

**MINUTES OF INKBERROW PARISH COINIL MEETING HELD ON LINE VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 17TH
MARCH, 2021**

Present: Councillors Jane Neal (Chairman) Christopher Burdett, Rodger Fooks, Dinah Griffin, Anthony Hopkins, David Hunter, Richard Jordan and Mrs. Audrey Steel.

In Attendance: Janet Cresswell Clerk, Robert Wilcox RFO and William Hunt Press Officer.

There were no apologies.

DEMOCRATIC FIFTEEN MINUTES PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. At the discretion of the Chairman Mr. Philip Scrafton was allowed to speak of the unacceptable disrespect he had experienced at the last PC meeting amounting to two Members of the PC being charged with not abiding by the orders laid down in the Council's Code of Conduct.

The Chairman opened the meeting and invited Vice Chairman David Hunter to speak on the charges of the breach of conduct prior to the first item on the Agenda. Vice Chairman David Hunter stated "Since the last Parish Council meeting two Members have been officially accused of behaviour which breaches the Council's Code of Conduct. Both Members offered written apologies and agreed the accusation and the apologies become a matter of public record. The complainant has accepted apologies from Councillors Jane Neal and Councillor Christopher Burdett. All Members are advised to re-read the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to realise breaching this Code is a matter that is taken very seriously". The Clerk added that a new Local Government Code of Conduct was being drawn up by the LGA and could be ready for adoption at the Annual Meeting in May.

2706 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** There were no declarations of interest.

2707 **MINUTES.** It was Agreed the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th February be signed as a correct record.

2708 **PROGRESS REPORTS. Highways.** It was noted the grass verge in Sands Road had not been made safe, possibly due to the road closure having been imposed for a short period. It was noted pavement improvements had been carried out around the village. Repairs to FP 661 had still not been started and Cncllr David Hunter was seeking a further progress report. The Clerk would write to the new owners of Ivy House regarding the tree, holding a Tree Preservation Order and which overhangs the pavement, in order that pedestrians can safely use the pavement for the future. It was noted that the new School Crossing Attendant had started. **Lengthsman.** It was Agreed to renew the contract for the new financial year but hours worked would be kept to not more than 14 per month. In the meantime the possibility of going out to tender and training next year would be considered. Cncllr Anthony Hopkins advised he had placed some Divisional Funding for training. **Neighbourhood Plan.** It was noted three more volunteers were needed to help production of the Plan. Grateful thanks were given to members of the DC Legal Dept. for their helpful guidance. **Progress on Legal Document with SCI.** A letter from the SCI was read and it was agreed there were a number of issues in regard to maintenance sharing costs with all users, managing maintenance and fair access as well as legal issues. It was Agreed to ask the SCI to keep the PC informed of the progress with the Football Foundation with a three month time scale. **Telephone box.** Everything was in place awaiting the weather conditions. **Solar Farm.** It was Agreed to remove this from the agenda. **Repair to the entrance of the Allotments.** Clerk would advise the PC would only pay for materials required, not the labour. **Car Park Users Notice.** The quotation in the sum of £595 plus VAT and the wording was approved. It had been reported that considerable damage had been done to the surface of the extension car park by heavy vehicles. The deep ruts could possibly cause injury to car park users. With the PC being responsible for the safety of the users of the car park, if it was considered unsafe then it would need to be closed. Cncllr Mrs. Audrey steel would

request the DC Legal Dpt. inspect the damage and advise. RFO would contact the PC Insurers for advice. It was noted that the top barrier had been removed and questions needed to be asked of key holders.

2709 **POLICE REPORT.** There was no Police report.

2710 **REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR.** Cncllr Anthony Hopkins advised that a summary of the report on the A422 was expected shortly. A substantial amount of investment would be required to improve the safety of the stretch of road from the boundary of Worcester City to Cookhill. With the state of the Pinhills Road far from satisfactory Cncllr. Hopkins would continue to press for further action. It was noted that Covid-19 cases in Wychavon continued to fall but the County level remained at 74 cases in 100,000.

2711 **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.** Cncllr Mrs. Audrey Steel advised that the Covid-19 figures for Wychavon stood at 46 per 100,000 with the National figure currently at 59 per 100,000. Cncllr Mrs. Steel reminded Members that the Census count was taking place on Sunday 21st March.

2712 **FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.** The Finance Report and Balance Sheet had been circulated. It was noted difficulty still remained collecting Lengthsman funds from the CC. It was Agreed the following outstanding accounts be paid: Clerk £443.86, RFO £144.94, Parfitt Services £100, Water Plus £123.99, Zoom subscription £11.99, Lengthsman £200, Broadband and postage £66.47. It was Agreed Parfitt Services should purchase a "Litter Picker" for use at the Play Area. It was noted that the recommended guidelines for monies held in reserve was normally 2 x Precept. Next month would show the year end document. Cncllr Dinah Griffin suggested a separate account be shown for the Allotments.

2713 **GRASS CUTTING FOR 2021 SEASON.** It was noted that Smart Cut had agreed to hold their last year's price for the 2021 season and this was Agreed.

2714 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

21/003000 W&J Nowacki Proposed Garage Building, Hillside, Witherby Lane. It was Agreed the application be recommended for refusal as it was believed to be overdevelopment of the site and positioned too close to the highway.

2715 **DATA PROTECTION.** Chairman and Clerk would investigate current legislation.

2716 **VILLAGE HALL DRAINAGE.** It was noted the ICC had requested a new survey of the system and were in touch with Severn Trent and the Football Club.

2717 **COUNCILLORS'/CLERK'S REPORTS & ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA** The Chairman thanked everyone involved in removing the Christmas tree. Cncllr Hopkins would ask Highways what laybys could be used for. Thousands of leaflets had been dropped in the vicinity of the layby and thanks were expressed to those who had cleared it and also to those residents who clear litter around the village on a daily basis. Play Area Inspection would be included in the April Agenda with the PC Precept on the Agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Signed.....Date.....

