

**At the Meeting of Grimley Parish Council held on  
29<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
in The Peace Hall, Sinton Green commencing at 7.30pm  
**DRAFT****

**Present:** D Stanley (Chair), A Atkinson, P Ayers, E A Taft, R Weaver, R Woodhouse.  
**In Attendance:** Mrs L Stevens (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr Dean Clarke, 14 Members of the public.  
**Apologies:** G James, County Cllr Phil Grove.

*Notice informing residents that their name might be recorded in the minutes of the meeting in place and visible upon entry. Attention drawn to noticeboard informing residents of the following: GDPR; Data Protection Officer; Consent forms; recording at public meetings; procedure for speaking at the meeting; how to access parish council documents, details of when precept is set each year.*

These are the minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> July, a rescheduled meeting previously proposed for 17<sup>th</sup> June, but reorganised due to Cllr absence.

**081/19 Apologies for absence. – as above.**

**082/19 Declarations of interest and points of order.**

<b>a.</b>	Cllr Woodhouse reminded Cllrs of the need to bring new projects to the Parish Council for debate and decision well in advance of any expenses being incurred, action being taken or public interest being invoked. Cllr Woodhouse strongly rebuked Cllrs that proceed with projects without proper parish council authorisation. Chair Cllr Stanley noted the comments and confirmed that the new projects included in this agenda are briefing items only.
-----------	---

**083/19 Minutes of previous meetings.**

<b>a.</b>	The minutes of 17th June 2019 were not available due to a request from a member of public that their name be struck from the records of that meeting. In consequence the Clerk was redrafting.
-----------	--

Clerk

**084/19 Public question time.**

<b>a.</b>	No public questions.
-----------	----------------------

**085/19 To Receive the Report of the County Councillor.**

<b>a.</b>	Report received via email and read out by Cllr Stanley. No questions.
-----------	---

**086/19 To Receive the Report of the District Councillor.**

<b>a.</b>	Had previously given apologies but training event was cancelled, hence attendance. Approved Motion by MHDC to move forward in more eco-sustainable way. DCllr Clarke confirmed that his attendance at Parish Council meetings will continue. All footpaths by the river have been inspected by DCllr Clarke and found to be dry, clear and walkable. Enforcement work is following through. Residents with enforcement concerns should keep evidence. Some planning issues that are given cause for concern could be treated as an environmental health issue and could be reported as such.
-----------	--

Clerk

**087/19 Planning - to consider and resolve to respond to the following applications**

<b>a.</b>	<p>i. <b>19/00492/FUL</b> - Construction of a new storage shed on brownfield land. Location: Holt Parish, Ball Mill Bungalow Main Road Grimley WR2 6LS. Applicant: Mr Dew. Officer: H.Jones.</p> <p>The Clerk was <b>instructed</b> to make enquiries regarding operating licences. Residents report concern about unconfirmed recycling activities being carried out.</p>
-----------	--

Clerk

	<p>ii. <b>19/00914/FUL</b> - Application for variation of condition 8 on planning permission 11/01514/FUL (proposed riding area and indoor stabling) to enable future flexibility in the ownership of Elm Hill versus the equestrian facility. Applicant: Mr A. Sleigh. Officer: Gillian McDermott, 01684 862445.</p> <p>An extension had been granted to the parish council on this matter. Cllrs expressed concern as to the hazards of lorries getting stuck accessing the site, historically these vehicles have been unable to reverse safely. Shared access is also a concern. The reasons for applying the original planning conditions have not changed and Cllrs felt that these should remain in place. Cllrs <b>voted</b> (5) to object to this application with one abstention.</p>
--	---

Clerk

**088/19 Broadband** - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice. This section included public questions and open debate.

<p>a.</p>	<p><b>Welcome and introductions. Mr Robert Stepniewski, Senior Project Manager, Broadband &amp; Connectivity Team, Worcs County Council.</b></p> <p>Cllrs received a briefing on this Worcestershire County Council project – an option for ultrafast broadband deployment in Grimley village. (Full fibre deployment using fibre optic cables, as opposed to 5G).</p> <p>This is a County Council, free (fully grant-funded via vouchers) pilot project which would initially encompass Grimley Village only. Area chosen by the County Council for this pilot scheme, as being one of those areas which providers have admitted will not be included in future plans for superfast broadband services. Scope for roll out parish-wide at future date. Majority of residents and home-run businesses of Grimley Village (County Council defined 52 properties) would need to sign up to the project. The total cost of the Grimley Village hub and fibre connections to participating users is £76,315.00. This cost is covered by the issuing of government vouchers for each connection ie (£3,500 per business, including self-employed and £1,500 per residential premises). Total value of the vouchers allocated must cover this cost. The more businesses signed up, the easier it is for the community to reach the required £76,315 worth of vouchers. In order to cover the possibility of a signed up household (s) defaulting and declining to participate on installation, the project needs to be supported and underwritten, either by a group of participants, the establishment of a limited company or by the Parish Council. Looking at provision from Open Reach, who are interested in improving connectivity in Worcestershire. There are, and never will be, any ongoing costs that the community will be asked to bear for the fibre infrastructure. If residents sign up in suitable numbers, Open Reach would upgrade the infrastructure to make faster broadband speeds available. However to benefit from those faster speeds, a fibre broadband service will need to be purchased by individuals from a service provider of their choice once the cabinet is live. NB. Each voucher recipient would need to sign up to a 30 megabit package for 12 months, usually around £20 per month. It typically takes around 12 months from project contract signing to the point where faster services can be ordered.</p> <p><b><u>Q &amp; A session. All questions answered by Mr Stepniewsk.</u></b></p> <p>Q – What is a business? A. anything run from home, but evidence would be needed to show that the business is indeed run from home.</p> <p>Q- what if enough residents do not sign up and the £76k threshold is not reached? A. the project would not go ahead.</p> <p>Q – how were the 52 homes selected? A. County Council tool that looks at connectivity speeds in broadband. Grimley village stands out as having a current service of below 30 megabits.</p>
-----------	---

	<p>The selection process for this pilot project had nothing to do with costs of implementing services. Houses closer to the A443 box have in theory higher speeds and so are not classed as 'in need' for the purposes of this project, although it is acknowledged that their speeds might not be brilliant. It is acknowledged also that number of businesses are just outside the pilot area proposed by the County Council.</p> <p>As Chair, Cllr Stanley proposed that the project be pursued further and Grimley village residents asked for their approval at a future event. Cllr Weaver objected to the unfairness of the scheme but abstained from the formal vote. Cllr Woodhouse objected on the grounds that the project excludes a significant portion of parish residents. PA abstained. DS, AT and AA 'for'. Motion carried.</p>	
--	--	--

Clerk  
Cllr Stanley

**089/19 Hallow Neighbourhood Development Plan** - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

<p><b>a.</b></p>	<p>Briefing by Cllr Stanley and Cllr Hazel Kemshall, Hallow Parish Council. Hallow Parish Council is involved in drafting a Neighbourhood Development Plan, within which will be designated two 'green spaces' - Tinkers Coppice and the Gravel Pits. A strong case has to be built in order to designate land for this purposes, esp if in private ownership. The area has to be 'demonstrably special' and Hallow PC ask for Grimley PC support in this. The areas concerned are used by residents in Grimley parish for enjoyment and leisure. Cllr Kemshall requested that this be debated by Grimley Councillors at a future meeting. Cllrs <b>agreed</b> to this request. Clarification was requested as to whether the plan included a community farm at county council owned Tinkers Coppice Farm. This was not within the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	
------------------	---	--

Clerk

**090/19 Play Equipment Working Party** - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

<p><b>a.</b></p>	<p>Members of the Working Party submitted a draft plan and equipment list for Cllrs consideration. This included locations suggested by the playground consultation as being suitable, but the Working Party stressed that the location was entirely subject to change and all options considered.</p> <p>Suggestions included options that would cost approximately £6,000. (£2,500 of which the Parish Council already has as a grant). The material is a Kompan product called Natural Robinia Hardwood and has a 'life' of 30 years, guaranteed by the manufacturer. Cllrs debated and considered that this material is in keeping with the surroundings. The play surfacing can be mowed/strimmed with ease. Fencing (options) are still being considered. Kompan has similar equipment already installed at Holt.</p> <p>Cllr Taft addressed the Council and mentioned that more and more families are moving in to the parish and that she favours the style of equipment proposed. Cllrs did not dispute the local need and thanked the Working Party for their submission. Cllrs considered that the 'central' green was their less favoured option and <b>instructed</b> the Clerk to look into drainage options and draft a final consultation leaflet with the options and equipment detailed.</p> <p>Final Cllr debate will take place in September 2019. Clerk and Working Party will need to have completed all risk assessments by that date. Final public consultation will occur in October 2019. Final Cllr decision in November 2019.</p>	
------------------	---	--

Clerk  
Working Party

**091/19 Community management of road verges** - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

<b>a.</b>	Introduction and report on recent project in Holt Parish by Cllrs Stanley and Woodhouse. Cllr Stanley confirmed the public concern about the way verges are managed. Current County Council management strategies are a missed opportunity. Holt PC have a private agreement with a local landowner to rotavate, plant and care for the verge displays in their parish. Cllr Weaver mentioned that the price of seeds is approx. £120 per kilo and that it takes up to 4 years to properly prepare, seed and manage sites such as these. Cllr Woodhouse to investigate companies that assist in these projects.
-----------	---

Cllr  
Woodhouse

**092/19 Monkwood Green** - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

<b>a.</b>	<b>Parish Council owned service road repairs (adjacent to The Croft, Holly Cottage and rear of The Woodlands).</b> Roads will be completed within the next week. Weeds also need attending to on the roads already completed and contractors have been instructed to come back and look at these. Cllr Weaver to supervise and liaise with residents.
<b>b.</b>	<b>Commoners requesting financial assistance for grazing.</b> Introduction by Cllr Woodhouse and general debate. NOT a motion. In the absence of any information provided by the resident in question and because those with grazing rights have no other rights to financial assistance, Cllrs declined to consider this item.
<b>c.</b>	<b>Motion to accept quotation for mowing wider Common £1350.00 plus VAT.</b> Cllrs <b>agreed</b> this price but asked Cllr Weaver and Woodhouse to Liaise with RP resident and ask if he would reduce the price. Date for mowing set from 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2019 as a compromise between the quality of the hay, the availability of the contractor and accepted experience that most of the seeds will have dropped by this date. Cllrs commented that the Common is looking the best in wild flowers that it has done for many years.

Cllr Weaver

Cllr Weaver  
Cllr  
Woodhouse

Clerk

**093/19 Reports from Representatives.**

<b>a.</b>	<b>Peace Hall Management Committee</b> Cllrs <b>instructed</b> the Clerk to immediately consult the Hall Committee on this meetings play area suggestions. Option for public bike security lock to be added to future parish council agenda. In advance of setting precept for 2020/2021, Clerk was <b>instructed</b> to ask for a list of kitchen items that the hall is in need of.
-----------	--

Clerk  
Clerk

Clerk

**094/19 General Finance** - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

<b>a.</b>	<b>To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts.</b> All duly inspected and <b>approved.</b>
<b>b.</b>	<b>To receive and motion to accept the latest Bank Reconciliation, June 2019 and Q1 report.</b> All duly inspected and <b>approved.</b>
<b>c.</b>	<b>Motion to approve contract for internal auditor for 2019/20 accounts.</b> Duly <b>approved.</b>

**095/19 Dates for diary, any other business, items for future agenda**

<b>a</b>	<p>a. Camp Lane pot holes have been reported to Highways for repairs.</p> <p>b. Poor quality of strimming round Grimley village noticeboard was not related to Lengthsman. Complaint has been submitted to Highways.</p> <p>c. The issue of parking in Grimley village has been added to Malvern Hills District Council's next Traffic Management Meeting.</p> <p>d. Highways are investigating the drain/ditch adjacent to Cottage, Gumburn Lane (not Parish Council owned land) in relation to recent traffic accidents.</p> <p>e. Highways have been notified of recent vehicle damage relating to hedge conditions, Sinton/Worlds End.</p>
<b>b</b>	<p><b><u>Stay and chat session</u></b>          Informal stand and meet the parish cllrs and raise matters of parish business. One member of public asked questions relating to Mkwood Green.</p>
<b>c</b>	<p><b><u>POSTPONED DUE TO LACK OF TIME</u></b>  <b><u>Meeting of the Staffing Committee</u></b></p> <p><b>Confidential - In view of the confidential nature of the business the public were excluded pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct Clerk's annual appraisal;</li> <li>- Review weekly contracted hours. (Currently contracted for 12 hours a week).</li> <li>- Update on Clerk CILCA training progress.</li> </ul>
<b>d</b>	<p><b>16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 7.30pm, Peace Hall, Sinton Green.</b></p> <p><b><u>Parish Council led public briefing and debate on the environmental crisis facing our parish. "Our future in a changing world".</u></b></p> <p>Flyer and invitation to be distributed to all residents shortly.          The press and public are cordially invited to attend this meeting.</p>
<b>e</b>	<p><b>Parish Clerk Surgery, Monday 19th August, 10.30am til 2pm, Peace Hall, Sinton Green.</b></p> <p>Quarterly surgery to enable residents to discuss any problems or ideas they may have. Confidential drop-in sessions. No appointment needed.</p>

**Appendix 1: Items for payment.**

Mr Simon Skeys	Lengthsman invoice June 2019. <b>Invoice not received in time.</b>	£95.00	VAT nil
Mr Simon Skeys	Sinton Green mowing invoice due 14/07/2019. £75 per cut. June cut/s. <b>Invoice not received in time.</b>	£75.00	VAT nil
Worcester 9th Scout Group	Annual donation. 9 <sup>th</sup> Hallow Scouts Group (Hallow Scout & Guide Group)	£100.00	VAT nil
Nora Parsons Day Centre	Elderly support services. Annual donation.	£200.00	VAT nil
Mr Mark James	Reimbursement for purchase of electric fence equipment ref Monkwood Green.	£275.62	VAT £45.94
Information Commissioner	GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018. Data protection fee renewal. Order reference number: 02b6dbb20606. Z2846139. GPC201909.	£40.00	VAT nil
Malvern Hills District Council	Cost of uncontested election for Grimley scheduled for 2 May 2019. Invoice: 0606003281.	£36.00	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [June 2019] As per contract of <u>12 hours</u> per week, £12.01 per hour.	£576.48	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Expenses June and July 2019. GPC201903.	£153.07	
Lisa Stevens	Monkwood Green overtime - Butterfly count. Verge inspections parish-wide.	£216.18	VAT nil