

**Democratic Period/ Question Time:** Two Members of the Public were present and spoke; raising questions relating to the problems experienced at the gateway to Spetchley Estates land near J7 of the M5 (there had been no response to the Council's letter to Spetchley Estates); the state of the footway near to the gateway; the use of the rear entrance to the school & related parking problems; the use being made of the DFS the council had purchased; and the protection of pedestrians at the Swinesherd Way roundabout.

Since County Councillor J.H. Smith (cabinet member for Transport, Worcestershire County Council) and R. Fullee Highways Liaison Engineer were present the Chairman invited open discussion of these matters, some of which are reported in greater detail below (see item 2011.103). Thereafter he closed the democratic period and proposed that those parts of item 2011.103 relevant to Councillor Smith & R. Fullee now be dealt with in Council. The Clerk requested that items 2011.96 to 2011.99 be dealt with first to allow the candidate for co-option to speak if co-opted, which was accepted without demur.

**2011.96 Attendance.**

Asterisks after the names of those members present indicate late arrival. Corresponding asterisks in the left hand margin indicate the point of arrival.

Present: S.L. Brooker, S. MacLeod, P. Wood\*.

In Attendance: P.S. Roe, Clerk; District & County Councillor R.C. Adams, County Councillor John H. Smith, cabinet member for Transport, Worcestershire County Council, R. Fullee Highways Liaison Engineer, Worcestershire County Council.

Apologies: M. Hallmark, A. Lodge. pcs Ben Allchurch.

**2011.97 Declarations of Interest and Ethical Matters.**

- a. There were no declarations of Personal (non prejudicial) Interests in items on this Agenda.
- b. There were no declarations of Personal Prejudicial Interests in items on this Agenda.
- c. Ethical Matters. None reported

**2011.98 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.**

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011, having been previously distributed were taken as read, and adopted (SM/SLB) without amendment.

**2011.99 Co-option to fill vacancies.**

An application for co-option had been received from Robert Grant; this had been copied to all Members.

Being nominated by S.L. Brooker and seconded by S Macleod he was elected unopposed

There remained one vacancy

At this point the Chairman proposed that those parts of item 2011.103 Highways & Byways relevant to Councillor Smith & R. Fullee now be dealt with, which was accepted unanimously. The item is reported seriatim.

Following that discussion the Council agreed to take M. Baker's report on the Norton CWRF to allow him to retire; again the item is reported seriatim.

**2011.100 Planning.**

a. New and Unresolved Planning Applications:

**Application Number:** W/11/01362/PP

**Applicant:** Mr & Mrs S Matthews

**Case Officer:** Simon Rees

**Location:** Holly Tree House, Walkers Lane, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RE

**Proposal:** Extension and remodelling of detached dwelling to create additional reception rooms and additional en-suite bedroom.

**Comments:** Members were in agreement in expressing the view that that this development was extensive representing a major increase in footprint and floor area. It was agreed too that the external appearance and character of the property would be substantially altered by the proposed works, but not all were in favour of such a startling change in character, others felt that the elimination of the austere 1950's external appearance would be an improvement. If the development was to proceed it was felt that it should not be allowed to become a precedent for similar applications elsewhere in the village.

b. Previous consultations. None.

c. Planning Decisions: The following Planning decisions and Appeal decisions had been notified to the Council.

Application W/11/01014/PP: Single storey extension, 4 Church Terrace, Church Lane, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RH; Ms L Detheridge. Application Approved STC (time, materials, working hours).

Application W/11/01213/CU: Change of use from agricultural to commercial land for a security car parking area, Land adj. 128 Spetchley Road, Spetchley, Worcester; Mr L Ali. Application Approved STC (time, materials, working hours). Members sought clarification of the reasons for approval in the light of the Council's objection to the development.

Application W/11/01232/OU: Outline application for the erection of 17 houses, new access, parking and amenity areas and associated works; Land off Walkers Lane; Antringham Developments Ltd. Application Refused.

d. Other Planning Consultations: None

e. Other Planning Matters:

**City of Worcester:** Confirmation had been received of the adoption (25/7/2011) of Takeaway Food Outlets Supplementary Planning Document.

**SWDP:** Evidence Gathering-Village Facilities Survey. R. Grant agreed to liaise with Clerk re completion & submission of the survey and the papers were passed to him.

**Wychavon D.C.:** Wychavon Building Design Awards 2011- the Council had no nominations for this award. The Clerk reported receipt of the "Knowing Wychavon Communities" Report April 2011" which the Chairman took to use in reference to the Parish Plan, and was to place in the circulation file.

**Bloor Homes/ Savills:** The Clerk reminded Members of the Informal Meeting held 26/7/2011 and asked if anything further had arisen locally. S. MacLeod commented on the unfortunate juxtaposition of the Parish Council & Village Hall reports in the Parish Magazine which might lead people to think that the Council had been "money led" in its consideration of the proposals which was not the case. It was reported that a Planning Application for the rebuild of the Hall was to be submitted soon.

**2011.101 Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.**

- a. Archives: The Clerk reported that the Village Hall Deeds had been obtained and now awaited deposit (with additional deeds & other archive material) at the County Record Office.
- b. Worcestershire Agreement - The Clerk reported that the final version had been promulgated by CALC and was to be signed at Parish Conference in October. A copy would be sent to Member Councils for their agreement to each item of the agreement but it was not clear that this would take precedence over CALC's signature of the agreement. The Clerk had sought clarification.
- c. Other Matters: None.

**2011.102 Finance.**

The Clerk reported as follows: -

- a. Receipts: WCC re. Lengthsman - £378.40; HSBC Interest c22p/month;
- b. Payments: Invoices and requests for payment (some already paid) totalling £672.98 were approved (SLB/PJW) unanimously.
- c. Proposals for Expenditure. To consider proposals for expenditure.
  - i) Budgeted expenditure: The Clerk sought approval of the type of bulbs to be purchased indicating that the Purchase would be joint with Hallow PC which had decided on "King Alfred" daffodils. Members preferred that a "mixed" selection be purchased.
  - ii) Other expenditure: None
- d. Budget 2012-2013: The Chairman indicated that he would like to see provision for contribution to the Church Magazine in order for it to be made freely available throughout the Civil Parish. S. MacLeod was asked to look into the feasibility and costs involved in time for consideration at the Council's meeting in November.

The RFO was also asked to include provision for installation of "gatings" at the village entrances.

In response to his request for guidance as to the Council's thoughts on increases in the precept, Members suggested that after a year without increase (2011-2012) an increase of around 5% could be justified.

**2011.103 Highways & Byways.**

**a. Highways Matters:**

General:

This part of the item was taken after item 2011-99 but is reported here for continuity.

Where appropriate, matters referred to during discussion in the "Democratic Period" at the beginning of the meeting and others raised previously but not discussed are reported here *in italics* for completeness of the record.

The Chairman formally welcomed County Councillor John Smith and Highways Liaison Engineer Roy Fuller, and invited their participation in discussion. Councillor Smith apologised for the inordinate time for response to the meeting of November 2010 & the Parish Council's subsequent letters.

The Chairman referred to earlier correspondence and items which remained unresolved. Using the headings from P. Blake's letter of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011 matters were reviewed as follows:

Access Only Order, Whittington: *For WMP to enforce - Accepted*

Pedestrian Barriers, Swinesherd Way: *WCC had reviewed this matter and were still unwilling to provide more substantial barriers despite the ongoing incidence of RTC's here.*

*Whilst existing warning signs were also considered adequate, WCC agreed to investigate whether the existing barriers could be provided with chevron markings to emphasise the curvature of the road*

Speed limit signs, Whittington Road: *As part of the Countywide Speed limit Review WCC had agreed to the provision of additional repeater signs along Whittington Road, between its junctions with Swinesherd Way and Crookbarrow Way.*

M5 Motorway Junction 7 roundabout: *WCC were to consider the provision of additional traffic management measures near the gateway on the B4084 to discourage its improper use and agreed to consider action to reinstate the footway damaged by LGV overrunning.*

The Highways Agency had refused WCC's application for the speed limit to be reduced. A copy of this refusal was to be provided to the Clerk to WPC for the matter to be taken up with the local M.P.

*The Highways Agency was also responsible for the M5 slip roads and would be responsible for any improved provision for pedestrians to cross them.*

Regarding the approach to the roundabout itself from Worcester direction, and the Parish Council's request for directional arrows to be applied to the traffic lanes as it was elsewhere in similar circumstances Councillor Smith considered that this was a reasonable request and should be given sympathetic and speedy consideration.

'Whittington' roundabout, A44: As intimated previously by Councillor R.C. Adams, Councillor Smith confirmed that initial consideration of the improvement of this roundabout (using County Council resources) had been undertaken but as yet no proposals had been formulated.

The Parish Council sought that in the interim the lane arrows and box junction markings on the roundabout be applied, WCC agreed to consider this.

40mph speed limit, B4084 between J7 of the M5 motorway and Woodbury Lane: *The speed limit review had not resulted in the threatened increase*

Speed limits within Whittington village: The Chairman sought advice regarding the requirements for the imposition of a 20 m.p.h. speed limit on the roads within the village, and the possible installation of gatings at the two entrances to the village, with a view to discouraging their use as a rat run to avoid the congestion on Swinesherd Way and the A44. R. Fullee advised re national standards, WCC policy, and enforcement aspects of a 20 MPH limit, and provision of gating. The Parish Council was likely to be asked to contribute to the cost of any gating. The matters would be considered further in the light of the recent "parish Plan survey" & brought back to WCC as and when considered appropriate.

Deployment of VAS – B4084, Whittington: *This was now resolved*

Drains along Church Lane: WCC accepted that the lack of action in respect of these drains was an oversight and R. Fullee was to put the work in hand as soon as possible.

Grit Bins: The problem of failure to fill these had (hopefully) been resolved by revised WCC procedures

M5 Motorway noise: Not a WCC problem.

Crookbarrow Way: Members raised concerns about the 3 to 2 lane arrangement as one approached the Norton roundabout. WCC were aware of this and were looking at ways to improve the situation. Parish Councillors suggested that the median line should be enhanced to prevent crossing.

Following this discussion the Chairman thanked Councillor Smith and R. Fullee for their attendance & expressed optimism that the relationship with "Highways" might now be improved; for his part Councillor Smith asked R. Fullee to respond to all the matters discussed, in time for the Parish Council's meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November. The Chairman indicated that whilst they were welcome to remain, the Council would understand if they wished to take their leave, which they did. At the Clerk's suggestion he then invited M. Baker to present his report on the Norton CWRP facility and liaison group; this is reported at item 2011.110 a).

M5 Noise: None.

Maintenance:

Works for the Lengthsman: None

Previous Matters:

Members noted M. Baker's advice that the situation re glass on Pershore Road continued and with what seemed less cleaning than was promised.

New Matters:

None

Traffic Management:

Previous Matters:

None

New Matters:

R. Grant reported problems with frequent & persistent parking of vehicles, he believed by a commercial operator, at Three Ways. S.L. Brooker was to speak with pcso Allchurch.

DFS:

Nothing reported (see later item)

**b. Byways matters:**

General: }

Bridleways: } None

Footpaths: }

**2011.104 Training.**

The Clerk reported the current schedule of CALC training courses. R. Grant was interested in attending but was not sure of his availability. His attendance was approved (SLB/PJW) if he could make the sessions.

A training opportunity entitled "Changes in the Planning Landscape Seminar and Workshop" scheduled for 8/10/2011 10:00 to 15:00, @ Worcester University - City Campus was reported. The Clerk asked to attend and S.L. Brooker was also interested but could not confirm availability. Attendance by both was authorised (SLB/SM) at a cost of £20 or £25 per head.

**2011.105 Parish Plan.**

The Chairman reported that he was continuing to process the responses to the survey but that it was taking time. He hoped that once completed a group to review them and agree a draft Parish Plan could be established.

The Clerk indicated that in the light of government Planning Policy/Localism it might be appropriate to consider producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

**2011.106 New Homes Bonus.**

Based on attendance at WDC briefing event on 18/7/2011 the Chairman reported that the Bonus would be payable based on 6 years' council tax on occupation of new properties, 20% would go to the County Council and 80% to the District Council. He advised that the proposal in Wychavon was for 30% of the 80% attributed to District Councils to be devolved to Parish Councils. R.C. Adams advised that current thinking was 40% of - he thought - 80% with parishes adjacent to urban centres, like Worcester, sharing "their" apportionment with the urban authority; something which he did not favour.

**2011.107 DFS Results.**

The Clerk sought guidance from the Council as to what they were seeking from the reports generated by the DFS computer programme.

The Chairman reported that he had asked pcso Allchurch, who had expressed interest in using the information generated from the DFS, to contact the Clerk. The Chairman also took the various printouts to review with the hope that he would be able to generate suitable report format for the Council.

**2011.108 District and County Councillors' Report – For Information.**

County and District Councillor Adams reported the forthcoming Pershore Forum on 26<sup>th</sup> October at 19:00 hrs. At Pershore Town Hall; this would address, inter alia, the SWDP, constituency boundary changes, Youth Opportunities & Policing Update.

He encouraged attendance at the programmed SWDP consultation events the most local being at the Countryside Centre 15:00-20:30 hrs on 4<sup>th</sup> October, and noted that housing requirements appeared to be reverting to the levels proposed in the WMRSS. He undertook to provide the Clerk/RFO with a copy of the WDC information allowing comparison of Parish Precepts in the District.

**2011.109 Police Report - For Information.**

No police representative present.

**2011.110 Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas.**

- a) Reports of Committees and Working Groups and of Councillors representing the Council on outside bodies.
  - Envirosort Site, Norton (CWRF) Liaison Group: M. Baker reported that the Manager was now Rob MacMillan, that residents on Pershore Road were pleased that the 40 m.p.h limit remained in view of the number of LGV visiting the site, and that the situation re glass spillage was not resolved, and that the operating hours of the site had lengthened on Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays to 05:15 - 20:00 hrs.
  - West Wychavon PACT: Council's representative S.L. Brooker reported attending a PACT meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September. One police representative (pcso Allchurch) was present and one other Parish Councillor. R.C. Adams apologised for not attending; it transpired that no notice had been issued Matters considered included speeding on the B4084 & elsewhere.
  - Worcestershire CALC: Council's representative A. Lodge was not present at the meeting.
  - WPC Staffing Committee: The Clerk indicated that following his retirement as Clerk to HPC he believed a meeting of Staffing Committee was appropriate and suggested 27<sup>th</sup> September. S. MacLeod would not be able to attend, the others were to be canvassed & if appropriate a meeting called.
- b) Reports of Councillors on other matters. None
- c) Inclusion of specific items on a future agenda.
  - Estimates 2012-2013 November; Budget 2012-2013 in January?
  - Standing Orders & Financial Regulations
  - Parish Plan

**2011.111 Inclusion of items in the Parish Magazine.**

New Councillor; report of Meeting with WCC Highways Representatives (with thanks to J.H. Smith and R. Fullee & Members of the Public).

**2011.112 Correspondence.**

A note of correspondence received had been periodically sent out to Members under the "Clerk's Digest" since the last meeting. Members' attention was drawn to:-

CPRE: Worcs Br - MHD Area - AGM & Talks 2:45 p.m. 22/10/2011 Christ Church Hall, Avenue Road, Malvern.

Pershore Area Forum at Pershore Town Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 7pm.

Large Planning Applications: Request for further support for proposal by Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council to empower Parish and Town Councils when assessing major planning applications. Members agreed that the Council should write in support & Councillors copied in so that they could canvass/provide further support as individuals

Wychavon Events Diary 2012: Canvass for entries. None suggested.

Whittington Church: Invitation to Harvest Service.

**2011.113 Date of Next Meeting.**

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011, at Whittington Village Hall. R. Grant submitted his apologies.

The Meeting closed at 22:30 Hrs.