

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OMBERSLEY AND DOVERDALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY, 15th OCTOBER 2013 AT 7.00 P.M.
AT OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllrs. Mrs. L Moyse (Chairman), W.T. Arnold, Mrs. H Barningham, M Best, R E Murphy, R Reynolds, Mrs. B Serrell, R Simpson, A J Silvester, (9)

In Attendance: Cllr M Broomfield (County Councillor), Cllr P Tomlinson (District Councillor) (from 8.05pm).

99/13 Apologies for Absence were accepted from Cllr D Ingram, C McKensie-Rowan, and A J Morris.

100/13 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Arnold declared an interest as a Member of the Ombersley Memorial Hall Management Committee.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present

101/13 Approval of the Minutes from the meeting on 17th September 2013.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2013, having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman.

102/13 Police Report. There was no police report. Cllr Reynolds raised the matter of the Remembrance Day Parade. A road closure had been applied for to enable the procession to proceed through the village. However, to help avoid unnecessary delays to motorists, the entrance to the village from the northbound A449 exit at the southern end of the village should be closed for the duration of the parade. Through traffic should be directed to the exit at northern end of the village.

The Clerk would email PC Cound (cc Cllr Reynolds) to ascertain what arrangements were being put in place

ACTION: Clerk

103/13 Clerk's Report and Progress Reports

The Clerk updated the Parish Council on the following matters:-

(a) Parish Councillor Resignation - The Clerk reported that, regrettably, he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Bob Kendrick. The reasons for his resignation were explained and fully understood. The Clerk further reported that arrangements were now being put in place to seek a replacement. A Notice would be placed on the Website and Notice board and if 10 residents requested that an election be held, one would be arranged. In the event that an election was not called, the Parish Council would be invited to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Cllr Kendrick had been a very active member of the Parish Council for a number of years and the Chairman would send a card to him expressing the Parish Council's gratitude for his valuable contribution during his time as a Parish Councillor.

(b) Business Advertising on Ombersley Roundabout – The Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged for Friday 18th October 2013. The meeting had been convened by Parish Councillor and would involve representatives of the South Worcestershire Revenues and Benefits Shared Service and County Highways.

The Parish Council confirmed its view that that the dispute remained one between the County and District Councils and the Valuation Office. The Clerk should attend on the Parish Council's behalf as an observer only.

ACTION: Clerk

- (c) Bus Shelter on A449, Sytchampton (Northbound) – The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from the County Council that no further consents were required prior to the removal of the shelter. They did, however, ask to be kept informed so that they could arrange for a bus stop sign to be erected. The Clerk had placed a notice on the shelter informing users of the Parish Council's plans and had also written separately to Mr John Cope who had previously addressed the Parish Council on the matter. The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should continue with arrangements to remove the shelter including approaching the Parish Lengthsman to arrange for a quotation for undertaking the works.
ACTION: Clerk.
- (d) Cycleway along A449 – The Clerk reported that he had now received a response from the County Council. The recent maintenance works along the A449 were part of a pilot scheme to improve sections of key routes in the County. There was currently a list of over 600 schemes requests for walking, cycling, accident remedial works and improvements for the mobility impaired against which the County Council had a finite annual budget. There were currently no further plans in the pipeline to undertake works along to the route, although the Parish Council's request would be added to the list for future consideration. In response, the Parish Council asked the Clerk to respond, informing the County Council that the maintenance of the verges and hedgerows which had been carried out had resulted in an improvement. If this maintenance could be repeated periodically that would go some way to meeting the Parish Council's request .
ACTION: Clerk.
- (e) HGV Traffic through Ombersley – a response had now been received. The Clerk had been advised that, the previously identified concerns about the passage of HGV traffic through the village had been accepted and would be covered by a detailed travel plan which would be required to be submitted and approved prior to the operation of the Incinerator development. Further, the Operator had offered to fit vehicles with satellite tracking devices to ensure that vehicles followed the routes agreed as part of the Travel Plan

104/13 Weighbridge Information Board Proposals.

The Chairman reminded the Parish Council that detailed proposals had been circulated following the last meeting.

The Parish Council concluded that the provision of an Information Board along the lines proposed would complete the refurbishment of the Weighbridge Site. The cost was likely to be in the region of £5,000 and it was moved by Cllr Simpson and seconded by Cllr Arnold that the Finance Committee should be asked to consider the funding for the proposal. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

Once the financing arrangements had been considered it would be necessary to agree the precise location of the Board and contents of the display panels.

105/13 Roads and Related Matters

- (a) Grit Bins – The Clerk reported receipt of the latest edition of the County Council's Winter Newsletter. As part of this the Parish Council were asked to consider whether it wish to provide parish grit bins at any locations within the parish as well as ensuring that salt supplies in any council maintained grit bins were replenished. The Parish Council had not received any requests for Parish Grit Bins and agreed that no requests should be made. The Clerk was, however, asked to ascertain the arrangements for filling the Bin located at WR9 0AU.
ACTION: Clerk
- (b) Merepool Cottage – The Parish Council re-iterated its previous concerns that although some remedial works had been carried out around the property there was a concern that these works were of a temporary nature and that a repeat of the previously discharge of water onto the lane would occur as soon as there was a prolonged period of rainfall. Cllr Broomfield reported that the drains opposite the Cottage required jetting to ensure that surface water could drain away effectively. This was a County Council responsibility and Cllr Broomfield was asked to liaise with County Highways to ensure that action was taken to prevent a re-occurrence of the difficulties experienced during the last winter

ACTION: Cllr Broomfield.

- (c) Footpath – A4133 between Hadley and Ombersley – Cllr Reynolds reported that at various points, the hedgerow was overgrown, making the footpath impassable. The Clerk would report this.

ACTION: Clerk

In a number of locations where hedgerows had been cut, debris had been left on the carriageway. It was confirmed that it was the responsibility of the contractor to arrange for any debris to be removed following maintenance works.

- (d) Old Leaking Well – It was reported that traffic was parking on the verges at various times during the day in breach of the current Clearway Order. It was suspected that parents were parking on the verges at school drop off and collection times. The Clerk confirmed that this was an enforcement issue which would need to be referred to the local Police.

ACTION: Clerk

106/13 Consultation Papers - The Clerk reported receipt of two consultation papers. The first concerned a New Local Enforcement Plan and this had been discussed at the last meetings of the Planning Committee and Parish Council. Councillors had welcomed the fact that the Plan sought to provide clarity on priorities, criteria, what action could be expected and in what timescales. It viewed this as a positive move. It further considered that the challenge for the District Council would be to deliver the commitments set out in the Plan. The Clerk would prepare a response to the Consultation Paper outlining these views.

The Parish Council had also received a Consultation Paper on a Proposed Community Infrastructure Levy Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule. The closing date for the receipt of comments was 8th November 2013. An event for Town and Parish Council had also been arranged for 23rd October 2013 and Cllr Murphy would be attending.

107/13 Twinning Request – Cllr Tomlinson updated the Parish Council on his discussions regarding a request from a resident of Sandisfield, Massachusetts asking whether the Parish Council would be interested in forging a closer working relationship between the two villages. The Parish Council agreed Cllr Tomlinson in conjunction with Cllr Best should carry out some further research aimed at identifying any mutual benefits such a relationship could bring together with any process to be followed should the Parish Council wish to pursue the request. A more detailed report would be presented to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

ACTION Cllr Best/Cllr Tomlinson.

108/13 Correspondence – Correspondence received was listed as part of the agenda papers and received by the Parish Council.

109/13 Finance and Authorisation of Accounts

The Clerk presented an updated schedule of financial transactions.

Income of £11,999.00 had been received since the last meeting
Cheques totalling £693.33 had been paid since the last meeting
Payments totalling £1,063.85 needed to be paid.

All transactions were moved by Cllr M Best, seconded by Cllr Mrs B Serrell and agreed by the Parish Council. Details of individual transactions, together with the current bank balances, are attached as an Appendix to the signed minutes.

110/13 Councillors Report

(a). District

Cllr Tomlinson had prepared a written report which had been previously circulated. Matters referred to in his report had been dealt with at the appropriate point on the agenda.

(b). County

The County Councillor reported that the funding arrangements for the proposed Hartlebury Incinerator required reconsideration. Alternative funding mechanisms were being also considered.

(c). Parish:

i. Cllr Arnold – Reported a serious incident of fly tipping in Uphampton Lane/Boreley Lane. The items tipped included around 12 fridges and freezers which had been left on a Public Footpath. He had reported this during a weekend and had been impressed by the quick and helpful response which had been received.

111/13.Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 19th November 2013 at Sytchampton Village Hall (7.30pm)

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

At the close of the meeting, Graeme Duerdin, Development Manager (Enforcement) at Wychavon District Council joined the Parish Council for an informative discussion about the role of the District Council's Enforcement Team. As part of the discussion, a number of specific issues affecting the Parish were considered. A more detailed note highlighting the pertinent points arising from this session would be prepared for Parish Councillors.

DRAFT