

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 18th December 2017 at 7.30pm at Trimpley Village Hall

Present Councillor Mr. J. Gammond (Chair) Councillor Mr. C. Grainger
 Councillor Mr. G. Yarranton Councillor Mr. B. Phillips
 Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)
 Councillor Mrs. L. Green 3 Members of the public present

1. **Police Report**

No police officers were present, and they sent apologies but they sent the following report:
Attempted Burglary: Northwood Lane – owners returned to their property after an evening out to find the beading had been removed from a rear window.

Blue/Grey Subaru Estate – Reg HN52THZ – reported and logged as acting suspiciously.

Suspected as being connected to Hare Coursing at Low Habberley

Mark Blakeway had dug a trench and bund to stop people illegally entering farmland at Low Habberley.

It was reported that there had been instances of sheep worrying in the Ferndale vicinity.

Public Open Forum

It was reported that a **small bungalow-type building**, with a light-coloured roof had been erected on the Low Habberley Golf Club site, in amongst the trees close to the radio mast at the bottom end of the site, near to Eastham's lane. Clerk was asked to check this out.

Charity Trustee Representative – Mrs Collins had not heard from the Clare Witnell Blount Charity, and wondered if she should have attended a meeting yet.

Recent TPO order investigation at Honeybrook. It was reported that the TPO would not be confirmed at this site.

Fallen and/or dangerous Trees – it was suggested that the Parish organised work parties to take down dead/dangerous trees. Although agreed that this would be ideal, there are many problems which would have to be dealt with such as insurance (inc. public liability), practitioners' certificates, road closures, landowners' responsibilities and permissions that such work would involve. It was agreed that some work, such as clearance around the pools could be undertaken by local volunteers, and that councillors would consider this.

2. **Apologies For Absence:**

County Cllr. I. Hardiman and Dist. Cllr. B. Vale, Cllr. R. Jennings – apologies noted and accepted.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. J Gammond and Cllr. Mrs. Gammond declared an interest in being members of the Village Hall committee. Cllr. Mr. Grainger declared an interest in any item in connection with Riddings Brook. Cllr. Phillips declared a pecuniary interest in respect of the Churchyard grant. Cllr. Yarranton declared his role as a District Councillor.

4. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th November 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. Becky Vale – No report tabled.

District Cllr. G. Yarranton – reported that he had noticed that there were inordinate amounts of leaves in some places on roads through the parish, and that he had arranged for the road sweeper to give attention.

County Cllr. I. Hardiman – (in his absence) Clerk tabled his report as follows:-

"Dead Trees, Crundalls Lane still remain: I shall chase Alex and Barry who gave assurance this would be dealt with.

. **Horse Warning Sign.** You will recall my email of 19th Nov. asking you to contact me if any o/s concerns; And I had forwarded Barry Barnes' 28th Sept email saying two signs re-set which he thought had resolved the issue. I shall ask Barry to check why the original request for an additional sign has not been satisfied.

. **Re: Defibrillator Provision:** I shall be pleased to contribute (from my County Divisional Funding) £200.00 towards each Defibrillator installed; please advise when these proceed.

. On 7th December, the County Council Meeting approved the appointment of a **new Chief Executive Mr Paul Robinson** who has been selected via a stringent interview process. Mr Robinson who is presently Chief Executive of Derby City Council will soon be taking over the reins from Interim Chief Executive, Steve Stewart."

6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) **Previous planning applications**

17/0475/CER Certificate of Lawfulness - Use of property for permanent residence for more than 4 years "Sunkist", Hill Farm

Approved.

17/0632 – Valda, Severn Meadow, Northwood Lane – Replacement Chalet

Awaiting decision

17/0647 – TREE – Fell 3 x Oak, 1 Beech, and 1 Cherry at Wassell Wood

Approved

17/0666 Erection of single Storey Side Extension at Woodside, Crundalls Lane

Approved

b) **New planning Applications**

17/057 –Two storey side and single-storey side and rear extensions and triple detached garage at Highlea, Halls Farm Lane, Trimpley

Comment: *"No objections and recommend approval"*

c) **Compliance Issues /Appeals.**

Paul Round (Planning and Enforcement) had sent the following updates:

i) **Easter Cottage**

The property would be viewed in the new year with the aim of taking a report to the Planning Committee in February

ii) **Crundalls Cottage**

A meeting had taken place with the owners, where officers had discussed potential works that would form a new planning application, hopefully to be submitted in the new year.

iii) **Sandy Lane – Barn conversion**

A planning contravention notice is being prepared to inform a report to the Planning Committee in February/March.

d) **Appeal - APP/R1845/W/17/3180731 – (Re refusal of 17/3020/PNRES) Honeybrook Farm – Change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house – No decision as yet.**

8. **Progress Reports / Correspondence, and other Outstanding Items**

a) **Trees: At the rear of houses, along back road – Low Habberley –**

No further progress. Councillors reported lots of trees and branches down elsewhere – e.g. by Eastham's – as a result of the heavy snow. **Two road blockages** of trees brought down were cleared by Mr. Neil Halford-Bishop. Clerk to give a note of thanks in the newsletter.

Clerk also to report overhanging **trees and branches on the golf club side of the road coming up from Jacob's Ladder**. These were pushing high sided vehicles well over the centre of the road to avoid them. The verge and trees at this point were reportedly belonging to the County Council. Clerk to contact them for remedial action.

b) **Elm Tree Planting** – The 6 Dutch Elm resistant trees were still to be planted. A discussion took place where sites at Low Habberley (alongside the footway leading to Ferndale), Mary Moors lay-by, and sites at Grey Green were considered.

c) **Tree in Shatterford Lane opposite viewpoint** – Clerk to report a dead tree in the hedge at this point.

d) **Bus Service** – Clerk had contacted the County Council to ask if there was to be a review of the local service (in light of the split subsidy between Shropshire and Worcestershire), and also to complain about the Diamond Bus service in the Bewdley area. Cllr. I Hardiman had responded, stating that there was to be a review of the latter at the end of the year to decide if Diamond Bus were to continue in 2018.

e) **Crocky Trail** – Clerk had written to Mr. Walley thanking him for showing councillors around the site. She had also contacted the Planning Dept. at the District Council who advised that although they were aware of the development, they had not yet received plans, but when they had, they would consult with the County Highways department. Clerk to follow up re new building reported in Public Forum

f) **Eymore Lane Lay-by** – Clerk had written to ask for steps to go forward towards A Prohibition of Driving Order – restricting general access, but still allowing access to Mary Moors, and also the Severn Trent reservoir. Awaiting a response from the County Council.

g) **Grit/Salt Bins** – Yellow bins should be topped up by the end of this week. The Lengthsman had gritted the footpath from Low Habberley to Ferndale in the snowy weather. Clerk to ask C Cllr. Hardiman if there would be any leeway in improving the Lengthsman's allowance in light of the exceptional weather and extra time worked by the lengthsman. Details were also given of a man seen stealing grit from a grit bin, shovelling

it into his van and driving away. Clerk to report this in the Newsletter.

Clerk was also instructed to order a further 1 Tonne Bag of Grit Salt to be delivered to Grey Green Farm at a cost of £140.

h) **Velo Birmingham** – Clerk advised that CALC had arranged a debrief meeting for all parishes affected for 7p.m. on 10th January at County Hall. Clerk stated that she would be prepared to attend to represent the parish.

9. **Lengthsman, Footpath work & Litter collection – :**

a) **Worksheets** – Clerk had advised Archers and Cllr. Phillips that there was £1091 left in the budget for the Lengthsman, but although many hours had been worked, no timesheets were tabled for the meeting..

b) **Litter Collection** – an e-mail exchange re duplication of work had taken place between the Clerk and District Council officers about the fact that the District Council were still servicing the bins on the litter contract taken out with the Parish. Clerk and councillors agreed that vans had been seen going down the lane sometime ago (but for unknown purpose) and this had been mentioned “in passing” at a previous meeting to District Councillors present. Obviously, however, the contract had not been communicated at District to the team(s) responsible for the parish bins – and for some reason the District Council seemed to believe that this was the fault of the Parish. However, the situation had now been corrected, since District Officers had actually been witnessed emptying bins.

10. **Financial Reports**

a) **Payments** – None.

b) **Budget and Precept Setting** – Documentation was given out for councillors to consider. Precept setting was deferred until the January meeting.

c) **Transparency Code compliance and funding application Website proposal** – Clerk had prepared and distributed a report stating that she could now get funding to create a website, and had sourced a provider – Vision ICT - who had given a quote for designing, developing and hosting a website. The company had created over 500 websites for other councils specifically to accommodate the Transparency Code requirements, and was recommended by NALC. Clerk was instructed to proceed with submission of a grant for funding in the first instance.

d) **Churchyard Grant** – Clerk again advised the Council that the Parish Council cannot legally give this grant. This is based on advice from CALC and NALC, and there had been prosecutions of councils who had given such a grant. Cllr Marcus Hart was checking this out with District Solicitors, and clerk would report to the next meeting.

11. **Worcestershire CALC**

Clerk gave dates the dates for Parish Conferences at County Hall as being 6th March, and 9th October 2018..

12. **County and District and other Correspondence**

a) **County – De-registration of part of Trimpley Green Common** –

No formal decision yet received and County now advised that it will be January at the earliest – due to a change in staff. Cllr C Gammond queried why this was the case, as the previous officer dealing with this matter (Mr. Glenn) had undertaken a thorough investigation, and was ready to issue a decision.

b) **Enterprise Bus – ICT Training Opportunities** for adults – Clerk to advertise this in the newsletter to see if there was any interest.

13. **Road Accidents** 11th December 2017 Rosemary Cottage - car demolished front porch in the snowy weather.

14. **Other matters**

Hoarstone lane – due to be closed from 8th Jan to allow essential road repairs in the area of the cutting

WPD had installed a new device from Northwood to Trimpley Reservoir so that they can divert electricity quickly to another wire in the event of power cuts problems.

Newsletter – various items were given to the Clerk to include in the January newsletter.

15. **Date of Next Meeting** – confirmed as 15th January at 7.30p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.35p.m.

Chairman : _____