**9/2016-17/33**

**Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Hanbury Parish Council (HPC)**

**Held on Monday 30th January 2017 in Hanbury Village Hall at 19.30.**

**Present** Chairman Alan Bingham (AB)

Councillors Roger Weaving (RW)

 Neil Cook (NC)

 Roy Raxter (RR)

Clare Stallard (CS)

Ian Few (IF)

John Evans (JE)

David Ford (DF)

County Councillor Audrey Steele (AS)

#### To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons for absence.

Apologies received from Cllr M Bishop and County Cllr Peter Tomlinson (PT)

1. **Declarations of Interest:**

a) Register of interests; Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.

b) No Councillors declared any other Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

c) No Councillors declared any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

d) Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting.

1. **To consider the approval of the minutes from the last Parish Council Meeting that was held on Monday 28th November 2016.**

The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed accordingly.

**There were no members of the public, so the meeting was not adjourned for public question time**

#### Progress reports from the previous minutes for information;

#### 4.4 RW is to see if a free first service for the new byways boiler is included in the installation price – ongoing.

11.1 The Parish Council discussed the possibility of the New Crime Commissioner visiting the parish council and it was decided to place on the agenda for consideration in March.

1. **Correspondence received to date:**

The Council noted the following correspondence.

* Calc updates Jan 2017, December 2016, January 2017.
* Emails from Laurie Pym and Neil Cook re the bridge on the footpath running behind the shelter belt by West Lodge – which is now rectified.
* Clerks and Councils Direct magazine

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* Letter from A Bingham to Highways and County Cllrs re Harris Brush.
* Letter to P Tomlinson re ongoing highways issues from HPC
* Letter re Broadband from Mark Bishop
* Email from L Pym re walk 11 March 2017
* Public consultation documents for Worcestershires next local transport plan. Online copies can be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/LTP
1. **County and District Councillors Reports:**

6.1 County Cllr Tomlinson - see the attached report from December 2016.

6.2 District Cllr Steele reported the following information;

* J Hegarty has 3 months off work.
* The budget is to be agreed at the executive board meeting.
* Wychavon has been named as the 3rd best place to live.
* Inkberrow is the Village of Culture 2017.

**7. Planning:**

7.1Planning applications

 **W/16/02606/CU**

 Upper Goosehill Farm

 Broughton Green

 WR9 7ED

 Division of former agricultural workers bungalow into 2 dwellings.

 The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

7.2 Planning applications approved by Wychavon.

 W/16/02571/CU. The Commons, Broughton Green, conversion of tack barn to living accommodation.

W/16/02290/CU. Land off, Saltway, Hanbury. Creation of access, siting of containers and 30 car parking spaces.

W/16/02575/PP. Aquarius. Hanbury Road, Droitwich, demolition of single storey extn and replacement with double storey extn.

Planning applications refused by Wychavon.

Ridge End, Hanbury Road, Hanbury. Open fronted single storey garage.

7.3 Other planning issues

 W/16/02272/PN - Land off Droitwich Road, Hanbury. Clerk has spoken to Emma Worley – Planning officer at Wychavon and she has confirmed that the new hedging and trees should be planted by the end of the current planting season.

**8 To Receive Reports and discuss matters regarding;**

8.1 Playground Committee.

 AB noted that some of the stumps were rotting and replacements are needed.

8.2 Cricket and football clubs.

 It was noted that the football pitch was used recently, Clerk to contact the club to

 ascertain if they are still using it.

8.3 Hanbury Village Hall new front porch and roof.

 Cllr AB noted that funding from the new homes bonus was ongoing.

 Three quotes had been received for the work on the roof.

 Quotes would be needed for the porch area work.

8.4 Village Hall Management Committee

 It was noted that the bonfire site has been raked again, but that a sweep with a

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 magnet would be beneficial to remove nails etc.

 The Clerk is to contact the pest controller used by the VHMC to deal with the

 problem of rats around the outside of the village hall.

8.5 Recreation ground

RR noted that the garage on the Recreation Ground was in need of repair or replacement. The Parish Council considered replacement with a steel container

8.6 Village field (next to the village hall)

 It was agreed that Cllrs MB and CS are to examine and adjust the proposed contract

For the lease of this field to village hall users.

**9 Finance**

9.1 Monies received to the Parish Council this month

 **HMRC** Refund VAT for 2015-16 **£2811.37**

9.2 Payments requested and submitted to the Parish Council

Payments were agreed as per the attached list, and cheques were signed accordingly. See appendix C.

9.3 Confirmation of the Precept for 2017-18.

 The Precept was **agreed and confirmed** at **£21,570.**

 £20,534 after grant paid.

 This is equivalent to £45.16 Band D (Last year £43.21 - Band D) Increase of £1.95 or 4.5%

**10 Parish Lengthsman and parish maintenance issues.**

10.1Progress reports of highways/drainage issues as reported to HPC, Wychavon or Worcester CC, and of the progress of meetings that CC has had with Tony Jones (Land drainage) and Elex Ellson (Highways) with regard to ongoing issues.

 These ongoing issues have been forwarded to County Councillor P Tomlinson for his help in moving forward.

10.2 Requests for maintenance received from parishioners;

A request for a new dog waste bin was received at the last meeting. The bin needs to be emptied by Wychavon on a weekly basis and this will incur yearly costs. The Parish Council **agreed** to this request for a new bin to be installed on the recreation ground.

Request for verge tidying. A request has been made by a parishioner to have the verges scraped back to the tarmac on the path going south from the Jinney Ring to the Vernon Arms. The Parish Council **agreed** to this request and the Clerk is to ask Cty Cllr PT for any financial assistance he may be able to provide.

10.3 Any other parish maintenance issues are to be discussed.

 It was noted that Chris Cooke had done an excellent job gritting the roads over the winter.

**11 Broadband**

 The Council discussed the poor broadband reception in the parish and agreed that the situation needed addressing. A large part of the parish is unable to access the “Airband” contract or superfast BT and have exceptionally poor upload and download speeds.

 The Council **agreed** to contact County Cllr PT to ask him for his help with the situation in the first instance.

**12 Highways and any Police matters:**

12.1To discuss any highways issues/accidents reported locally.

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* School flashing light by Hanbury First School has been reported as not working to WCC.
* It was noted that there had been an accident at the end of School Road/Droitwich Road over the Christmas period.
* Burglaries have been reported in the parish.

**13. Parish Councillors’ Reports and Items for Future Agenda**

* Cllr CS noted that she had become the area Chairman of Worcestershire Ramblers and if there were any problems in the area, then people would be welcome to contact her.

**14. Date of next meetings**

Unless there is urgent business to consider, the next meetings will be held on February 27th 2017 and March 27th 2017.

**Abbreviations**

ABCC – Astwood Bank Cricket Club

CC – Chris Cooke – Parish lengthsman

Cllr – Councillor

Cty Cllr – County Councillor

Dst Cllr - District Councillor

HPC – Hanbury parish Council

RG – Recreation ground

VHMC – Village Hall Management Committee

HPC Councillors

AB – Alan Bingham, MAB – Mark Bishop, NC – Neil Cook, JE – John Evans, IF – Ian Few,

DF – David Ford, RR - Roy Raxter, CS – Clare Stallard, RW – Roger Weaving

**Appendix A**

**Actions from January 2017**

#### 7 4.4 RW is to see if a free first service for the new byways boiler is included in the installation price – ongoing.

8.1 Playground Committee.

AB noted that some of the stumps were rotting and replacements are needed. Clerk to look into fake tree stumps.

8.2 Cricket and football clubs.

 It was noted that the football pitch was used recently, Clerk to contact the club to

 ascertain if they are still using it.

8.3 Hanbury Village Hall new front porch and roof.

 Cllr AB noted that funding from the new homes bonus was ongoing. Clerk

8.4 Village Hall Management Committee

 It was noted that the bonfire site has been raked again, but that a sweep with a

 magnet would be beneficial to remove nails etc. NC and IF

 The Clerk is to contact the pest controller used by the VHMC to deal with the

 problem of rats around the outside of the village hall.

8.5 Recreation ground

RR noted that the garage on the Recreation Ground was in need of repair or replacement. The Parish Council considered replacement with a steel container. Suggestions and costs to be presented at the next HPC meeting.

8.6 Village field (next to the village hall)

 It was agreed that Cllrs MB and CS are to examine and adjust the proposed contract

For the lease of this field to village hall users.

10.1Progress reports of highways/drainage issues -These ongoing issues have been forwarded to County Councillor P Tomlinson for his help in moving forward.

10.2 A new bin is to be installed on the recreation ground. Clerk

Request for verge tidying. The verges scraped back to the tarmac on the path going south from the Jinney Ring to the Vernon Arms. Clerk/CC

Clerk is to ask Cty Cllr PT for any financial assistance he may be able to provide.

11 Broadband

 The Council agreed to contact County Cllr PT to ask him for his help with the situation in the first instance. Clerk/CS

Future agendas

11.1 The Parish Council discussed the possibility of the New Crime Commissioner visiting the parish council and it was decided to place on the agenda for consideration in March.

**Appendix C**

**Finance –invoices for consideration at the January meeting.**

**C Cooke** Lengthsman work for December 2016 **£264**

**C Cooke** Lengthsman work for January 2016 **£264**

**C Cooke** Fuel cost for mileage in November 2016 **£76.44**

**C Cooke** Fuel cost for mileage in December 2016 **£27.30**

**C Cooke** Litter pick December 12/13 2016 **£118.80**

**Droitwich Spa and RCVS** Postage November 2016 **£6**

**Hobnobs** insurance for Hobnobs group **£155**

**BT** Payment for HPC phone to 1 November **£116.37**

**BT** Payment for HPC Phone to 1 February **£116.37**

**Hanbury Herald** Donation towards edition 60 **£350**

**Invoices paid in December**

**E F Pugh** Flail hedging December (1497- already paid) **£201.60**

**Clerk** Salary for October to December inclusive (1494 – already paid) **£1081.20**

**HMRC** Clerks tax and NI for Oct to Dec inclusive **£112.20**

County Councillor Report for December Parish Meetings 2016

I am conscious that not all parishes are meeting December but should those parish clerks wish to circulate this then may I wish all who receive it a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. I am away for a couple of weeks in the middle of January and may not have time to deliver a report on December activities at county unless something dramatic occurs. I apologise in advance therefore if no report is forthcoming !

In November I attended, Hartlebury PC, Elmbridge PC, Ombersley PC, Hanbury PC and Upton Warren PC. Again there were some minor issues around Highways, and major issues around planning and enforcement in Ombersley, although in terms of the latter I was wearing my district councillor’s hat. I do though have a closer contact with Highways now I am a county councillor, and I am using that to try and find out why Highways often seem to find no objection to planning applications when sheer logic would point to, for example, an increase in traffic emerging onto a main road creating a potential increase in hazards, or new applications clogging up narrow country roads. You know the kind of scenarios I am talking about I am sure. I have taken this up with my new Highways Liaison engineer Alex Clarke-Ellson whom I met for coffee last week. I mentioned at your last meeting that just as I was getting to know David Hunter-Miller and go through the highways issues I was inheriting, he disappeared and Alex took his place, so I have had to start all over again!

When Highways submit a “no objection” response to a planning application they never give their reasons and so it is difficult to argue with them unless one enters into a Q&A session with their representative, and sadly there is no time for that. I will work on this in the future to see if I can change things !!

On a further issue with Highways, which reared its head after flooding in certain areas this month, I have found out that there is some tension between Wychavon and County over responsibility for the causes of flooding. Simply put, Highways have a responsibility for flooding which occurs on their roads because of blocked drains or blocked ditches (note the latter on the roadside of the hedge) and Wychavon for water from fields where the ditches are blocked. Apparently if there are no ditches Wychavon cannot force the owner to provide them and if mud and silt then fill the road and drains nothing is done. County however have the power to force the landowner to prevent this happening but appear not to use it. Wychavon then get the blame because most people perceive this to be a district council responsibility. I will now try to get to the bottom of this in the next few months and report back.

I am still on my induction course at county and this month I spent some time with Frances Howie who heads up the Public Health portfolio. I thought it was going to be rather a dry session but it turned out to be very stimulating and I would be happy to expand on that subject when we meet again.

In December I will be at a county budget briefing meeting and will learn what the future holds for the next financial year. My gut feel is that belts will need to be tightened more, as uncertainty over the terms of Brexit will begin to affect the economy negatively.

However before that happens (if it does, and I hope not) there is time to be merry and bright as the Christmas and New Year seasons loom. May I take this opportunity to thank you for welcoming me to your meetings, and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and above all a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

Cllr Peter Tomlinson DL Nov 2016