

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

Present Councillor C. Grainger
Councillor Mr. G. Yarranton
Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond
Councillor Mrs. L. Green
Councillor Mr. B. Phillips
Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)
Approx 60 + Members of the public
+ 1 Police Officer present

Nominations from the Parish Councillors present were requested, to chair the meeting, as both Chairman and Vice Chairman were absent. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr. C. Grainger should Chair the meeting.

1. Police Report

Clerk gave details re change of senior West Mercia staff, in that Inspector Jake Wright was to be replaced, after a very short stay, by Inspector Gareth Keyte.

Police gave information on

- a suspicious van – scrap metal collecting – but did not have scrap licence for the area they are working in.

- issues in Low Habberley – strangers found in gardens checking out sheds

- motorcycles in fields (without permission) – creating a lot of noise

Member of the public asked if the police could give information on the legal position in respect of parking on pavements and grass verges. Police advised they would look into this to see what action could be taken – but Cllr Yarranton stated that he understood that if a disabled item (wheelchair or buggy) could get past, then it was not causing an obstruction, and therefore no action could be taken.

Public Open Forum –Summary of Main points discussed at length re WF17/0790

- Safety re approach roads
- Planning – allegedly legal aspects not properly addressed
- Security of the site at night
- Flooding from the car parking
- Foul drainage from the Toilet Block
- Trees which have already been felled

2. Apologies For Absence:

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr. Mrs. Gammond declared an interest in being a member 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 15th January 2018 were approved and signed, with an alteration concerning the Work Party on item 14 of the minutes.

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 –

“2018/19 Budget

There were over 250 responses to the recent Budget Consultation Survey regarding the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Part of the MTFS has proposed a 1.94% increase in council tax over 2018/19. The majority of respondents were in support of the plan. Many other issues regarding the council's budget will be discussed at full council. To view full council live please visit www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/webcast on Wednesday 21 February at 6.00pm.

Planning Application. Habberley Golf Club

I have had a great deal of communication from residents regarding this application. Every single resident who has approached me has been very against the application. Each resident who has got in touch has gone into considerable detail regarding why they feel that the application should not be approved. I have advised that residents register their objections with the planning department at WFDC and I know that many residents have. After careful consideration, I have voiced my objection to the application to Paul Round, the Head of Planning at WFDC. I feel that as an elected representative for this Parish that I should be an advocate for those I represent and due to the depth and level of feeling about this application, I felt obliged to voice the concerns of those residents who wrote to me.

Litter

A real positive at the moment is that lots of community minded people throughout the District are waging a war on litter. I have spotted several walkers in the Parish with litter in hand. A lot of people are taking the litter home, which then fills up their bin. As a Council we are very grateful for the contribution to the community that litter pickers make and we will provide bags on request so that people can fill those instead of their own domestic bins.”

District Cllr. G. Yarranton –

Had reported a fly-tipped fridge from the roadside above Crofton Lodge. It was reported that the registration number of the vehicle used had been reported to Mr. Bob Beeston at Wyre Forest District Council. Fridge removed from above Crofton Lodge. Clerk was requested to ask for information as to where CCTV had been deployed across the District.

County Cllr. I. Hardiman –

*“Our **Children’s Services** continues to be a great worry for us as a result of our inadequate OFSTED and we currently have a commissioner appointed to assist with improving our social work practice and outcomes for children. We are now working with Essex County Council and Cabinet has now approved that they will go into an Alternative Delivery Model (ADM), structure and there is a project board set up to see how this will operate. This will either mean that Children’s Services will move into having a strategic partner running them, which could mean another County Council or it could mean that they are run by a wholly owned company of the County Council. The final decision will be taken by the relevant Government Minister and the DFE.*

The County Council has now appointed two senior appointments including the Director of Commercial and Change and the Chief Financial Officer. I am pleased these posts have been recruited to and they will be starting later in the Spring.

County Full Council:

On 18th January when it considered the usual business, there was an important decision taken which was to approve the Churchfields Master plan scheme in Kidderminster, which would see a spur road off the ring road at the Horsefair through CMS and mean that traffic was one way only into the town as you travel in from the Stourbridge Road direction. This will unlock the former Tomkinsons Carpets site for 200 houses to be developed.

Secondly, at the 15th February meeting of WCC the main business of the meeting was to approve the budget proposals for 2018/2019. There was a 1.94% increase in Council Tax and a 3% increase in its Adult Social Care Precept proposed, in total just shy of a 5% increase. The maximum that WCC could increase by is 6% (3% plus 3%). The increase on a Band D property will be circa £56 per annum. The administration are aware that this is quite a bit but we are facing unprecedented financial challenges in both adult’s and children’s social care.

Wyre Forest Issues

WCC has considered the future use of the Grange in Kidderminster, at its cabinet meeting on 8th February. It currently has 20 beds used for reablement and rehabilitation for predominantly Wyre Forest residents coming out of Acute hospital services but they need some support before they are ready to go back into their own home. The CCG’s no longer support the funding of this facility to be used wholly in this way as they have been working on a new model of care to give residents this support in their own home. The cabinet have persuaded the CCG to retain 5 beds, with the ability to increase to 7, which will directly provide this service to those who are not ready or not able to be supported in their own home. There is also a facility that Wyre Forest residents could use at London Road, near to the Worcester Royal hospital site if the Grange facility is not sufficient. Furthermore, the rest of the Grange site will be developed as a Dementia care unit for Wyre Forest residents and this service will be provided by WCC and they will be investing in this site for Wyre Forest residents.

Councillor Yarranton commented that it was costing more to close the Grange than to keep it open.

Diamond Bus Services:

I was informed last week that the County Council are still reviewing Bus Services for Wyre Forest and hope to decide on future operators by April/May this year.

Eymore Wood Lane Lay-by:

I spoke with Alex Ellson, Engineer, just before he went on holiday; he says that upon his return, he will contact the Parish Clerk to clarify whether the Parish Council is supportive of his proposals regarding this lay-by.”

6. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:

a) Previous planning applications

17/0757 –Two storey side and single-storey side and rear extensions and triple detached garage at Highlea, Halls Farm Lane, Trimpey

Approved

17/3076 PNG Change of use (Agric. To Office) Land adjacent to Highfield, Crundalls Lane

Approved

17/0795/CERTP Application for: Rear extension to the original bungalow and side extension less than half the width of the original structure and two metres from the side boundary at VALDA, NORTHWOOD LANE, BEWDLEY, DY121AS

Awaiting decision

17/0798 Double garage at KEEPERS LODGE, SANDY LANE, FRANCHE, KIDDERMINSTER, DY115QZ.

Approved

b) New planning Applications

17/0790 - Proposed adventure trail to comprise activity stations, decking, storage buildings and new toilet block, various kiosks, new parking area and ancillary works at THE BUNGALOW HABBERLEY GOLF CLUB, LOW HABBERLEY, KIDDERMINSTER, DY115RF (deferred from January meeting)

Wyre Forest Planning Officers are seeking clarification on certain aspects of the application as it currently stands. They hope to have this information in a week or so. Once this information has been received they will be able to re-assess and issue further information and guidance to the Parish Council prior to formal comments being submitted. The Parish Council feel it is of the utmost importance that all

facts are known and studied before any formal comment is submitted, as any prior comment may be flawed when further information is to hand, and the Clerk therefore gained dispensation from the Planning office to delay formulating comment until after the March Parish Council meeting.

Clerk was requested to write to Ian Hardiman (County Councillor) to formally request that he ask the County Engineer, Stephen Hawley, to comment on approach roads to this development. Clerk also to make enquiries as to how the Parish Council's comments would be dealt with if the Parish Council does not meet until 19th March, and the plans go before committee on 20th March, or was the District Council planning to defer decision until the April meeting.

18/0042 - Conversion of existing barn to dwelling along with extensions and other alterations at TRIMPLEY FARM, TRIMPLEY, BEWDLEY, DY121NS

Comment: "We would offer no overall objection, but would query the number of windows being inserted in the barn in these plans. Previously, in similar barn conversion applications we have considered elsewhere in the parish, numerous new apertures were not allowed."

18/0059 - Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling (Retrospective application) at CRUNDALLS COTTAGE, CRUNDALLS LANE, BEWDLEY, DY121NB

Comment: "Objection to the proposal and Recommend Refusal

We are of the opinion that the extensions built without planning permission should be demolished, with a recommendation that the cottage is returned to the original plans as approved in 2012. If this application is now given permission, it creates a dangerous precedent that will give a message to all, indicating that enforcement efforts over recent years have been ineffective and carry no weight."

c) Compliance Issues / Appeals. – No further progress on the following items – as reported at last meeting when 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) Sandy Lane – Barn conversion

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

iii) **Oak Meadow Farm** – (New matter) It was reported that there had been recent activity at this site at Honeybrook, with new fencing around the property.

d) Holy Trinity Church – It was reported that plans were proposed to create a kitchen with serving hatch and toilet facilities at the church. Councillors were interested to see details of the plans for this Grade 2 listed building, and it was thought that these did not need to go to the Planning Authority. Clerk to write to the Ministry Team Office to ask if the Parish Council could see details.

8. Progress Reports / Correspondence, and other Outstanding Items

a) Trees:

At the rear of houses, along back road – Low Habberley –

No further information. Clerk would follow up.

Trees and branches on the golf club side of the road coming up from Jacob's Ladder, through the rock cutting area – no further information.

Tree in Shatterford Lane opposite viewpoint – Clerk had given further location information to the Arboriculturist at the District Council.

b) **Eymore Lane Layby** – Still awaiting a response from the County Council re possible partial closure. However, the Clerk had received e-mails from 7 people supporting the closure, but also 3 against. In particular, the adjacent landowners were against the closure. Clerk was requested to make enquiries when further details were known, if a possible trial closure, using large concrete blocks, could be a solution.

c) **Grit order** – Clerk had ordered this in the first week of January, and Councillor Grainger advised that the Grit Sack had been delivered. However, only some of the grit bins had been replenished.

d) **Velo Birmingham** – now cancelled for this year in this area. Minute closed.

e) **Sump at the bottom of Hollies Lane** – Clerk had reported this for clearance to the County Council, who would attend.

f) **Defibrillator Provision in the Parish** – Cllr. Grainger had purchased one already for Crundalls Lane. Funding to be partially from the grants provided by Cllrs. Yarranton and Hardiman, and partially from residents. It was resolved that Cllr. Grainger should place two more orders for two more machines for the parish – again using grant aid from Cllrs Yarranton and Hardiman. One to be sited at the Village Hall and one at the Reservoir. Clerk had made

contact with the Sailing Club, who had not progressed further with this idea, but she had also requested help from Severn Trent, and would request help towards funding from the angling club.

9. **Lengthsman, Footpath work & Litter collection – :**
a) **Worksheets** – Submitted and approved.
b) **Litter Collection** – Clerk tabled proposed extension to Litter Collection Contract with WFDC until 2023. She had received confirmation that Wyre Forest District would also continue to pay the Commercial Litter collection contract for the Village Hall as compensation for siting of the bin. It was resolved to go ahead on this basis. Clerk to draw up contract accordingly.
10. **Financial Reports**
a) **Payments –**
Lengthsman Work - £320
Clerks Expenses – £152.10
Clerks PAYE - £134.20
CALC Book Purchase – £10
CALC Clerk's Gathering – Training - £10
b) **Transparency Code compliance and funding application Website proposal –**
Clerk had received confirmation that the grant application for £1145 had been successful, and now requested approval, to proceed with the set of a Website for the Parish. It was agreed that the order for the new website should be placed.
c) **Churchyard Grant –** (*Councillor Phillips declared a pecuniary interest*) Clerk again warned that she understood from CALC that the grant paid annually to the church for churchyard maintenance was contrary to the law appertaining to Parish Councils. She suggested that the Parish Council (or a voluntary group) set up another bank account into which funds could be placed (by grant from the Parish Council) to pay for undertaking a variety of natural maintenance tasks in the Parish – such as clearance of vegetation on the common and in the pools, and also the churchyard – even though the parish does not own these grounds. Councillors to give this some thought for future discussion.
d) **Overtime Payment** – Clerk was asked to try to calculate and submit a claim for the extra hours worked during the last month with particular reference to planning matters.
11. **Worcestershire CALC** - Clerk advised dates as follows:
Worcestershire Spring Parish Conference – County Hall – 6th March – from 5.30pm – with speakers covering Data Protection and Highways (Ian Bamforth)
Wyre Forest CALC Area Meeting – Thursday 15th March – Clerk to ensure that paperwork is forwarded to reps – Cllr. Mrs. Green, and Cllr C. Grainger.
12. **County and District and other Correspondence**
a) **County – De-registration of part of Trimpley Green Common** – Nothing further received.
b) **Parish Quiz Night** – Nobody had come forward with a team, despite publicity in the Newsletter. Clerk to advise that this parish would not be entering.
c) **E-Mail from Mr. Collins re Procedure of District Council in respect of planning application information on the website**
After reading the e-mail to councillors it was decided to write to the Chief Executive of the District Council to ask for further transparency on what was available as regards information on planning applications.
13. **Road Accidents** None recorded.
14. **Other matters**
Japanese Knot Weed – adjacent to Mount Pool – Clerk to write to Green Street depot concerning this (Mr. S. Brant) to check if this should be treated again at this time of year.
15. **Date of Next Meeting** – confirmed as 19th March at 7.30p.m.
Clerk advised that she would be away from 4th – 17th March. As such, paperwork for the next meeting would be sent out early with any necessary updates to the agenda – particularly in respect of planning – just before the meeting.
She requested that Councillors kindly keep an eye on the District Council Planning website for any plans relating to this parish occurring between 4th – 17th March.
Meeting closed at 10.30p.m.

Chairman : _____