDDINGS, CRUNDALLS LANE, BEWDLEY, DY121NB.

Awaiting information

17/2029 Conditions 3, 4, and 5 of Planning Permissions 17/0061/FULL and 17/0062/LIST at LOW HABBERLEY FARM, LOW HABBERLEY, KIDDERMINSTER, DY115RE

Approved

b) New Applications

17/0320 - Conversion of barn dwelling (Regularisation of previous approval) at TRIMPLEY GREEN FARM BARN, TRIMPLEY, BEWDLEY, DY121NR

Comment:

“Object to the proposal and Recommend Refusal.

We are not happy with these revised plans for the following reasons which we would like to see addressed

- a) The car port has not been demolished – (the revised plans show that this will be done) – please ensure that this is followed up.*
- b) The gable end facing the road entrance was originally designated as a garage. None of this gable end is now a garage – it has been made into a living area / kitchen, which is not as the approved plans.*
- c) The outside covered “walkway” which was shown as being open, has been enclosed and the space incorporated into the structure as an internal corridor.*
- d) The officer’s report when granting permission for the original application states that “the conversion works would have no significant detrimental effect of the fabric, character or setting of the building”. We would now challenge this, as the “as built” structure has not retained the high barn door openings on both the west and east elevations. These have been bricked up, and no attempt made to give the impression of the original character. We would ask that there is an amendment to these facades to indicate the original high barn doors.”*

17/0377 Replacement Chalet at HERGEST CROFT, NORTHWOOD LANE BEWDLEY DY121AS

Comment: *“We would not object to the chalet being rebuilt, but would question whether the necessity for the larger footprint is justified.”*

17/3034 Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse BRICK BARN TRIMPLEY FARM TRIMPLEY BEWDLEY DY121NS

Comment: *“Although we appreciate that this is submitted under the GPDO. We would offer no objection to its conversion; however, we would like your clarification on two points:-*

- 1) Retention of Character - we note that the large barn doors are disappearing, which means the external character of this old building will be lost. Could these please be retained in some format so that this character is preserved?*
- 2) We note that the one end of this conversion is being increased in height to create a 1st floor bedroom. Is this increase in height allowed under GPDO?”*

c) Compliance Issues /Appeals.

i) Easter Cottage

ii) Crundalls Cottage

iii) Sandy Lane – Barn conversion

Nothing further to report.

d) Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review

Clerk gave details of where this could be viewed - both as a link on the District Council website – and also at various local events around the district. Cllr. I. Hardiman urged the Parish Councillors to respond with their views on this Local Plan Review. Comment from the parish was deferred until the July meeting to allow Councillors the opportunity to view the Local Plan to be better informed to comment.

e) Discussion on Chalet Residential statuses

Clerk advised that she had started work on a questionnaire, but queried whether this would be effective for the following reasons:-

- a) Would the Halford Trust object to the questionnaire being sent to residents?;
- b) What response would be expected – even if mailed to each chalet? Unless there was a prepaid reply supplied, few would respond, and
- c) Even if they did respond, they would be querying the motivation behind the questionnaire.
- d) What could be done with the data collected? Even if non-permanent residences were identified, what action could be taken? What checks would be on-going to enforce non-residency periods? And would it motivate more chalet residents to apply for permanent residency?

In consideration of these points, it was decided not to go ahead with sending a questionnaire to residents.

7. Progress Reports / Correspondence, and other Outstanding Items

a) Discussion on suggested closure of Layby at Mary Moors, Eymore Lane

Clerk read out the response she had received from the County Highways Engineer – Alex Ellson – stating that the County Council would not consider closing the layby. Cllr. B. Phillips had advised that he wished to discuss this further at the next meeting. Cllr. Yarranton would ask again for a camera from the District Council to be sited at this layby to catch flytippers.

b) P3 Grant Success and route change of footpath at Honeybrook Cottage

It had been confirmed that the annual P3 Grant, for seasonal vegetation clearance from Rights of Way (requested by Cllr. C. Gammond) had been approved. It had been suggested that the route of the footpath on exit to the A442 had recently been altered. This had been reported to the County Council Rights of Way department for investigation.

c) Fly tipping including tipping of green waste on Common Land

Grass cuttings were being dumped as flytipping on the Common at the top of Halls Farm lane from a tractor mower. These were reported as being tipped on a footpath, making walking on the path difficult. Clerk instructed to write to potential perpetrators.

d) County Council Verge grass cutting problems

Clerk had raised various points with Alex Ellson on the poor workmanship experienced on the verge cutting in Eymore Lane. These had been countered by somewhat implausible comments in defence of the job done. For discussion again at the next meeting.

e) State of Parish Noticeboards

It was reported that the rear of the parish noticeboards was falling off, and as the noticeboards were only 2 – 3 years old, Councillors expressed concern that this should be the case after such a short period – as the boards were not inexpensive originally. The manufacturer of the boards, who had already inspected them, had advised a charge of £150 to replace the backs. Clerk to contact, advising that the Council were not happy about this charge, as it had occurred after such a short time, and suggest some form of inverted V shape canopy on the top of the boards to divert water ingress. It was also mentioned that one of the doors on the most recent two-panel board at Low Habberley was started to warp, and that the inside of the boards required a more drawing-pin friendly lining.

f) SVR – risk of embankment fires

Embankment fire risk – Following incidents of fires, where Northwood Lane has had to be closed for 2.5 hours, causing disruption to residents, Clerk was instructed to write to the Chief Fire Officer, voicing concerns on behalf of our parishioners.

g) Superfast broadband update

Clerk tabled a list of postcodes where Superfast Fibre Broadband was now available, but comment was made that the speeds were not good, dependent upon the distance from the exchange or box. Comment was also made (by a member of the public) that BT are now fitting overhead fibre cables – there had been some done in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. This negated the necessity to have extra boxes. It was noted that Cllr. Ken Pollock (cabinet member) was putting forward a case for this to be done in Worcestershire.

h) Confirmation of Vice Chair

After some discussion, concerning the 'unofficial' rotation of office, it was proposed and unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr. Ron Jennings as Vice Chair for this year. Cllr. Jennings accepted office.

8. Lengthsman & Litter collection – :

a) Worksheets

Clerk advised that she had not yet received any worksheets from the Lengthsman. It was understood that they had also started work on the footpath seasonal clearance against the P3 Grant, but no worksheets had been received to date.

b) Lengthsman Visible ID methods

It was agreed that the Lengthsman should have some easily visible forms of ID for when working in the parish. Clerk to get together some information for the next meeting.

c) Roadsign at Eymore Rd Junction

This had been turning in the wind to point in the wrong direction. Remedial work undertaken.

9. Financial Reports

a) Payments

Cheques signed:

Village Hall – Payment for siting Litter Bin - £250

Zurich Insurance - £318.13

Clerk's Expenses - £76.73

Receipts

Localism funding for litter collection, including the payment for stationing of the bin at the village hall now received, and also VAT reimbursement from HMRC.

b) Grant Consideration re Social Club Restoration

Roller shutters on the original bar are in very bad condition. It was agreed in principle that the Parish Council would offer a grant towards replacement shutters. Further details however were to be tabled for consideration.

c) Pensions Regulation – The staging date for the parish council was 1st May. Clerk has submitted the declaration stating that she is the only employee, and does not want to be part of a pension scheme, and also that the earnings fall below the statutory minimum for compulsory enrolment anyway.

10. Worcestershire CALC

News re Worcestershire County Council webpage

The County Council had confirmed that they would continue to offer this service, but that it was currently based on outdated software. Eventually, they would look to replace and renew the webpages with an alternative system, but would ensure that they consult fully with Parish Councils at that time.

Area Meeting Report June CALC Meeting – report given by Cllr. Mrs. Green

Discussion points from the meeting included:

Neighbourhood Plans:

Bewdley – details given by Cllr. Derek Killingworth

Chaddesley Corbett – currently updating theirs.

Other Items:

John Baggott (Development Manager) leaving Wyre Forest in July

Lea Castle - housing development proposal – Wyre Forest Local Plan Review.

Richard Levett gave a talk about the Government's ability to cap **Town and Parish Council** budgets, and urged local councils to write asking for this not to be evoked.

Training opportunities for Parish and Town Councillors, offered by CALC, had shown little or no take up. It was in the best interests of all councils to have fully trained councillors.

CILs – Community Infrastructure Levy - Wyre forest looking into this for 2019 – alongside their Local Plan Review. It will relate to community infrastructure levies to raise funds from developers who are undertaking new building projects in the area. The money can be used to pay for a wide range of infrastructure measures that may be needed as a result of development. This can include things like transport schemes, flood defences and green spaces, as well as schools and roads, since Section 106 monies was used to go towards affordable housing schemes.

11. District and County Council and other Correspondence

Merchant Navy Day – Clerk notified as being 3rd September.

Clerk had also contacted Councillors electronically with surveys and questionnaires relating to:-

Public Space Protection Order Consultation – completion required on-line

Survey to complete in respect of dog fouling – completion required on line

Councillors were encouraged to respond to these individually.

12. **Other Matters**

Ancient Trees – Honeybrook – on a recent inspection of the ROW in this area, Council officers had reported that they identified several trees worthy of preservation in the Honeybrook area, and would be reporting this to the Arboricultural Officer for consideration.

Rock Houses - Easthams

It was noticed that there was a large car parking areas created near the Rock Houses, and it was thought that this may be a precursor to another music/rock party.

13. **Date of Next Meeting** – confirmed as 17th July at 7.30p.m. Clerk advised that she would be away for a fortnight in August, including 21st, meeting evening. She asked for the August meeting to be moved to 7th August. This was agreed by those present.

The meeting closed at 10.20p.m.

Chairman : _____