

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
CHADDESLEY CORBETT PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 7 November 2011
at Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall
at 7.25 p.m.**



Present: Chairman – Cllr J Swift, K Bartlett, D Thomas, W Mack, L Stockford, B Green, G Vernon, M Walford, Mrs J Fox, Mrs P Pardoe

In attendance: District Councillor Mr S Williams, County Councillor, Mr S Clee, Clerk Mrs Y Scriven, Member of the public.

POLICE REPORT

There had been reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) from youths riding a motorbike around The Green and Malvern View at all times of the day, and being abusive to residents when challenged. The Police are working closely with Wyre Forest Community Housing ASB Team and they would urge residents who are experiencing problems to call them on 0800 169 4002. The Community Support Officer continues to engage with children in the Junior PACT process.

There had been a number of burglaries in the parish; Bluntington, The Village, Cakebole, Brockencote and a shed in Tanwood Lane. There has also been a burglary at Winterfold School. Thieves had been seen on top of St Cassians church taking lead off the roof but were disturbed and left the lead in the church grounds. Drain covers, metal gates, cables/copper from BT cables, rugs and electric fence energiser had also been stolen.

There is a new telephone number for those wishing to report incidents to the local police – 101 – The 999 number should now only be used in genuine emergencies.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr R Pugh (illness)
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Items 5.6 and 5.4 – Cllr Mrs P Pardoe – Personal Interest
Item 5.4 - Cllrs L Stockford and Mrs J Fox – Personal Interest

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time.

- Cllr L Stockford expressed concerns at the proposal to restrict parking outside the shops in the Village, as some residents did not have adequate parking space outside their house.
- Cllr Mrs J Fox stated that it was difficult to gain access to their drive due to the high volume of vehicles parked in the village.

E-mail had been received from a resident in Harvington Hall Lane regarding congestion caused by two way traffic in this narrow lane. It was suggested that a sign should be erected to indicate that the road was for access for residents and Harvington Hall only, but Cllr S Clee indicated that this was illegal and could not be enforced. Highways had not changed their opinion on this matter and the Parish Council felt there was no further action they could take regarding this suggestion.

3. **MINUTES:**

- (a) Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3 October were approved and signed by the Chairman. Cllr Mrs P Pardoe requested that the date for opening the new school should be altered as this was now likely to be towards the end of 2012.
- (b) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 3 October 2011 were accepted.

4.1 **Chairman's Report**

- 4.1.1 The Chairman gave details of meetings he had attended over the last month, including an Ethics and Standards meeting at Wyre Forest District Council.
- 4.1.2 The Chairman reported on the Worcs CALC AGM and it was noted that without sponsorship from Worcestershire County Council the association was not financially stable. Subscriptions for the forthcoming year had not been increased, although the National Association would raise their fees. Suggestions had been made to try to improve the financial situation, including merger with the Association of Local Council Clerks who offer a similar service.

4.2 **District Councillor's Report**

- 4.2.1 Cllr S Williams reported that the District Council were considering changing the method of waste collection by moving to a four day week. Operatives would still work a 37 hour week but spread over four instead of five days. It was expected that this would achieve a reduction in costs of £170,000 per annum. It was noted that £300,000 had already been saved from the annual budget.
- 4.2.2 Kidderminster and Bewdley will act as Host locations for the Olympic Torch on 24 May 2012.
- 4.2.3 It was noted that the UK local authorities had been successful in the appeal defending their "priority" status in relation to deposits with the Icelandic Bank Landsbanki. Wyre Forest has £3m on deposit which was due to mature in October 2008. To date the Council has not received any dividend payments in relation to this deposit. It was believed that they should eventually recover the vast majority of the original investment.

4.3 **County Councillor's Report**

- 4.3.1 In line with District Councils, the County Council was seeking partnership arrangements with Warwick and Oxfordshire County Councils in order to reduce costs.
- 4.3.2 Metal thefts had left the County Council with a huge bill and central government were being lobbied to regulate scrap metal dealers.
- 4.3.3 The current proposal for a waste disposal centre in Hartlebury had been called in by the Minister and a public inquiry would start 22 November 2011. Disposal of waste to landfill had increased from £35 to £70 tonne, and it was imperative that a local waste facility was available within the County.

5. **CHADDESLEY CORBETT PARISH MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION**

- 5.1 **Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr J Swift reported on a meeting with officers of Wyre Forest District Council regarding an application for funding to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. Information had been provided to the District Council to enable them to meet the deadline of 4 November. The Parish Council confirmed they were happy to proceed with this application.
- 5.2 **Bus Shelter:** Cllr J Swift reported on a meeting with an officer from Sustainable Transport who had agreed that the location on the A448 from Bromsgrove to Kidderminster was suitable for a bus stop and shelter and he would arrange for costings to be prepared. It was agreed he would also look at a suitable place for a bus stop in the opposite direction. It was agreed that further discussion would take place on the type of shelter to be fitted.
- 5.3 **Staffing Committee:** It was agreed to increase the Clerk's hours from 10 to 11 per week, effective 1 October 2011. It was also agreed to increase the mileage rate to 45p per mile.

Budget Committee: A draft budget had been prepared which indicated that the Precept for next year should remain at the current level of £21,783 for the fourth year running. The proposal was unanimously approved.

- 5.4 **Restricted Parking in Village:** Following a meeting with representatives of local shops, it was proposed that an application should be made to restrict parking immediately outside the shops to 1 hour. This proposal was agreed by a majority. It was noted that statistical information was required to support the application and that a survey of residents would be required. The clerk was asked to obtain further information from the County Council.
- 5.5 **Vandalism:** Damage to the BT Kiosk on Briar Hill had occurred and had been reported to the Police. A discussion took place on what steps if any could be taken to discourage vandalism in the Parish and it was noted that the Community Support Officer and Wyre Forest Community Housing were already working together to overcome this problem. It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged with interested parties and the Chairman undertook to discuss this with the Chief Inspector and report back to the next meeting. It was also suggested that the Clerk should contact BT with a view to ascertaining whether or not the public phone box was used and whether it should be removed.
- 5.6 **Village Hall:** The Village Hall Trustees had submitted an application for a contribution towards the cost of replacing tables. The application was refused.
- 5.7 **Citizens Advice Bureau and SARA:** It was decided not to make a donation to these organisations.
- 5.8 **Lengthsman Scheme:** Cllr G Vernon reported that routine maintenance had continued at The Village, Woodrow and Tandy's Lane clearing leaves from outfalls and inlets, and on the A448 clearing pine needles from footway. Clearance work on the A448 following an accident had also been carried out and gully tops cleared. Four new grit bins had been installed and were filled ready for use. Footway edges had been treated with weed killer at Winterfold, Mustow Green, Red Cross and at the top of Briar Hill and The Green. It was noted that the new grit bins should be added to the Parish Council insurance.
- 5.9 **Allotments:** It was proposed and agreed that allotment rents would be increased on 1 January 2012 by 50p for a half plot and £1 for a full plot.
- 5.10 **Queen's Diamond Jubilee:** Cllr J Swift tabled a schedule of events to be organised by various groups around the Parish. It was noted that the cost of each event would be the responsibility of the organisers. A further consultative meeting and discussions would take place.
- 5.11 **Parish Footpaths:** A report about footpath 622 had been received and was now being investigated by the County Council. Complaints about restricted access due to bars on the bridge over Hockley Brook had also been received and gates installed on footpaths near Nied Farm had also been received and passed to the County Council. It was noted that a volunteer Warden may have been found. A meeting with the Footpaths Officer at the County Council and the Clerk had been arranged.

6. DATES FOR MEETINGS

- 6.1 Wyre Forest Area CALC – Tuesday 6 December 2011 at The Swan, Chaddesley Corbett at 7.00 p.m.
- 6.2 Wyre Forest Parish Council Chairmans' Meeting – Wednesday 23 November 2011.

7. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CLLRS REPRESENTING OUTSIDE BODIES

- 7.1 **Wyre Forest Area CALC/Parish Forum:** Cllr M Walford reported that Ian Miller, Chief Executive Wyre Forest District Council, outlined the implication of a 29% reduction in the grant over the next two years. Currently the District was drawing on reserves to bridge the gap in funding but by 2014 this would be exhausted. There was a need to cut £1m from revenue expenditure. There were proposals to change the business rate system, but no changes were proposed for the next 5 years to the small business relief, and changes were proposed to

housing benefit. The freeze on council tax next year would be funded by the Government at the rate of 2.5%, but with inflation at 5% this would lead to a shortfall.

Apologies were extended on the lack of consultation on the proposed traveller and gypsy sites, but local consultations on selected sites was now underway.

7.2 **Worcestershire 6th Parish Conference:** Cllr J Swift reported that a Partnership Agreement had been signed between Worcestershire County Council and local Parish and Town Councils. Suggestions for delegated services and assets were invited.

7.3 **Village Hall:** Cllr Mrs P Pardoe reported on a meeting with Mohammed Kawsar from the Lottery Fund who had carried out an inspection of the Village Hall on behalf of the National Lottery, who had provided a substantial donation towards the cost of renovation of the Hall. Although the original Grant left an obligation to the Lottery for 80 years, Mr Kawsar was so impressed both with the hall, its management and accounting procedures that he e-mailed to say that the obligation was no longer necessary and the Hall was now officially theirs.

It was also suggested that the village hall could boost income by obtaining a licence to carry out weddings in the village hall. It was agreed that the Village Hall Committee would carry out a feasibility study.

7.4 **Community Housing:** Cllr G Vernon reported attendance at a meeting of the Rurals TCC. It was noted that they had made a donation of £100 to the SARA Appeal. The Community Housing approach to Anti Social Behaviour was discussed and it was noted they were working closely with the Police. Cllr Vernon felt strongly that some action should be taken by the Parish Council and it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting following the Chairman's discussions with the police.

8. **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

8.1 Consultation on Potential Site Allocations for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show-people. Cllr J Swift had responded to this consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

8.2 Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy Development Plan – Consultation on Addendum to Submission Document – Noted.

8.3 Inquiry into proposed waste facility at Hartlebury – 22 November at County Hall for 8 days.

8.4 Neighbourhood Planning Consultation – Cllr D Thomas would respond.

8.5 Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation – Does not apply to Parish Councils. Noted.

8.6 Proposed Green Street Conservation Area – Consultation. Noted.

9. **CLERK'S REPORT ON ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

The Clerk submitted a written report on items for information, which included:

- Allotment No. 1 had been let to the Probationary Service
- 2 new benches to be delivered this week – donated
- Pursuing removal of redundant poles on the Green
- Dodford Children's Holiday Farm – Registered charity in Bromsgrove which offers holidays to under-privileged children – information from www.dodfordfarm.co.uk
- Still looking for litter wardens. The School and Probationary service may help.
- Concern about the memorial on Plot E18 which is unsafe
- Further amendments made to Parish Maps for Emergency Plan
- Several footpath enquiries received – meeting with County Council to discuss.
- Tree on A448 – highways will reduce canopy, but not considered high priority
- Liaising with Rushock and Stone regarding increase in rate for Lengthsman

10 FINANCIAL REPORT

10.1 The Clerk presented a schedule of payments and receipts which was approved.

Payments

Recipient	Details	Amount £	VAT £	Total £
W Waldron	Lengthsman Scheme	234.00		234.00
CC Village Hall	October	43.00		43.00
Chaddesley Parish Magazine	Printing costs	350.00		350.00
Community Payback Scheme	Maintenance Bridle path Drayton	150.00		150.00
Kedal	2 new benches (£700 donated)	782.66	156.53	939.19
Severn Trent Water	Allotments	36.81		36.81
M C Walker	Repairs to benches/boards	162.00		162.00
BT	Broadband/line rental	92.70	18.05	110.75
Y L Scriven	Expenses	210.00	6.43	216.43
Wyre Forest Comm.Housing	Grass Cutting Contract	1,249.68	249.94	1,499.62
		<u>3,310.85</u>	<u>430.95</u>	<u>3,741.80</u>

Receipts

Worcestershire CC	Lengthsman Scheme	1,344.00		1,344.00
Burial Fee	B31	300.00		300.00
Burial Fee and Excl.Rights	D24	600.00		600.00
		<u>2,244.00</u>		<u>2,244.00</u>

10.2 A Bank Reconciliation for October 2011 had been prepared and a copy had been sent to Cllrs K Bartlett and J Swift.

11. **NEW ISSUES and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Date of next Meeting Monday 5 December 2011.

The meeting closed at 10.08 p.m.