

# Hill & Moor Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Jo Adams  
Landline: 01386 554305

Address: 43A High Street, Pershore, WR10 1EU  
Tel/ Text/ WhatsApp: 07795 608892

Email: [hillandmoor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hillandmoor@yahoo.co.uk)

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in Lower Moor Village Hall on

**Thursday 2nd March 2017 at 7pm**

Present Cllrs M. Yarnold (Chair), Mrs A. Jeanes, P. Hartley, P. Jeanes, D. Saunders and Mrs S. Roberts

Also present: J. Adams, Clerk; District and County Cllr E. Tucker; 3 members of the public (during public questions)

**1. Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Cllr T. Betteridge

**2. Declarations of Interest:** There were none.

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***The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time***

*Notes can be found at the end of these minutes.*

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**3. Minutes:** It was agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 19th January 2017 were a true and accurate record.

### **4. District and County Councillors reports**

Cllr Tucker reported that the County Council had increased its precept by 0.94% and had increased by the full amount allowed for social care. The District Council had increased its precept by 2%.

The County Council's Ofsted report had been critical; both officers and Councillors had drawn censure and it was thought that the Council had become somewhat side-tracked by the closure of the children's centres to properly address problems in their safeguarding operations. Ofsted had also identified failings in scrutiny; fewer and fewer resources had been allocated and its effectiveness had suffered. The Council had drawn up an action plan to address the issues and this document had been approved by Ofsted.

### **5. Progress reports**

- a) Playing Field and mowing: Cllr P. Jeanes agreed to contact Sandfields to firm up on cutting the grass on the playing field; the indication was that they would be able to continue. Smart Cut had agreed to cut the grass at the same price as previously so the Council decided to renew with them for 2017. Cllrs P. Jeanes and Yarnold would be meeting a local contractor to discuss the possibility of repairing the small mower so that 'top-up' cuts could be carried out if necessary.
- b) Play area: The annual inspection would take place in March.
- c) PACT: Nothing to report.
- d) Flood / Drainage: Appearing later on the agenda.
- e) Footpaths: Nothing to report.
- f) Village Hall: The next meeting was scheduled for April.
- g) Neighbourhood Watch: The new PCSO would be invited to talk at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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- h) Landfill Site: The next meeting would take place on the 13th March.
- i) Lengthsman: The Council was happy to renew the lengthsman's contract for 2017/18.
- j) New Homes Bonus: The NHB grant had been received from Wychavon.
- k) Newsletter: There was a possibility of a charity cricket match taking place on Field Day. Cllr Roberts to confirm in due course.
- l) Bus service: Nothing further to report at the moment.

## 6. Planning

- a) New planning applications: There were none.
- b) Wychavon District Council Decisions: There were none.
- c) Planning Correspondence and Information: Minuted at Public Questions.

- 7. **To discuss inspections of trees on the playing field:** Quotations had been received for mapping and inspecting the trees on the playing field; the Council accepted the quotation from O. Kaye.
- 8. **To review and revisit Flood Alleviation proposals:** It was noted that the £10,000 for flood alleviation had been supplied via New Homes Bonus funds. The officer at Wychavon who had been dealing with flooding issues had left and the recruitment process had not yet started. Cllr Tucker would let the Council know when a new officer had been appointed.
- 9. **To discuss a footpath in the parish:** The path in question was an informal path that ran parallel to Bridge Street behind the houses. Although it was not a Public Right of Way, it had been used by those living nearby for many years, as the 'official' path was frequently a muddy quagmire. Recently the gate to the informal path had been locked and a resident has asked if it could be designated officially. The Council thought this would be unlikely to succeed as the alternative route was very close by. The landowner had offered to make improvements to the official path and the Council decided that this was probably the best that could be hoped for and to monitor the situation for the time being.
- 10. **Update on the Community Defibrillator:** Cllr P. Jeanes reported that at the last meeting the Council had decided to look into getting a defibrillator. Events had overtaken it somewhat when a grant had been identified which needed to be applied for speedily so councillors were consulted by email to comment on committing the £500 to match the grant from the Hereford and Worcester First Responders. In the meantime, the British Heart Foundation had sent a training pack also. The defibrillator had been purchased and it was suggested that it be installed on the new electrical cabinet in lieu of the availability of the soon-to-be-vacant phone box. The £500 payment was confirmed. The Council also agreed the £120 for an electrician to fix the defibrillator to its temporary position. Defibrillator training had been organised for the 21<sup>st</sup> March and a leaflet drawn up to advertise this.
- 11. **To discuss membership of the newly formed Parish Chairman's Group of nearby parishes:** A group of local parishes had been set up and Hill and Moor invited to join. The Council agreed that they would like to be part of the group.

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- 12. To discuss a letter received regarding the Pershore Town Plan:** A letter had been circulated with information on the Pershore Town Plan which was in progress, and for which views were being sought from residents of the town itself and surrounding villages. The Council confirmed its interest in the plan and Cllr Tucker agreed to find out if there was a 'mailing list' the Council could join for updates and consultation opportunities.
- 13. To discuss NHB and Section 106 funds:** Cllr P. Jeanes reported that he would be meeting with a funding officer from Wychavon to discuss suitable projects to use the available funding. The Council discussed a multi-use games area for the playing field. A very approximate cost has been given as £70,000 which would require additional fundraising to pay for.
- 14. To discuss a water supply on the playing field:** It had been suggested that a water supply could be put on the playing field and Cllr Jeanes had made some investigations. However, it appeared that the project was unlikely to be affordable due to the cost of the red tape involved: the installation would require a full road closure and this would cost in the region of £3000 in fees before a spade had even been turned in the ground. The Council decided not to proceed. It was suggested that an external tap could perhaps be put on the Village Hall (although this would be on the far side of Cherry Orchard Road). Cllr Yarnold would enquire.

## 15. Finance:

### a) To report on the financial situation of the Parish Council and to approve cheques for payment

#### Income since last report

Village Hall Committee	50% of bonfire insurance premium	131.40
Wychavon District Council	New Homes Bonus grant (power supply)	3200.00
Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest (February)	0.43
Worcestershire County Council	Lengthsman reimbursement	465.50

#### Cheques for approval

			Cheque	
Rob Farman	Building cabinet for power supply	2,025.00	1089	Replace chq 1079
Hereford & Worc 1st Responders	Supply of defibrillator	500.00	1090	
Severn Trent Water	Application for water supply	137.88	1091	
Malvern Hills District Council	Newsletter printing (Christmas 2016)	55.26	1092	
Parish Online	Mapping software	33.60	1093	inc. VAT
T. Hodges	Lengthsman work Jan /Feb 2017	318.50	1094	
J. Adams	Salary January & February '17	443.28	1095	
J Adams	Allowances: Phone/Comp Jan/ Feb '16	35.00	1096	
J Adams	Reimbursement for stamps	9.90	1097	

#### Balance as at 16/02/2017

Current account balance 16,656.22

#### Balance as at 09/02/2017

Savings account balance 10,019.63 (£10,000 Flood Alleviation)

Total cash assets 26,675.85

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- b) To approve the payment of the Parish Games entrance fee:** This was approved.
- 16. Correspondence for Information:** A letter from planning enforcement department at Wychavon had been received regarding the pub. A parishioner had contacted the Council regarding a parked car in Salters Lane. Cllr Yarnold would follow this up.
- 17. Clerk's report:** The Clerk reported some email correspondence with Npower who had sent a recent demand for £680 at least £475 of which has been settled some considerable time ago. Further information on exactly what the charges related to had been requested.
- 18. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:** Items for next agenda: Update on defibrillator training; pension scheme.
- 19. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.

## Public Questions

A parishioner asked the latest news on the current planning applications and issues in the parish.

Chestnut Tree Inn: no appeal had been received and the matter was with enforcement. It was clarified that the access through the pub car park to the houses at the back had not been in use yet for 10 years so the planning permission requiring the access to go via Chestnut Close was still in force. On other matters, a parishioner reported that a fence had been put up at the pub which appeared to block a fire exit.

Sign on main road: The owner of the unauthorised sign had been given two weeks to remove it. The planning applications at Hill and Moor Meadows were now due to be determined by the 10<sup>th</sup> March.