

At a Meeting of Whittington Parish Council held at Whittington Village Hall on Tuesday 10th March 2009, at 19.30 Hrs.

Democratic Period/ Question Time: One member of the public was present, but did not wish to speak.

2009.38 Attendance.

Present: M. Baker, M. Hallmark, R.A. Phillips.

In Attendance: P.S. Roe, Clerk; R.C. Adams, District & County Councillor.

Apologies: A. Lodge, S. MacLeod, J.W. Stanford.

2009.39 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 Prejudicial Interests in items on this Agenda.

2009.40 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th February 2009, having been previously distributed, were taken as read, and were adopted (RAP/MB) without amendment.

2009.41 Planning.

a. New and Unresolved Planning Applications:

None.

b. Previous consultations.

None.

c. Planning Decisions:

None.

d. Other Planning Consultations:

None.

e. Other Planning Matters:

Worcester F.C.: Planning application re WFCF stadium - The clerk confirmed his written report re submission of the Council's response and a parishioner's objection thereto. A copy of the Minutes was passed to M. Hallmark for onward transmission to the complainant.

WMRSS: Members noted information received about a Technical Seminar on Water issues to be held on Wednesday 18 March 2009.

Worcestershire County Council: Waste Policy Review: the Clerk referred members to the County Council's consultation via its website

Junction 6 Development: An update letter from Barton Willmore was reported, having been placed in the Circulation file

2009.42 Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.

a. Whittington Parish Meeting 2009. The Clerk having received no response to his request was asked to pursue the availability of a speaker.

2009.43 Finance.

The Clerk reported as follows: -

a. Receipts: £168 received from WCC re Lengthsman.

b. Payments: The following invoices and requests for payment were submitted for payment

| | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| S. Gwilliam - Lengthsman Services for February 2009 | £120.00 | £120.00 |
| S. Gwilliam - Litterpicking Services for February 2009 | £35.00 | £35.00 |
| S MacLeod - reimbursement of cost of flowers for N. Rogers | £31.98 | £31.98 |
| Totals | £186.98 | £186.98 |

The Chairman reported a note of thanks from Mrs Rogers for the flowers.

Payment was agreed (MB/MH).

c. Proposals for Expenditure. To consider proposals for budgeted expenditure.

None.

d. Request for Rural Rate Relief by Local Business.

An application for Rural Rate Relief had been made to WDC by Mr & Mrs Pugh of Activ-8. The views of the Council were sought. Members considered that the business had done little to integrate into the Community and found it difficult to accept that 30% of the business was parish based and thus agreed to respond that "The business is not considered to be of benefit to the local community."

e. Wychavon D.C. Grants in 2009-2010.

a) members noted the availability of the Wychavon D.C. Community Grant

b) The Wychavon Village Clean Up grant/bursary - The clerk reported being informally advised that this would not be on offer this year.

f. Banking Arrangements.

The Clerk reported that he hoped the protracted process of closure of RBS accounts was coming to an end but final balances not yet confirmed. The "closing cheque" had been made payable to P.S. Roe, a/c payee. To expedite finalising this matter the Council's Authority was sought for the Clerk to pay this amount to his

personal account on the understanding that when cleared, the funds will be transferred without undue delay to WPC accounts at HSBC Worcester. This was agreed (RAP/MB) unanimously.

HSBC accounts: The Clerk - in the absence of the RFO advised that he felt the following arrangements were best suited to maximise returns.

Current account c£200

Deposit (immediate access) account c£1,000 at beginning of each half year. 50% of the precept would be received at the end of the month

6m Fixed Term deposit account £5,000

12m Fixed term deposit account £Balance (rounded)

Members concurred and agreed (RAP/MB) that the Clerk be authorised to operate along these lines making transfers as necessary between accounts.

- g. Responsible Financial Officer: The Clerk advised that J.W. Stanford had indicated that he might not wish to continue in this role next year, and wished the Council be forewarned of the likely need to appoint a new RFO at the May (Annual) Meeting.

2009.44 Highways & Byways.

a. Highways:

General.

The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman's contract had been renewed for 2009-2010 as agreed, subject to WCC continuing the Lengthsman Scheme.

WCC had confirmed the 2009-2010 Lengthsman Scheme: now £2100 p.a. The Clerk sought approval to renew the agreement with WCC which was given (MB/RAP)

M5 Noise: Nothing to report.

Maintenance:

Works for the Lengthsman: None submitted.

Previous Matters: No reports

New Matters: None raised.

Traffic Management:

Previous Matters: None raised.

New Matters: None raised.

b. Byways:

General: } No matters

Bridleways: } raised

Footpaths: It was reported that the footpath leading from the road near the J7 roundabout to the top of Crookbarrow Hill (The Tump) was obstructed. The Clerk had looked into this and advised that no Public Right of Way (PRoW) appeared on the Definitive Map of the area.

Members were adamant that there had been a public footpath to the top of the Tump, and asked the Clerk to pursue the matter.

2009.45 Training.

None reported.

2009.46 S.M.J. Tanner Memorial.

Red Hawthorn: The Chairman's efforts to make arrangements having proved abortive, the Clerk was requested to make formal contact with L.R. Wiltshire regarding siting, and with Mrs Rogers (SMJT's widow) to make arrangements for a planting ceremony.

Oak: Nothing to report.

2009.47 Use of Rear Access to Whittington School.

No further action proposed pending safety officer's attendance at the Parish Meeting.

2009.48 Matters arising from the Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit Arrangements.

N. Hodgetts - who carried out the review - was not present. The Clerk endeavoured to report his concerns but

Members were reticent to make change and felt that the matter should be placed in abeyance, until further information was available.

2009.49 Whittington Parish Council Website.

Despite being directed to the "My Parish - Whittington" website prior to the meeting Members had not viewed the facility offered by WCC.

It was decided to adjourn the matter to the next meeting to allow members to view the site.

2009.50 Arrangements for erection of storage facility for Aquasacs at WWH.

No quotation had been received from Brian Saunders. The Clerk was asked to chase the matter.

2009.51 Flood Alleviation Support Grant Scheme.

Members noted the availability of a further grant but felt it could be better used elsewhere in the district and declined to make application.

2009.52 Sporting Events.

a. Wychavon Parish Games 2009. There was no interest in these.

b. Members noted the availability of WDC sponsored Coaching. This was to be reported to the School - the Chairman took the relevant letter to do so.

2009.53 District and County Councillors' and Police Reports – For Information.

After apologising for late arrival, County and District Councillor Adams reported on budgets which gave Council Tax increases of 2.94% and 2.5% respectively. The County Council had set aside 3m for footways repair (the Chairman highlighted the poor condition of the first section of footway on the B4084 east of J7) and £2m for further flood alleviation work.

Suggestions from the Clerk having not been acceptable to WDC, he sought inspiration for the use of his discretionary grant in Whittington, but none was forthcoming. Members preferred that it be allocated to Norton's Parish Plan rather than remain unused.

A questionnaire regarding transport needs in the area was to be sent out; he encouraged those consulted to respond.

R.A. Phillips forcefully represented the view that the residents should not be viewed as an endless money supply, that they expected to see something for their money, and that Authorities needed to consider reducing costs (he mentioned pensions).

2009.54 Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas.

- a) Reports of Committees and Working Groups and of Councillors representing the Council on outside bodies. None.
- b) To receive reports of Councillors on other matters. None.
- c) To note inclusion of specific items on a future agenda. None.

2009.55 To recommend items for inclusion in the Parish Magazine.

None recommended in the absence of S. MacLeod.

2009.56 Correspondence.

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

The Clerk reported Area Forums scheduled in the District, noting especially that at Pershore in which "Area" Whittington had asked to be placed.

Mrs Hallmark circulated a letter of thanks from Ann Price regarding her nomination to the Wychavon Bursary.

2009.57 Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be Tuesday 12th May 2009 at Whittington Village Hall. The Parish Meeting was scheduled for 28th April.

The meeting closed at 20.32 Hrs