

Minutes of Bredon Parish Council Meeting held at Bredon Village Hall on Monday 19th November 2012 at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllr's Mrs Alison Palmer, Mrs Gail Whiting, Mr Matt Darby, Mr Kevin Falvey, Mr Allen Frampton, Mr Phil Handy, Mr John Masters, Mr Andrew Rhodes, Mr Declan Shiels, Mr Rob Sly and Mr Andrew Woodward (Chairman).

In Attendance Ms J Shields (Clerk), Mr Richard Levett (W.CALC), Mr Brown, Mr Arlin and Mr Norman.

Mr Richard Levett explained the new Code of Conduct and Dispensation for Councillors, questions were asked. The Chairman thanked Mr Levett for attending.

1. Apologies For Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Allen Frampton and Cllr Adrian Hardman (District and County).

2. To Discuss Dispensation For Councillors.

The Chairman proposed, Cllr Rhodes seconded and it was agreed to have Dispensation as an agenda item, councillors should complete a Dispensation form to be given to the Clerk as soon as they are aware. Where ever possible the clerk will circulate applications before the meeting.

The Council also agreed to explore drawing up its own Code of Conduct.

3. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr's were reminded to update their Register of Interests with Wychavon. Cllr Falvey declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in items 13b and d as Chairman of the Rugby Club. Cllr Darby declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 13b and d as he leases land to the Rugby Club. Cllr Darby declared a DPI in items 7a)V and 7a)VII as a farm tenant of the respective applicants. Cllr Darby disclosed an Other Disclosable Interest in item 7a) II as farmer of the land across the road. Cllr Handy declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 4 as one of the applicant's wives, boards a cat at his wife's cattery. Cllr Handy had requested dispensation to take part in item 4, Cllr Darby proseed, the Chairman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Handy should be able to participate in item 4 of this meeting.

4. To Co Opt a Councillor.

Mr Andy Norman was co opted onto the council and signed the declaration of office. The other candidates were Mr Steve Arlin and Mr Ken Brown.

5. To Consider The Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Meeting Held On The 8th October 2012.

The Minutes having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record.

6. Finances.

a) Invoices to Be Paid.

The following payments were agreed:-

PC – Parish Magazine MUGA Advert £40.00, Bredon Star Rugby Club Architects Fee £750.00, Muga Electric £21.80, Moretons £142.50, GBD £395.38 and £347.99, Wheelie Bin Stickers £59.95, British Legion £25.00, New Grounds Maintenance £216.00, Lengthsman £220.00, Pippens £60.00, Mr Spry £1,236.00, N Hopkins £210.00, T Spry £100.00 and Maintenance of the Defribulator £250.00. DD – BT £50.40, N Power£2.48 and £67.00, Clerk £553.17, Pension £168.48, Rates £27.00 and £72.00

Village Hall - Parish Magazine Advert £40.00, J Lamasery £205.86, Bar staff £60.00, Website £44.82, PWLB £2,344.79 and S Matty £25.00.

DD - Hall Manager £258.45, J Styte £31.20, British Gas (Gas and Electric) £168.84

b) Financial Report.

The following remittances have been received: - Wayleave £4.70, Interest £1.97, P3 Footpath £263.00, Rugby Club Rent £1,000.00, Bowls Club Rent £1,150.00, Football Club DD £117.71, Lengthsman £132.00.

Village Hall Lettings £1,422.94, Bar £1,557.50, 106 Monies £2,634.00, BCPR £6,641.50.

7. Planning.

a) For Consideration.

- I. W/12/01941/CU and W/12/01942/LB True Blue Farm, Lower Lane, Kinsham. Conversion of barn to dwelling. No Objection.
- II. W/12/01997/PP Greenmead, Lower Wesmancote. Addition of two story extension in place of derelict garage. No reasons to object in principle, however, we feel the current application does not satisfy the Local Plan Policy SUR6 or Bredon Village Design Statement Policy in that the extension is not subservient to the original building. This is an attractive historic vernacular property in a prominent position and we would request that the fenestration of the extension be amended to blend in better with the existing architecture. The aim would be to satisfy Bredon Village Design Statement Policy 6.5.g as well as the requirements set out on house extensions.
- III. W/12/02108/PP and W/12/02034/LB 2 Hillview Cottages, Watery Lane, Kinsham. Single storey rear extension. Reasons to object - the conservation officer is objecting on the grounds that due to size and design, the proposed extension would pose a detrimental impact on the significance and setting of the listed building and we are in complete agreement.
- IV. W/12/02009/PP Folley Cottage, Bredons Hardwick Lane, Bredons Hardwick. Demolition of existing property and construction of 2 houses. No reasons to object.
- V. W/12/02130/PP Westhurst, Eckington Road, Bredon. New first floor extension. No reasons to object.
- VI. W/12/02216/PP St Giles End, Manor Lane, Bredons Norton. New front enclosed porch with roof alterations. No reasons to object.
- VII. W/12/02344/TC Bredon Hill Radio Tower, Double Hedges Road, Overbury. Addition of 1 no. 300mm microwave dish and 1 no 600m microwave dish to existing installation. No reason to objection.

b) Decided By Wychavon.

Approved

W/12/01941/CU and W/12/01942/LB True Blue Farm, Lower Lane, Kinsham. Conversion of barn to dwelling.

c) By The Planning Inspectorate

Approved

Ref 2175319: Blackberry Barn, Manor Lane, GL20 7HB

8. Correspondence For Information.

Network Rail had replied regarding the noise from the railway line – nothing will be done.

Correspondence had been received by the Chairman regarding potholes outside the Church Rooms. These have now been filled.

A Rugby Event is taking place on Friday to which all councillors are invited to attend

9. To Consider The Purchase Of A Speed Activated Sign.

The Council agreed for the Clerk to write to Eckington and Kemerton Parish Council regarding the possibility of hiring their signs.

10. To Discuss Maintenance Of Areas In The Village.

Cllr Falvey had identified 8 areas in Bredon that he considers should be regularly maintained by the Council.

Church Street to High Street, Back Lane to Dock Lane, Blenheim Drive to Plantation Crescent, Plantation Crescent to Plantation Crescent, Path around The Green, The Green to Glebeland Drive, The Croftlands to Blenheim Drive and Cheltenham Road to Pippins Road. In the first instance the Council agreed to ask Mr Spry for a quote to maintain these areas.

The Council agreed the quote to maintain the car parks.

Clerk to obtain a quote for the maintenance of the areas around the Village Hall.

Clerk to obtain a quote for the moving of the pillar outside the Bowls Club car park and for a fence to be strategically placed (see Cllr Falvey) in the entrance to the playing fields.

All of these areas will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Sites in Westmancote and Bredons Norton will be addressed at the next meeting.

11. To Appoint A Bus Shelter Cleaner.

The Council agreed for the staffing group to interview and appoint a cleaner.

12. To Consider the BCPR Report and Requested Decisions on Work Required.

The Council agreed to the width of the skate area being increased by 2.5m from the current 5.5m.

The Council did not agree to a bin being installed by the skate board area.

The Council agreed for the refurbishment of the surround of the bowls club as illustrated in the plans provided.

The Council agreed to the improvements for the fencing/boundary on the Eckington Road between Moreton Bank and the far west exit of the playing fields.

The Council agreed for the Chairman to take legal advice regarding the retention of monies owed to HFN pending a resolution to the dispute over HFN's supply of unsatisfactory equipment.

13. Progress Reports For Information.

a) Clerk.

Report previously circulated.

b) Bredon Village Hall.

The toilet floors have been resurfaced, these had been inspected by the Vice Chairman and a professional fitter, who had agreed with the Hall Mangers comments, the Clerk had therefore written to the contractor on the 17th October expressing dissatisfaction with the work carried out; to date no reply has been received. Following the previous establishment of the Village Hall Management Board, the Parish council agreed to a request that the board will continue their management of the Village Hall until the end of this council term.

c) County and District Councillor.

The following written comments were submitted by Cllr Hardman:

I am sorry that I can't be with you tonight but due to the alteration in the date I find myself away at St George's Park, Burton on Trent – the home of Football Association where, for reasons I fail to understand, the County Council Network Association is having its annual Conference which lasts one day and one night. So just a few issues that I would like to update you with.

- 1. South Worcestershire Development Plan** – as you will all be aware from our recent media interest, Malvern Hills made a decision on the 13th November to seek an alternative approach to the South Worcestershire Development Plan and this has prompted us to announce, after careful consideration that we will cease progress on the joint development plan for South Worcestershire – but we remain in the strong position to move forward with our own plan. This will mean no change for our communities in Wychavon and we remain committed to delivering a plan so that we have a clear direction and not fall foul of the appeals process or unwanted development. We will seek to remain on track with the current timetable to submit our new plan to the Secretary of State by early 2013. The vitally important next date for us is to hold our Council Meeting in December and this will now be on the normal Council Meeting date of the 18th December rather than the 10th December meeting as previously advertised and I will be attending a briefing session on 21st November which will update me of any changes to the plan but at the moment it is our intention to proceed with the plan in its original shape. To bring Parish Councillors up to speed there is a briefing session in the Council Chamber on Monday 3rd December from 5.30pm. But we do appear to still be in rather a fluid situation and I wouldn't be surprised if some of this didn't change again. We do remain at considerable risk from unwanted developer applications for some time yet to come but if we do have an agreed emerging plan, this would give considerable weight if we have to fight an appeal and help us fend off unwanted development in the Bredon area
- 2. Extending Permitted Development Rights for Home Owners and Businesses** – I would just like to draw the Parish Council's attention to the fact that the Government is having a consultation on the above and it covers increasing the size limits for the depth of single storey domestic extensions, increasing the size limits for extensions to shop and professional

and financial establishments, increasing the size for all the extensions to offices increasing the size limits for new industrial buildings and removing some of the prior approval requirements for the installation of Broadband infrastructure for a period of 5 years in conservation areas and the AONB. It is Wychavon's intention to bring a report to the Planning Committee in December but the Parish Council might wish to consider submitting a response itself and the consultation can be found on the Communities and Government website. On the other hand it could well just ignore this, since as you might have noticed these proposals appear to me to be rather dramatically watered down from the initial rather brave announcements of Grant Shapps MP.

3. **Highways Matters** - As you know we do offer a community grit bin option where we will put in more grit bins in locations that we wouldn't normally put them in if a community particularly wishes them and there is a cost of about £180 to fill it up as well. But the responsibility, to then keep the bin full, becomes that of the Parish Council. I was wondering if the Parish Council would be interested in installing one at the bottom of the dell and one on the right hand side up by the Manor in Bredon's Norton where I have had requests for grit bins in those two locations. While I remain your County Councillor I will be more than willing to attend to keeping them filled and polished.
Speed activated signs continue to be of interest to me and I suspect that while I have not had approaches from any Parishioners, the Parish Council would be wise to consider funding and purchasing one of these and getting the Parish Lengthsman to move it around from the locations that were agreed with Highways. I would be more than willing to match fund this from my local divisional fund as I have done in Kemerton, Beckford and Eckington.
4. **School Funding** – The press have made considerable play over the supposed cuts to the Evesham and Pershore Pyramids in school funding. The Government has changed the criteria that we can use for our local system of school funding and one of the problems that this creates is that we used to have 46 factors some of which have evolved over time and were of a rather dubious nature, often to solve a particular local issue running back in some cases to the 1960's, down to only allowing us to use 12 factors. This has created, if you run the new formula in a pure way, a lot of turbulence in the school funding system where some schools gain quite considerably and other schools lose. The two categories that lose under the current system are very small primary schools and middle schools because the Government's formula doesn't acknowledge the existence of these two types of schools with special emphasis given to them which our old system used to. While the formula run in a pure way gave very luring headlines, we at County Hall are not as stupid as that and the bit the press chose not to report was that we have introduced a system of floors and ceilings so that no school loses more than 1.4% of its budget and on the other hand, much to the irritation of the winners, no schools gains more than 0.7% of its budget. Following lobbying from us the Government minister is coming to Worcestershire to see us, and promised a review in early 2013.
5. **Learning Disability Reform** – Again the Cabinet made a decision last week that we would implement a new system of funding learning disabilities which introduces a bench mark to be considered between residential care and continuing care at home. The aim of this has been misunderstood by the Worcester news and is not to drive people out of their homes and into residential care, but is a reflection of the budget position that we find ourselves in since as was misreported by the Worcester News, the cost of learning disabilities is not £11m but is £34m and it has risen by £11m over the past 4 years and we are currently investing in some very high care costs packages to support people at home. In one case in excess of £230,000 a year and the average costs of a care package is just over £80,000 and we think it is only right in view of the increasing demand and the restriction on our budget that we do reflect a degree of reality, which enables us to have a proper conversation with the 80 or so new users that we are getting onto our books every year now. This is a tremendous tribute in some ways to the NHS and its skill at preserving life, it does of course have a knock on effect further on down the line.

6. **The Budget Position** – The County Council's budget position remains challenging since we have now reduced our spend by over £50m in the first two years and I continue to be very gloomy until I have seen the colour of the Government's money which the Chancellor is going to announce on the 5th December. This means that the Local Government settlement, I understand, will not be available until the 19th December which means that the Cabinet Meeting which was to agree the budget consultation has had to be moved into early January which shortens up the timescale for the budget consultation and budget approval process considerably. I have every confidence however that the County Council will be able to respond to whatever is thrown at it and while we have seen some unusual pressures emerging in neighbouring authorities, the position at the County Council is that bar one budget area, we are all pretty much on track and where I would wish us to be. The budget area which is causing the most concern is the question of Looked After Children where the budget is currently overspending to the tune of about £2m per year as we now have over 600 children in care as opposed to 8 years ago when the number was just over 400 and this is a considerable additional expenditure and not one that we can easily find a solution which means we will be having to reprioritise this area for additional finance in the forthcoming budget unless we decide to hold the position for the following year to see if we can manage the numbers down in some way. I fully expect the County Council to accept the Government's offer of a grant to freeze its Council Tax in the forthcoming year but of course this is a decision for the County Council and not for me but I think it is likely that we will go for a freeze of Council Tax in the 3rd year.

d) Lease Negotiations and Playing Fields.

On going.

e) Parish Magazine.

The draft prepared by Cllr Shiels and approved via e mail by the full council, will appear in the December issue of the parish magazine, the Clerk will print out 100 copies to go in the shop.

f) Defibrillator.

The order has been placed.

14. Councillors Reports and Items For Future Agenda.

Cllr Frampton has agreed with Mr Dunn the wording and the sign for the playing field, the Council had agreed in principle to funding this, and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Bredon Hancock's School Report, Bredons Norton Village Hall Report. Code of Conduct Precept.

15. Date Of Next Meeting.

Monday 10th December.