

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OMBERSLEY AND DOVERDALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 7.30 P.M.  
AT OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL

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Present: Cllrs. Mrs. L Moyse (Chairman), W.T. Arnold, Mrs. H Barningham, M Best, D Ingram, C McKensie-Rowan, A J Morris, R E Murphy, R Reynolds, Mrs. B Serrell, R Simpson, A J Silvester, (12)

86/13 Apologies for Absence were accepted from Cllr B Kendrick. Apologies were also received from Cllr P Tomlinson (District Councillor).

87/13 Declarations of Interest

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

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr Roy Richardson addressed the Parish Council in respect of a Gentleman's Evening he was arranging. The Dinner, which would be a celebrate the 208<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, would be combined with a Memorial for Lord Sandys and would be held at the Crown and Sandys on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013.

Details, including prices were circulated and anyone interested in attending was asked to contact Mr Richardson via Cllr M Best.

88/13 Approval of the Minutes from the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013, having previously been circulated, were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman.

89/13 Police Report. There was no police report.

90/13 Clerk's Report and Progress Reports

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

- (a) Visit by Graeme Duerden, Wychavon District Council. Arrangements were being made for Graeme Duerden to attend the Parish Council's October meeting. The Clerk would continue to liaise with the Chairman and Cllr Peter Tomlinson to finalise arrangements.
- (b) Cycleway alongside A449 – The Clerk had now managed to speak to a relevant contact at the County Council who was investigating the Parish Council's request. The Clerk would keep the Parish council informed of developments.  
ACTION: Clerk
- (c) HGV traffic through Ombersley – The Clerk was awaiting a response from the County Council following a further request for information. He had been advised that a response would be received shortly.  
ACTION: Clerk
- (d) Advertising on the Ombersley roundabout – The Clerk reported that nothing further had happened following the exchange of correspondence prior to the last meeting. Both the Clerk and Cllr Peter Tomlinson had reported the Parish Council's thoughts to the County Council and a response was awaited.
- (e) Information Board on the Weighbridge – The Clerk reported details of the enquiries he had been made. Based on the experience of others, the Board itself was fairly simple to source. However, if the Board was to achieve the desired outcome (i.e. details local historic places of interest within the Parish) it would be beneficial if a local artist or designer could be identified to undertake this aspect of the project.

Cllr Silvester had also discussed the project with Diana Winsor (who had produced a pictorial map of Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish). She had produced a project brief,

together with indicative costs, which Cllr Silvester outlined to the Parish Council. The proposal appeared to meet the aspirations of the Parish Council.

In order to progress the matter, the Clerk would circulate the detailed proposals to all Parish Councillors, with copies being sent to the Local County and District Councillors. Councillors would then be able to consider the proposals in detail prior to thoughts being considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

If ultimately the Parish Council wished to proceed with this arrangement, the Finance Committee would be asked to review the finance and procurement aspects of the project.

- (f) Bus Shelter on Northbound A449 – Sytchampton – The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the County Council who had confirmed that no grants were available to assist with the costs of replacing bus shelters. He was now only awaiting confirmation of whether any other organisations needed to be consulted on the Parish Council's decision to remove the Shelter. Once confirmation had been received, he would place an appropriate notice on the Shelter forewarning residents of its imminent removal. Arrangements would also then be made to remove the shelter.

#### 91/13 Appointment of Trustees – Lloyds Educational Charity.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been invited to confirm the nominations it wished to put forward to serve on the Lloyds Educational Foundation for a further three-year period to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

The Parish Council's current nominations were Cllr A J Morris and A J Silvester, Mr Tony Checketts, Mrs Elaine Bell and Mr Stephen Hopkins. Mr Checketts was currently on holiday and Mr Hopkins had indicated that he did not wish to be nominated for a further period. The other three representatives had indicated that they would be willing to continue to serve for a further three-year period.

Cllr Heather Barningham indicated that she would be willing to be nominated to fill the vacancy resulting from Stephen Hopkins' resignation.

The Parish Council therefore agreed to nominate the following representatives to serve on the Lloyds Educational Foundation for a further three-year period until September 2016:-

Cllr A J Morris  
Cllr A J Silvester  
Cllr Mrs H Barningham  
Mrs Elaine Bell  
Mr Tony Checketts (subject to confirmation from him that he was willing to continue to serve.

ACTION: Clerk to notify Secretary to the Trustees

#### 92/13 Roads and Related Matters

- (a) Enforcement of Clearway on A449 – Reports had been received that the Clearway Orders on the A449 were not being observed. Cllr Reynolds would speak to Jon Fraser at the County Council to request that enforcement takes place in this area to ensure that the Orders were being observed.

ACTION: Cllr Reynolds

- (b) Potholes in Sytchampton Lane – Despite previously being reported, the potholes in Sytchampton Lane/ Dark Lane had still not been attended to. The Clerk would raise this again and would follow it up with a formal request/complaint if this did not result in action being taken.

ACTION: Clerk

- (c) Merepool Cottage – 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. The Clerk undertook to liaise with Cllr Tomlinson to

ascertain the latest position regarding the various works at Merepool Cottage. If necessary, a further request to clear the ditches would be submitted.

ACTION: Clerk/Cllr Tomlinson

- (d) Powers Lane (towards Holt) – The condition of Powers Lane was continuing to deteriorate. This should be reported so that remedial action could be taken

ACTION: Clerk

- (e) Drains in the Parish – The Clerk would liaise with the Lengthsman to arrange for debris to be cleared from drains at known flooding hotspots in the Parish. Specific requests were made for the following to be investigated:-

- Haye Lane
- Ombersley – from the Dower House through to the end of the village
- School Bank

- (f) Various Speed Limit Orders – Ombersley

The Clerk reported that he received notification that the County Council were consulting on a number of traffic orders in the Ombersley area. The Traffic Orders would not change any of the existing speed limits but instead aimed to ensure that the existing limits were legally enforceable. This was necessary before any speed enforcement could take place in the area.

93/13 Applications for Rural Rate Relief - The Clerk reported that he had now received a response from the Holt Convenience Stores in Holt Fleet. The Parish Council confirmed that it remained supportive of this application and asked the Clerk to process this application.

ACTION: Clerk

#### 94/13 Finance Matters

- (a) Update on meeting with representatives of St Mary's Church Doverdale.

Cllr Best updated the Parish Council on the outcome of a positive meeting between himself, the Clerk and David Hawkins, Treasurer of St Mary's PCC. Issues discussed were the ability to carry forward the grant to the PCC from the Parish Council and ways in which the Parish Council could assist the PCC with funding for future major projects.

- (b) Unqualified Audit Report and display of Notices

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's accounts for 2012-13 had received an unqualified audit from Grant Thornton – the Council's external auditors. He confirmed that the necessary notices had been displayed on the Parish Council Website and main Notice board in Ombersley.

- (c) Arrangements for Finance Committee Meeting and items for consideration.

Cllr Best reported that a Finance Committee would be convened in the coming weeks to consider a number of issues, including:-

- Grant applications for 2014-15
- the latest position regarding the New Homes Bonus
- Future funding by Wychavon District Council

95/13 Correspondence – Correspondence received was listed as part of the agenda papers and received by the Parish Council.

#### 96/13 Finance and Authorisation of Accounts

The Clerk presented an updated schedule of financial transactions.

Income of £1795.61 had been received since the last meeting  
Cheques totalling £4071.74 had been paid since the last meeting  
Payments totalling £493.73 needed to be paid.

All transactions were moved by Cllr M Best, seconded by Cllr D Ingram 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.

## 97/13 Councillors Report

### (a). District

Cllr Tomlinson had prepared a written report which was considered in his absence. In addition to a number of issues had already been considered as part of the relevant agenda item, specific reference was made to the conclusions arising from Cllr Tomlinson's meeting with Jon Fraser and Rachel Benson regarding concerns about the performance of the Worcestershire Hub. He was also discussing the basis of the grant for Lengthsman Services to ensure that the Parish Council was continuing to receive the appropriate amount of funding from the County Council. Cllr Tomlinson also reported on the budget constraints and requirement to identify additional savings currently being considered by Wychavon District Council. This may impact, not only on the level of funding being passed onto the Parish Council, but also the level of future service provision.

### (b). County

In the County Councillor's absence, there was nothing to report. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to remind Cllr Broomfield of dates for future meetings. In addition, Cllr Broomfield should also be reminded of the Parish Council's previous request that a brief written report be prepared and circulated in advance of the meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

### (c). Parish:

i. Cllr Moyse – Reported a request to place a Christmas Tree on the Weighbridge. The Parish Council had no objection although Health and Safety Regulations would need to be observed. Additionally, it needed to be understood that there was currently no electricity supply serving the Weighbridge. Cllr Best reported that there may be merit in writing to the owners of Northwood House to ascertain whether they would be willing to allow an electricity supply to be established, utilising their existing electricity connection.

ACTION: Cllr Best

ii. Cllr Moyse reported on correspondence Cllr Tomlinson had received from Simon Winchester a resident of Sandisfield, in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts. Apparently, Sandisfield had a mutual connection via the Sandys Family and Simon was interested in discussing whether there was merit in looking to establish a more formal link between Sandisfield and Ombersley. The Parish Council confirmed that it was happy to investigate this further.

iii. Cllr Silvester reported that a Plum Tree in the Millennium Orchard needed replacement. The Parish Council authorised Cllr Silvester to arrange the necessary replacement.

iv. Cllr Reynolds raised the deteriorating condition of The Gallies. The Clerk was asked to contact the owners/agents to ascertain what the current situation was with regard to this property

ACTION: Clerk

v. Cllr Best reported on the overgrown condition of an 'unoccupied property' in Sytchampton Lane and asked whether contact could be made to establish who was responsible for the property and to ascertain whether anything could be done to tidy the garden.

ACTION: Clerk

### 98/13. Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Ombersley Memorial Hall (7.30pm)

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

