

SEDGEBERROW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sedgeberrow Parish Council held at the Betteridge Room at Sedgeberrow Village Hall on Tuesday 12th November 2013 at 7.15.

Present Cllr's Mrs M Pratt [Chairman], Mr R Hunt, Mr J De Paris and Cllr A Stow.
In Attendance Ms J Shields (Clerk), Mr C Brooks, Mr A Thomas, Mr M Parker, Mrs R Kirke (District Councillor), Cllr L Eyre (County Councillor) and CSO Simon Williams.

1. Apologies: To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

No apologies were received.

2. Declaration Of Interests.

Councillors were reminded to update their registers of interest and to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and their nature.

3. To Consider The Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Meeting Held On Wednesday 28th August 2013.

The minutes were agreed and signed

The meeting adjourned.

Mr Mike Parker reported that SeSaME, in conjunction with Wychavon District Council and Act On Energy, had conducted the Home Energy Survey, 225 (61%) had been completed; however the funding for this project may now be cut by Central Government.

SeSeMe have been asked to speak by Elizabeth Harris, Sustainability Officer Worcestershire County Council to the Climate Change Task Group at The University of Worcester in December.

Mr Chris Brooks addressed the council.

Superfast Broadband

In his capacity as Regeneration Manager for Wychavon District Council, there is an indicative map available on the County Council website showing Sedgeberrow is in the area to be covered by the superfast rollout between now and 2016.

Section 215 notices

He would be interested to know whether, in principle and without any particular property in mind, the Parish Council would support the use of Section 215 notices to encourage upkeep of properties and gardens thus improving the overall environment in the village.

Memorial bench

The bench is lovely but perhaps marred by the presence of a grit bin (and the litter bin – good that it's there, but a little close to the bench in my view) and I wondered if it might be possible to reposition these and generally tidy up the area? I also wondered about the trees opposite which are growing on the highway side of the fence and obstruct the view of Bredon Hill. Given that Mrs Mackison loved Bredon Hill, opening up the view for anyone using her memorial bench would seem a rather splendid and appropriate thing to do. Is this something that the Parish Council can fund?

The meeting resumed.

4. Police.

Sedgeberrow Crimes 01/08/2013 - 12/11/2013

Criminal Damage - one crime recorded, none detected

Vehicle damage – one recorded, none detected.

Other (Which can include motoring offences etc...) - one crime recorded, none detected.

Parking for the school is becoming a problem again, CSO now has powers to deal with this.

Any problems please call 101.

5. County Councillor.

Sedgeberrow Report Nov 2013

Tight financial constraints

Worcestershire County Council is considering a 1.9 per cent increase from April, adding around £29.49 to a band D household.

Bus Services

Almost 88 bus services in county (43) routes are facing their bus subsidy being removed. With a £100 million saving plan over the next 3 years the subsidy of £3 million is unaffordable. This is the start of the process. There is a consultation. Please feed back to me any thoughts around any routes that effect you. It is worth noting only 20 per cent of bus services in Worcestershire are subsidised, 80 per cent are commercial. This link will lead you straight to the best site for a response: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/transport-and-highways/transport-review.aspx>

One of the routes is Astons Coaches 540 Evesham - Cheltenham via Beckford, Bredon, Tewkesbury Monday to Saturday. Your support for this route is important. There seem to be 9 journeys affected 4 of which are school journeys. It may be by removing one journey middle of the day or other changes this route will become sustainable without subsidy . Let me have your views? Do you value the 540?

Parkway plans

The County Council is to lead on a planning application for the [Worcester] parkway station [at Norton] in the New Year. We have recognised the Parkway in all strategic planning. The Parkway is a key matter for the Local Enterprise Partnership in its plans

Quality children centres

Two popular children's centre in the Vale, the Orchard and Spring Vale Children's Centre in Evesham and the Blossom Vale Children's Centre in Pershore, have been rated 'good' in Worcestershire's first ever group Ofsted inspection. The group inspection, which also included WANDS Children's Centre in Droitwich, was one of only five nationally to achieve this grade since the inspection framework was introduced in April. Managed by Worcestershire County Council, the centres provide a range of activities and support services for families with young children.

Main Street yellow lines

I am looking at the bus service, in the context of the changes mentioned above, the changed timetable and the changes at the school. Do we really need the yellow lines?

Evesham volunteers v Worcestershire Voices I am providing a view what each does.

For your diaries the next meeting Parish Meeting is Tuesday 14th Jan

6. District Councillor.

Four week action Campaign on Flooding is being carried out by the EA.

Half of the Ward Walk has taken place; Cllr Kirke will liaise with the chairman as to the Sedgeberrow part.

SWDP

The plan is now with the Planning Inspectorate, and the Examination in Public started on 1 October at Worcester. The first stage of the examination took three days and looked at major issues such as housing, employment land, and retail requirements and the duty to cooperate with neighbouring councils. The inspector has now issued a preliminary report, In it he has asked for more information before he arrives at the final housing numbers, although he has made it pretty clear that he is looking for an appreciable increase. Providing this information will entail an inevitable delay and leave us vulnerable to the issue of whether Wychavon can show a five year housing land supply for at least two or three more months.

Five-year Housing Land supply

You will recall that for some time Wychavon had been unable to show that it had a five-year housing land supply judged against the numbers in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy.

The consequence of this is that the saved housing policies in the old Wychavon District plan were regarded as no longer valid.

At its July meeting the Wychavon Planning Committee was told that we had given so many consents that we could now show a five year housing land supply so long as our SWDP allocations were counted, and, therefore, that our existing policy GD1 (no development outside development boundaries) was once again relevant. However we only just met the target and our calculations might be challenged at appeal by developers. Therefore we were advised to pass planning applications outside the GD1 development boundaries where such development could be regarded as sustainable and where the harm did not outweigh the benefit. At the August planning committee meeting we refused several applications on the grounds that they were contrary to GD1 and could not be regarded as sustainable.

At the October planning meeting we were told that the advice was the same as it had been in July.

7. Progress Reports For Information.

a) Clerk.

Circulated.

b) Notice Board.

The notice board will be sited by the Glebe Meadow now the frame has been made.

c) Churchyard Tree.

The dead tree has been removed and a new one will be sourced.

8. Correspondence.

- Mike Parker, secretary of the newly formed Sedgeberrow Energy Co-operative (SEC) has written to the Parish Council. He explained SeSAME's work exploring renewable energy opportunities in the area, as a natural extension to the home energy survey work currently underway and the planned retrofit measures to properties in the village. He reminded the council of the problems encountered with trying to put a solar array on the school and the feasibility findings of Sharenergy, which confirmed there are no suitable sites locally for a hydro electric generator on the river.

SEC has been established to take forward Sharenergy's recommendation that SeSaME looks locally for a medium scale wind turbine site. SEC has applied for a grant from the Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund to progress this work.

Mike asked that the Parish Council support Sedgeberrow Energy Co-operative in this application, without prejudicing any view they may later take, if this progresses to a planning application.

The Council agreed to support the funding application on that basis.

- As 2014 starts 5 years of ceremonies to remember the 1st World War, the council agreed to have the memorial properly cleaned by gardeners, Clerk to ask for New Homes Bonus Funding.
- Clerk to ask for Playground equipment to use 106 monies as asked by Wychavon.

9. To Discuss the Play Area Inspection.

The report had not highlighted any urgent attention; however the swings do need to be replaced.

10. To Consider a Nominee for the Diamond Jubilee Award.

The Council agreed to nominate Mike Parker and SeSeMe.

11. Highway Matters.

a. Waiting Restriction in Main Street.

No news.

b. VAS.

Figures of 'hits' will be collated by the clerk.

c. Bus shelter.

Chairman to ask Mr Smith to carry our repairs to the shelter.

d. Road Sweeper.

Clerk to ask for Road sweeper.

e. Clerk to report the following to Highways.

Overhanging vegetation onto Winchcombe Road.

Drain by No. 7 Cheltenham Road, only has a small grid which is causing problems the larger grid further down the road has no problems.

Ask for grit bin to be moved.

Ask for litter bin to be moved.

12. Finance.

a) To Receive Bank Reconciliation As At 12th November 2013.

Bank reconciliation up to 12th November was presented to the council.

b) To Approve Payments.

The following payments were approved:- Clerks monthly DD £151.57, Village Hall £18.00, New Farms £241.92 and £181.44, Clerks Expenses £52.13, Wychavon £72.00, HMCR £110.80, Technical Metal £435.00.

c) To Set Precept For 2014/15.

The council will wait until figures are released by Central Government and will set this in January

d) Grass Cutting.

The council agreed to put this out to tender.

13. Planning.

a) To consider applications since last meeting.

I. W/13/01856/OU - Orchard Farm, Sandfield Lane, Sedgeberrow. Outline planning application with all matters reserved for an agricultural workers dwelling at Orchard Farm, Evesham Road, Ashton under Hill, WR11 7QT. No reason to object.

II. W/13/02000/OU - Land off, Winchcombe Road, Sedgeberrow. Outline application for eight new dwellings to land adjacent to 101 Winchcombe Road, Sedgeberrow. Sedgeberrow Parish Council objects to this application and makes the following comments:

The proposed site lies outside the defined development boundary for Sedgeberrow and would extend the built up area of the village into open countryside and close to the boundary of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This is unacceptable, promoting sprawl into the green surrounding countryside.

Although the site has been identified in the draft SWDP, the Plan is not yet approved and the application is premature. A brownfield site opposite the application site was previously rejected in the SWDP as being too remote from the main part of the village.

The proposed site is situated on the busy B4078 Winchcombe Road and the greater part of the site is outside the village 30mph speed limit and within the 60mph zone. There is a dangerous bend to the south of the site making visibility for access and exit limited.

A ditch adjoining Winchcombe Road at the front of the proposed site drains the site and the adjoining fields and is piped on into the road drains further along Winchcombe Road. These drains join up with the Main Street road drains opposite the Queen's Head public house and pass through a culvert under Sedgeberrow Mill into the storage channel at the Sedgeberrow Flood Alleviation Pumping Station and then on into the River Isbourne. Any increased surface water generated into these drains will put added pressure on the Pumping Station and exacerbate flooding to properties in Winchcombe Road.

The proposed site is not sustainable in that it is not served by any public transport and there are no metalled footways. This would promote the use of cars from the proposed development into the village for families to reach village facilities, schools, access to bus routes, etc.

There is no evidence that any further housing is required in the village. There are currently 24 properties for sale and 5 for rent, many having been on the market for a considerable length of time. Outline Planning Permission has already been approved for 28 more dwellings and 3 others are in course of construction, which together would increase the size of the village by a further 10%.

Sedgeberrow is an agricultural village and the proposed application would take good commercially viable agricultural land out of production that would set a precedent and lead to many further similar proposals, thus reducing the prospect of any future employment opportunities within the village.

Whilst there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development in the NPPF, the Parish Council considers that development of this site is not sustainable, and it would have an adverse impact on the community, which would outweigh any benefit that would be gained.

- III. W/01853/PN Cherry tree farm, Sandfield lane, Sedgeberrow. Agricultural workers dwelling to include new access and erection of barn. No reason to object.

- b) To report decisions since last meeting.

Approved by Wychavon.

W/13/01410/LB - Orchard Dene, 90 Main Street, Sedgeberrow.

W/01853/PN Cherry Tree farm, Sandfield Lane, Sedgeberrow.

W/13/02000/OU - Land off, Winchcombe Road, Sedgeberrow.

14. Items For Future Agenda and Councillor Reports.

The Chairman had attended W. CALC meeting on the 4th September, where the speaker was from Worcestershire Voice, New Homes Bonus and Council Tax Event, Standards training and had laid the Poppy Wreath on behalf of the Parish.

The Wychavon Games Award ceremony will take place on the 20th November, where the Sedgeberrow winners of the angling and ladies darts will be presented with their trophies. Cllr Hunt reported.

The Flood siren was tested.

Had attended a meeting with Severn Trent, Highways, District and County Council regarding drainage.

Items for future agenda – Bin for outside the shop and defibrillator.

15. Date Of Next Meeting.

15th September 2014.