

BROADWAS AND COTHERIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 10th September 2018, at Broadwas Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Dale, Burrows, Winkworth, Guest, Downes, Plevy,

In Attendance: District Councillor David Chambers, and 3 members of the public.

1.Apologies: District Cllr Godwin, work commitments apologies noted, Cllr. Grove, Cllr. Pearce.

2.Declarations of personal or prejudicial interest and update Register of Interest Forms

None

3.Dispensation requests: None requested

Public Participation: A local resident raised her concerns over the state of the communal corner of Berryfields Nature Garden. Cllr. Plevy mentioned that the area was to be maintained by a management committee of the residents of Berryfields and that there had been a delay with this being formed as all the plots were not as yet sold. *Action: Parish Council to chase the Management Committee but would give them one month and also check out the Management Agreement to see whether anything can be resolved at the present time.*

The new Malvern Hills Magazine which was promoting a greener environment arrived distributed in a plastic cover. This was thought to be not really in the spirit of a greener environment.

Opting out on the open part of the Electoral Register is requiring 3 forms to be filled in and 3 lots of correspondence from MHDC. MHDC has to follow government legislation but it is as we suspected, a one-off exercise. *Action: Cllr. Chambers to look into it.*

A question was raised regarding the cycling sessions being promoted by MHDC as to whether these were being funded or are they self-financing by MHDC. Cllr. Chambers confirmed that initially these were being subsidised by MHDC under their Healthy Communities priority until they become self-financing.

MHDC were providing support on Benefits and Universal Credits on-line. Concern was raised by a resident that this would not support those that were not computer literate.

4. County and District Councillors reports:

Copy of County Councillor Grove's report attached appended to these minutes.

Councillor Burrows enquired what procedure would be in place should any queries arise as a result of the County Councillor's Report when the Councillor was not present at the meeting. The Chair advised direct contact could be made in the absence of the meeting agreeing any formal follow up with the County Council when the Councillor was unable to be present.

District Councillor David Chambers reported that the Woodland Trust were giving away up to 400 saplings to schools for projects. For more information see www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant

South Worcestershire Development Plan will be review briefing for Parish and Town Councillors in November. The review period is from 2030 to 2041.

50 Additional Syrian Refugees being resettled in Worcestershire. Refugee action will be appointed as MHDC provider and will give support to refugees following their arrival over the 12 months. 1 family of 5 will be accommodated in Malvern. All refugees are classed as "the most vulnerable".

Work commenced in August to the extension to the new Council House.

Brunel House has been sold, Portland House is sold, The Grange has been let and 10-12 Priory Road has a buyer in place.

A new initiative “Local Democracy Day” being held on the 10th October 2018. These events and relationships are proving very valuable.

The Next Parish Forum is being held on the 22nd October 2018.

Meet Your Councillor Day on Thursday 20th September in Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish.

Concerns over a dangerous tree within Cotheridge Court has had 3 tree branch falls should be dealt with in a more timely manner and with less bureaucracy under Health and Safety and not have to wait the bureaucracy of Planning to carry out works.

Fred Davis, the Planning Policy Manager had corresponded with Cllr. Chambers regarding the categorisation of Broadwas. The argument over what categorisation should have been is not going to be fruitful. This is because the village does retain a few local services and facilities. Even if the village was downgraded to category 3 this would not change the associated SWDP 2 Policy.

Cllr. Dale asked when would the parish know which sites would be considered as part of the “Call for Sites”. Cllr. Chambers commented that his will come out as part of the SWDP Review in November. Cllr. Burrows asked when the “Call for Sites” would be in the public domain. Cllr. Chambers commented that they would be in the public domain but he was unsure when that would be.

5. Minutes of the ordinary parish Council meeting held on July 9th 2018: these were considered, approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters Arising: Item 13b of the July Minutes re Bus Shelter was reported by the outgoing Clerk (now Cllr Plevy) as completed in August. Cllr. Downes commented that the repair was a “sticking plaster” job and that at some point the bus shelter would need to be replaced. Cllr. Dale noted the comment.

7. The new Clerk and a new Councillor: The Chairman welcomed and introduced the new Clerk to Councillors and the Public. A new Councillor, Cllr. Plevy was welcomed on-board as a new Councillor. The home working allowance for the Clerk will be £18 per month. Cllr. Downes proposed that this be approved and Seconded by Cllr. Winkworth. Councillors approved the £18 monthly home working allowance.

8. Planning. Application No 18/01117 Broad Oak Broadwas: This application is for a first-floor extension over an existing double garage. Cllr Pearce has spoken to the nearest residential occupier and he has indicated that he has no objections to the proposed development. Assuming none of the other neighbours raise any valid objections, Cllr Pearce recommendation would be that the Parish Council merely responds to MHDC to the effect that it has no comments on the application. Cllr’s Agreed – Clerk to update the Planning Portal accordingly.

There have also been developments in respect of two planning appeals in Cotheridge as follows:-

Application No 17/01090 Field Ridge Bromyard Road: Cllr Pearce reported that this application was turned down by MHDC and the applicant has now appealed. The appeal is being dealt with by written representations. We have been advised that all comments submitted in relation to the original application will be forwarded to the inspector and I see little benefit in repeating them at this stage. If, however it is felt that the Parish Council wishes to make any additional comments, we would need to move very quickly as the deadline is 12.09.2018. Members were advised by the Chairman that if they wished to make further comment they do so individually.

Enforcement Action Elgar Coaches Site Lightwood Lane: Cllr. Pearce reported that the owners of the property have appealed against the enforcement action and it has been decided that, due to the complexities of the

case, the appeal is to be dealt with by way of an informal hearing at MHDC Council Chamber on 05.12.2018. This will presumably be similar in format to the hearing for the Wolverley Homes appeal a couple of years ago for those who went to that. As the appeal is as a result of enforcement action, the papers are not on the MHDC Planning Website but MHDC have emailed to him the Statements of Case submitted by MHDC and the appellants and he can forward them to anybody who wishes to have sight. (He has already sent copies to three of the residents in Lightwood Lane). Much of the argument between the parties appears to be of a technical nature and he is therefore doubtful whether the Parish Council will add much by speaking at the Hearing but there is no need to make a decision on that for a couple of months. No further action.

Cllr. Winkworth provided a response to MHDC in respect of a request for factual information regarding village facilities which will be used in the process of updating the Settlement Categories as part of the review of the SWDP.

Cllr. Pearce asked for it to be mentioned to the District Councillor, David Chambers that he had not received a substantive response from Melanie Baker to my email expressing the Parish Council's concern at the proposed changes in the methodology for assessing Settlement Categories which he sent following the July Parish Council meeting.

9. New Website: Cllr Dale gave an overview on the new website which he had been developing. Councillors were very pleased with the website to date and thanked Cllr. Dale for his hard work to date.

10. Village Hall Extension update: Cllr. Winkworth reported that there seems to be a shortage of Building contractors willing to commit to giving a quote for design and build of the proposed extension. Many suggestions for contractors were discussed and put forward. Concerns were raised that the extension should be started sooner rather than later to ensure the planning permission doesn't lapse and to ensure that the Parish does not attract comment from external audit on their reserves held whilst waiting for the project to start. Cllr. Burrows raised that he felt it would be beneficial if the PC could review the current proposals and that it might be helpful if there was some information on the website and or could we insert planning app reference number so people could look it up if they wanted. Councillors discussed the many previous discussions regarding to approved plans and the consultations as part of the NDP public events and decided that they did not wish to open the debate about changing the approved plans at this late stage. *Action: Cllr. Winkworth to chase up contractors and Cllr. Plevy to seek out further contractors to try and get quotes for Design and Build for the extension and report back.*

11. NDP Update: The Neighbourhood Development Plan is out to consultation. A formal pre-submission consultation on the draft Broadwas and Cotheridge Neighbourhood Development Plan will start at 8am on Monday 17th September 2018 for a period of 6 weeks ending at 12 noon on Monday 29th October 2018. The draft plan can be viewed on the Parish Council's website at <https://www.broadwas-cotheridge.com> . Copies can be emailed to residents on request to (Robert Pearce: west.winds1066@gmail.com). Paper copies of the plan can be borrowed from Robert Pearce by phoning 01886 921959 and returned to Eric Dale, Woodlands, Court Lane, Cotheridge, WR6 5LZ.

12. Berryfields update: Request to hold bonfire and firework display: The Parish Land Officer wrote to seek permission for us to use Berryfields to hold what has become an annual community Bonfire & Firework event (which has been successfully done for the last 2 years) and as in the last two years donating all proceeds directly to Broadwas Primary School.

The event will be of the same structure as done previously. Bonfire to be located in the same position on Berryfields, a portable toilet hired, marquee erected against the fence to the carpark for refreshments, carpark utilised for parking with marshalls directing overspill to the Royal Oak and village hall car parks and all volunteers/school staff using the school playground for their own parking to free up the school/Berryfields carpark.

A full written risk assessment is undertaken and the event have their own event insurance through the NFU in Worcester and ensure they have marshalls patrolling the perimeter of the area kept fenced off to the public for safety purposes.

The organisers have successfully raised just under £3,500 for the school for event alone by organising this bonfire event.

Councillors were keen to support the event and have agreed in principle that the event can take place.

Action: Clerk to contact the organisers to request sight of the insurance and risk assessments.

13. Football Team Agreement: A Football Pitch Agreement has been prepared and discussed with the team representative for 2018 and it is proposed that the charge be £250 for the junior team + £50 additional charge for adults making £300 in total for the senior team. Cllr. Plevy proposed this be accepted, Seconded by Cllr. Dale. All in favour. The outgoing Clerk, *Action: Ms. Plevy to send the 2018 agreement out to the team representative.*

14. S106 update: Funding for new track and equipment for Berryfields Playing Field: Cllr. Dale raised concerns over the Section 106 at Berryfields for sports facilities delay and timing having been informed that the project had to be delivered in a 6 week time frame. Cllr. Chambers confirmed from Jo Cross that the whole process could take up to 6 months and that she will be dealing with this agreement.

15. Update Reports:

a) **Treasurer's Report copy** circulated and attached to these minutes

b) **Clerk's report:** copy circulated and attached to these minutes.

c) **PLO report** copy circulated and attached to these minutes.

d) **Cllr. Downes** reported that he had been in the process of closing down the Community Interest Company. (Expenses incurred of £10 and £15 in respect of Companies House to be paid with the October payments) *Action: Clerk to add Cllr. Downes expenses to the October Payments List.*

16. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda: Cllr. Burrows requested an item on the next agenda to discuss Safeguarding in the community.

17. Date of next meeting: October 8th Broadwas Village Hall at 7.30pm

Signed Chairman..... date.....

Item 4 – Appended - Worcestershire County Councillor Phil Grove Report

Shrawley, Hallow and Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council meeting Monday 10th September 2018

Phil Grove Notes.

Road Developments

Last month, at a Midlands Connect meeting in Birmingham, discussed were various plans for coordinated improvements to the transport infrastructure for the Midlands Region.

Highways England should be removing the throttle (Bottleneck) at Junction 4A in the autumn, which should relieve the congestion at that point and the dispersal of through traffic to local roads in the vicinity. They are also planning on improving the A46 trunk road, which will relieve some of the pressure on the Birmingham motorway box.

Rail Developments,

One of the important matters WCC have taken to Midlands Connect is the Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy, which seeks to improve rail services in the county. The priorities are the dualling of the Cotswold Line to London, so that we can carry two trains per hour on that line. One of those should take no more than two hours, bringing London a lot closer for business people. We are also pressing for a better service between Birmingham and Hereford, ideally for there to be 2 trains per hour. This will need a substantial investment in new signalling in the Worcester area, which is about the only place in the country where semaphore signals are still in use. On a more parochial level, work on a new station at Kidderminster will start later this year. This station is already the second busiest in the county, and the new buildings will reflect its importance for travel to Birmingham and London.

The Financial Position.

We cannot disguise the fact that the county's finances are very tight and we will be under pressure to make savings for some years. This is never a popular matter with residents but I hope we all appreciate that we need to balance the books. Our finances are not helped by the increasing demands for Children's Services and Adult Social Care. These are areas where we have statutory obligations and the demand for our services is increasing. WCC brought forward plans for a wholly owned company to run our children's services, which are improving swiftly, but still under an Ofsted judgement of being inadequate.

Given that some 70% of our income is devoted to meeting these two needs affecting 12,000 people.

Economic developments.

Meanwhile, we are keen to support local industry and get more new companies started or relocated to this county. Worcester 6, the business park next to Junction 6 of the M5, has seen new tenants being established, with Kimal, the medical supplies company building their large depot there just now. Kohler Mira, the shower company, have also committed to a major installation.

Energy Scheme

The County Council's annual collective energy scheme has been launched for this year. The scheme gives the county's residents the opportunity to use their collective bargaining power to get themselves a better deal. Launched on August 14, Worcestershire Energy Switch negotiates competitive prices with energy companies on behalf of local residents with group buying expert iChoosr. Last year saw 550 residents sign up to the scheme and they went on to see average savings of £182 per year on their energy bills.

GCSE And A Level results.

GCSE results for the county this year were an improvement on 2017 which is great news and great reward for the county's students and staff who continue to work tirelessly. Initial data provided by 30 schools shows 67% of students in the county achieved a standard pass in English and Maths. In 2017, the figure was 65.5%. A grade 4 (or standard pass) indicates a similar level of achievement to the old C grade. A grade 5 (or strong pass) under the new system is similar to a high C or low B in the old system.

The average grade achieved by **A level pupils** in Worcestershire is also better this year compared with 2017. Initial data provided by 23 schools to the County Council shows that the average grade was higher than on results day last year. In 2018, the average A-level grade in Worcestershire was between a B and a C. In 2017, the average grade was a C.

Phil Grove.

Dated 2nd September.

Item 15a Treasurer's Report.

Treasurers Report Broadwas & Cotheridge September 2018

		Payments	Receipts	
Lloyds a/c	31.08.2018			£ 11,976.57
Berryfields Account	5.10.2016			£ 10,267.42
NS&I account	02.07.2018			£ 38,621.48
Balance Total				£ 60,865.47

Receipts & Payments included in this total

25.06.2018	transfer to NSI	£ 10,000.00		
09.07.2018	H Plevy, Clerk, Exp	£ 28.47		
09.07.2018	Allied Westminster Adrian Bullock-	£ 498.50		
17.07.2018	Lengthsman	£ 522.00		
17.07.2018	Worcs CALC	£ 10.00		
19.07.2018	RJC Landscaping	£ 95.50		
30.07.2018	Worcs calc	£ 10.00		
30.07.2018	H Plevy sal- Clerk	£ 320.21		
31.07.2018	H Plevy, Clerk, exp	£ 48.49		
			£	
07.08.2018	Worcs CC Adrian Bullock-		435.00	
13.08.2018	Lengthsman Adrian Bullock-	£ 314.49		
13.08.2018	Lengthsman	£ 234.00		
15.08.2018	RJC Landscaping	£ 31.50		
15.08.2018	RJC Landscaping	£ 261.00		
28.08.2018	H Plevy, Clerk, sal	£ 320.21		
			£	
28.08.2018	HMRC		238.77	
Payments	still awaiting presentation			

29.08.2018	H Plevy, Clerk, exp	£ 25.93
29.08.2018	G J ames ag services	£ 144.00
29.08.2019	Colin Hemming	£ 150.00

£
60,545.54

TOTAL £
319.93

For agreement at tonight's meeting

10.09.2018	E Dale printing NDP	£ 28.00
10.09.2018	PKF Littlejohn Audit	£ 240.00
10.09.2018	Data Orchard	£ 1,179.54
10.09.2018	RJC Landscaping	£ 31.50
TOTAL		£ 1,479.04

chqs issued between meetings None

Item 15b – Clerks Report:

Review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return has been completed, a notice of conclusion of audit and the certified AGAR must be published before the 30th September on our website and the County Council one, I will also display it on the 3 main PC notice boards.

The inspection of Broad Green SSI by Natural England went very well, and they are delighted by our management of it, hopefully the grant will be through soon. Decisions will need to be made in the near future as to whether we wish to apply for new grants from the Rural Payments Agency.

The email clerkbroadwascoth@gmail.com will continue to run for a while, until all the handover has been completed and the new email for the clerk is up and running.

Item 15c. Public Land Officer's Report: August to 9th September 2018

Berryfields

Following my monthly inspection on 30th July 2018 the following is reported:

Berryfields was found to be in a mess, the football team had obviously used Berryfields the day before my inspection, this I gleaned from the facts that the two smaller metal goal posts had been removed from their upright positions and left laid down across the track – on both sides.

Cones had been removed from the school side of the carpark, used for marking out the football pitch and left on Berryfields.

A box full of tins, plastic bottles and tape was collected and removed from both the football pitch and carpark area. Photographs were taken and are available to see (can be emailed) if you would like to request these from me.

While collecting rubbish on the same day one of the residents of Berryfield Close came over to speak with me and mentioned that the football team who had played the day before had used extremely foul language, were shouting expletives at one another and were incredibly loud for a village football team – and with no regard to the fact that young children could and would be listening in gardens.

I took myself along to the next match played and heard it for myself – not on the school carpark but by standing the other side of the school (in the school grounds, as school caretaker) and could hear quite clearly language and aggression.

Berryfields inspected 30th July 2018 by Peter Parkes

Broad Green

No new matters to report.

Broad Green inspected 30th July 2018 by Peter Parkes

Berryfields

Following my monthly inspection on 09th September 2018 the following is reported:

Since the 30th July report (for August 2018) I inspected Berryfields on 6th, 13th and 19th August. On the 6th August the smaller goal posts had been removed again and left on the track (as per my last report), goal post netting and pegs had been left out by the side of the container and rubbish was left strewn on both football pitch and carpark areas. On the 13th August myself and one of the residents of Berryfield Close collected a carrier bag full of rubbish from Berryfields (again following a football match) and on the 19th August the goal post netting had been left out and a similar amount of rubbish was collected.

The play equipment – two of the red stoppers of the see-saw piece of equipment had been removed – I have replaced these.

A broken fence rail has been removed and will be replaced.

Weeds around the lower car park area have been sprayed.

Berryfields inspected 09th September 2018 by Peter Parkes

Broad Green

No new matters to report.

English Nature sign has been re-attached to the post as it was found to be on the floor!

Broad Green inspected 09th September 2018 by Peter Parkes

