

**At a Meeting of Whittington Parish Council held at Whittington Village Hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012, at 19.00 Hrs.**

**Democratic Period/ Question Time:** A period of thirty minutes was allowed before the commencement of the Parish Council Meeting proper to allow members of the public to address the Parish Council in regard to matters on this agenda or to raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Council.

Councillor Rob Adams was present with his Colleague Councillor Robinson. Both remained throughout this session, neither expressed any view or made any comment.

Others in attendance included a number of residents of the Kilbury Drive estate, who wished to address the Council on matters relating to the Planning Application for Ufnells Farm. The majority of these whilst not supportive of the proposed development indicated that they understood that additional housing was required but that they had concerns about the access to the new development, which they considered inadequate and likely to lead to greater use as a "rat run". Most favoured access from Swinesherd Way.

Other concerns relating to the development related to surface & foul water disposal. A representative of the developers indicated that the concerns expressed by the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water were being addressed and it was anticipated that the end result would be independent systems which in the case of foul water would also take some of the load from the existing estate properties. It was anticipated that the arrangements would result in an overall improvement in these areas for the residents.

Concern was expressed regarding the school infrastructure. The area would fall within Whittington Primary School's catchment area, and the school was already at capacity.

Reference was made to planning benefits including contributions to education, improvement of the shopping centre on Kilbury Drive, and agreement to assist with the redevelopment of Whittington Village Hall.

Noise from the M5 and Swinesherd way was raised as a problem to existing residents of Kilbury Drive Estate.

Reference was made to other developments where - once they had secured approval for development - the developers modified the application to almost double the number of dwellings on the site. The representative of Bloor Homes assured everyone that that would not be the case in this instance, and that this was not how his company operated.

The Chairman closed this session at approximately 19:30 hrs. Indicating that Members would be debating the application in Council soon, and that people were welcome to remain or leave as they wished.

**2012.01 Attendance.**

Present: S.L. Brooker, A. Lodge, S. MacLeod, P.J. Wood, C.A. Smith.

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

Apologies: R. Grant, M. Hallmark.

**2012.02 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.

**2012.03 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.**

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011, having been previously distributed were taken as read, and adopted (SM/SLB) without amendment.

**2012.04 Planning.**

- a. New and Unresolved Planning Applications:

**Application Number:** W/11/02390/PN

**Applicant:** Bloor Homes Ltd.

**Location:** Land adjacent Kilbury Drive, off Spetchley Road, Whittington

**Proposal:** Erection of 257 Dwellings including a proportion of Affordable Housing, new access off Walkers Lane and Staplow Road, provision of open space including an equipped area of play and community allotments, internal estate roads and associated works

**Agents:** Savills, Oxford

**WPC Response:** The Clerk had reviewed the application and comments relating thereto on the Wychavon DC website and had summarised them. A copy of this summary was supplied to each Councillor present; the Chairman indicated that he considered this an accurate and useful tool for the Council's use.

Members noted the concerns expressed by members of the public at the commencement of the meeting & the Clerk's summary of responses on the Wychavon DC website and carefully considered the application seeking clarification on some points from the gallery, for which the Chairman suspended Standing Orders. After some debate it was agreed (SLB/SM) that the Clerk be instructed to respond indicating support in principle for the development but expressing the Council's views in respect of the following:

Access Routes: Members were very concerned at the currently proposed access arrangements, notably the limitations of existing roads to support the additional load, the concerns of residents regarding access for emergency vehicles, and opening up of a "rat run" through the estate. The Council strongly recommended that the Highway Authority be asked to reconsider its position regarding access and allow access from & egress to Swinesherd Way, preferably by a roundabout or by slip roads. It was accepted that this might require the speed limit on Swinesherd Way to be reduced, but this was by no means considered a bad thing both in terms of road safety and noise pollution. Whittington Parish Council would ask that the Planning Authority consult further with

the Highway Authority to this end as this would alleviate the greatest single objection to the development, and bring with it benefits to existing and future residents.

Flooding: Foul Water Disposal. Members noted the concerns expressed by members of the public and on the Wychavon DC website and had been pleased to receive the assurances of the developers that revisions were in train to provide separate foul water disposal for the new development which would also be designed to take some of the load of the existing Kilbury Drive development to alleviate the problems experienced there recently and over many years.

Surface Water Disposal. Members accepted the concerns expressed by members of the public and on the Wychavon DC website and had been pleased to receive the assurances of the developers that they were currently in consultation with Wychavon D.C. engineers and the Environment Agency to agree arrangements for safe storage and run off of surface water.

Infrastructure: Members noted that the new development would fall within the catchment area of Whittington Primary School and sought clarification from the County Council as to how the School would be expanded to allow an increased intake - in the past children already at school coming to live in Whittington have been unable to get into Whittington C.E. Primary School. In the light of past (and continuing) concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians at the Swinesherd Way roundabout members also sought clarification of what arrangements would be made to safeguard them en route to the school.

Open Space Provision: Members sought clarification from the Developers of the proposed arrangements for ongoing management of the public open spaces which were to be provided, and were pleased to hear that a Management Company, funded by residents, would be set up for this purpose.

Village Hall: Members noted the offer made by the developers to provide Financial (or other) Assistance to the Village in the redevelopment of the Village Hall and asked the Planning Authority to liaise with the Village Hall Management Committee to include adequate provision in its conditions of Planning Permission, to ensure that this ensued.

Public Right of Way: Members asked how Footpath 512 was to be protected. The developers advised that negotiations were taking place with the County Council to ensure its continuance in the long term on its existing line, although a temporary closure might be necessary during construction for health and safety reasons. Members were pleased to hear this and that the developers hoped to provide further footpaths as part of the open space development.

b. Previous consultations: None.

c. Planning Decisions: To receive reports of Planning decisions and Appeal decisions notified to the Council.

W/11/02349/OU: Land off, Walkers Lane, Whittington; outline application for the erection of 17 Houses, New access, Parking, Amenity Areas and Associated Works; Antringham Developments Ltd. Although the Clerk had not received formal notice he understood that the application had been approved.

P08Q0652 (Worcester City): Land East of Nunnery Way; full details approval for the erection of a sports stadium for Worcester City Football Club with commercial activities; St. Modwen Developments Ltd. Although the Clerk had not received formal notice he understood that the application had been approved, but with some modification since the Council considered the application in July.

d. Other Planning Consultations: None.

e. Other Planning Matters: None.

#### **2012.05 Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.**

a. Wychavon Bursary: The Clerk reported that no nominations had been received so no item was tabled.

b. Other Matters: None

#### **2012.06 Finance.**

The Clerk reported as follows: -

a. Receipts: since the last meeting: WCC re. Lengthsman - £369.60(Sept & Oct.); Hallow P. C. £200 paid with thanks re bulb purchase; HSBC Interest c22p/month.

b. Payments: a list of payments, invoices and requests for payment totalling £582.41 was submitted. Payment of all was approved (SLB/CS).

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

i) Budgeted expenditure: None

ii) Other expenditure: A request has been received from Wychavon CAB for funding assistance. The Clerk was asked to reply as previously indicating Whittington's proximity to and affinity for facilities in Worcester.

d. Quarterly Accounts Report: The quarterly accounts report to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 having been previously sent to Members the Clerk offered to take questions. There were none and the report was adopted (SLB/SM) as submitted.

e. For Info only: The Clerk reported that the Council had been unable to meet the deadline on the offer reported. He understood that NatWest make similar offers periodically, but he had not yet had time to resolve the matter but it seemed that a new current account might be required the cost of which he thought might defray any benefits of the increased interest. He also expressed reservations about the bank which was part of the same Group as Royal Bank of Scotland with which the Council had severed its connections not long ago. He also wondered - in the light of developments with the Village Hall - whether this was the right time to make a long term commitment of the Council's reserves.

## **2012.07 Highways & Byways.**

### **a. Highways Matters:**

#### General:

Members were advised that a temporary 30 m.p.h. order was proposed for Crookbarrow Way and Whittington Road in respect of the proposed "Swan Roundabout" improvement works - anticipated duration 33 weeks from 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012. Members were of the view that temporary traffic lights might be needed to facilitate egress from the village during the works if single lane working was applied. The Clerk was to mention this to the Highway Authority

The Council had been asked by WCC if it would take ownership of a bus shelter to be provided by the County Council at the relocated Worcester bound stop between the veterinary surgery and the pedestrian crossing.

Members asked for more information to be obtained in order that they might make an informed decision.

C. Smith asked if the Council had received a response to consultations with the Council and members of the public; it had not. The Clerk was asked to invite the engineers responsible for the project to attend the next meeting of the Council.

#### M5 Noise

None

#### Maintenance:

Works for the Lengthsman:

None

#### Previous Matters:

The Council was informed that the Highway Authority had inspected the footway near the gateway on the B4084 just East of the M5 Motorway J7 roundabout, but no action had been decided upon pending inspection of other footways being similarly assessed. The Chairman reported on the increased littering in the gateway, which had been noted by others. The matter was to be raised with the County & District Councils. The Chairman suggested that the Highways Agency (responsible for the M5) might have some responsibility. WCC had advised that the "dropped" gulleys on Church Lane had been inspected. The outcome was unknown.

#### New Matters:

Grit Bins: The Clerk advised that the grit bin on Old Road at the school entrance did not appear to have been "adopted" by WCC. He had written & the anomaly was being investigated. He asked that Councillors please advise as & when the bins are nearing empty so that he could ask for refills.

#### Traffic Management:

##### Previous Matters:

M5 Motorway J7 roundabout: WCC had advised that the provision of direction arrows on the carriageway on the approach to J7 (from Worcester) would be implemented as part of the Swan island improvements.

Supplementary signs were also being considered.

Crookbarrow Way: WCC had advised that the formation of 2 running lanes on the approach to the Norton island would be provided as part of the Swan island improvement works.

Swinesherd Way Roundabout: Advice of further incidents at this location had been received and some passed on to WCC. The Highways liaison engineer had responded that if WPC had any new ideas to offer then these would be considered. The Chairman opened the meeting to allow public comment. It was suggested that the road surface might be affected by rubber deposition from large articulated vehicles whose rear axle tyres scuffed as they negotiated the island and that perhaps an anti-skid safety surface would be appropriate.

Councillor Adams indicated that he felt that use of the parish's DFS in this area would help to reduce speeds. If the Council agreed he undertook to raise this with Highways engineers.

##### New Matters:

Request for assistance with funding of a new pedestrian crossing on St Peters Drive: Following the request for further information from St. Peters Parish Council their Clerk's response had been circulated.

It was agreed (SLB/CS) that WPC decline to provide any contribution since it was a small parish and already had funding commitments and budgetary concerns. It was suggested that St. Peters P.C. might be advised to seek funding from Tesco who were the primary beneficiaries of the anticipated pedestrian traffic.

DFS: the latest "download" report was in the Circulation File.

### **b. Byways Matters:**

None.

## **2012.08 Training.**

No relevant training was reported.

## **2012.09 Amendment of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.**

- a. Members were informed that the working group met on 7<sup>th</sup> December and reviewed the new NALC Model Standing Orders and agreed modifications thereto. Following this meeting (notably the following item) the draft would be circulated and considered for adoption at a future meeting of the Council
- b. Members were advised of the requirements under the Model S.O.'s for the electronic service of summonses to meetings and unanimously agreed (SLB/AL) the motion "That this Council considers that service of summons on councillors confirming the time, date, venue and the agenda for a meeting by delivery or post at their residences at least 3 clear days before a meeting is not expedient."

### **2012.10 Budget & Precept 2012-2013.**

The Chairman indicated that this item would be discussed later in the meeting. It was debated after item 2012.22 but for reasons of continuity is minuted in numerical sequence.

The RFO explained the draft budget which had been sent out prior to the meeting, based on the estimates prepared at the last meeting and taking into account the inflationary pressures (2.5% + 5%) since the precept was last altered. He explained that this resulted in an increase in the precept of £475, or just over £2 p.a. on a band D property using the last "band D equivalent" figure (advised in 2009).

After much soul searching and debate Councillors reluctantly but unanimously accepted (SLB/AL) the Draft Budget submitted by the RFO and agreed (SLB/AL) unanimously to set the precept for 2012-2013 at £6575.

### **2012.11 Parish/Neighbourhood Plan.**

The Chairman reported that every house in the Parish had received one of the flyers advertising the meeting, and confirmed Members' availability on 24<sup>th</sup> January. He indicated that he would provide further information to them nearer the date.

The Clerk reported that 20 individual invitations had been sent out; so far 5 positive responses had been received. He sought advice as to how many to cater for in terms of refreshments - members agreed 50. Wine and soft drinks were to be provided along with finger foodstuffs such as crisps etc.

### **2012.12 Clerk's Contract of Employment.**

The Chairman explained the advice received from Worcestershire CALC relevant to provisions in the Clerk's Contract of Employment in respect of payment of a gratuity.

Members took the view that the Council having agreed to pay a gratuity at the time the Clerk was employed should do so.

The Clerk explained that due to changes in the law since inception of his contract (which provided therefor) the level of payment had reduced to 3.75% from 5%, but that the provision in his contract which allowed variation in accordance with the law could mean that no gratuity could legally be paid after 16<sup>th</sup> January. CALC advised that removal of that provision and stipulation of the currently applicable payment regime should secure the Council's position and the Clerk's gratuity. Members unanimously agreed (SLB/PJW) therefore to delete the words "or any enactment amending or replacing the same" from item 18 of the Clerk's contract of employment and to replace reference to "the Local Government Superannuation Regulations 1986 (as substituted by the Local Government Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 1987)" by reference to "the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996".

An appropriate amendment to the Clerk's contract of employment was signed by the Chairman, vice Chairman and Clerk.

### **2012.13 Parish Magazine/Parish Council Newsletter.**

There had been no further developments and the matter was adjourned to a future meeting.

### **2012.14 Wychavon Youth Bus.**

Members noted the information obtained about this facility and decided (SLB/PJW) to have a trial use of the facility.

The Chairman sought agreement from the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee to locate the bus at the Hall one evening in April. This being given the Clerk was asked to liaise and make the necessary arrangements.

### **2012.15 Worcestershire Agreement.**

In view of the time this item was adjourned to a future agenda.

### **2012.16 Sport Relief 2012.**

This having been included at the suggestion of the vice Chairman it was agreed to ask her to make further investigation and if it was feasible for the village still to participate in a Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile, she was to liaise with the Clerk to co-ordinate arrangements.

### **2012.17 Pershore Volunteer Service.**

Members agreed (SLB/CS) that a representative of Pershore Volunteer Centre be invited to address the Community at the Parish Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

### **2012.18 District and County Councillors' Report – For Information.**

County and District Councillor Adams reported on efforts to improve broadband speeds in the County and asked if Whittington Parish Council wished to engage in the process. It did and C. Smith was deputed to act as the Council's representative.

The Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison Group was to meet the following evening (Wednesday 13/1/2012).

He suggested that M. Digger be asked to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss road safety and speed enforcement matters, Members concurred.

### **2012.19 Police Report - For Information.**

No representative of West Mercia Police was present.

The Clerk referred to the incident reports sent out by PCSO Ben Allchurch which he now circulated to Members on receipt, and asked if this was suitable for Members. They found the arrangement quite suitable.

The Chairman closed the meeting temporarily to allow public comment.

It was suggested that double yellow lines might be provided on the B4084 near the gateway where damage & litter were previously reported

M. Baker reported recurrence of the major drainage problems at “Wychwood” on the Pershore Road relating to the failure of the highway drainage system which he believed once again to be blocked. He sought a “once & for all” solution.

The meeting was reconvened.

**2012.20 Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas.**

- a. Reports of Committees and Working Groups and of Councillors representing the Council on outside bodies.  
WPC staffing Committee: Nothing to report.  
Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison Group: M. Baker undertook to report to the next meeting following the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January, in the interim broken glass continued to be a problem on the B4084.  
West Wychavon PACT: Nothing to report.  
Worcestershire CALC: Nothing to report.  
Whittington School: Nothing to report.  
Whittington Village Hall: Nothing to report.
- b. Reports of Councillors on other matters. C. Smith reported that the unfinished “zig-zag” markings on old Road, at the entrance to the school, required completion.
- c. Items for a future agenda. The Clerk had noted a request to discuss litterpicking in the village.

**2012.21 Inclusion of items in the Parish Magazine.**

Items to be included this month were Litter, Precept, Grit Bins, Swan Roundabout, and the Youth Bus.

**2012.22 Correspondence.**

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

The following items were reported having just been received:

WDC Standards Committee Notice of & agenda for Meeting Weds. 18/1/2012 18:15 at Committee Rooms Civic Centre, Pershore.

Worcestershire County Council Budget Consultation Briefing Weds. 18/1/2012 18:00 for 18:30 at County Hall.

**2012.23 Date of Next Meeting.**

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012, at Whittington Village Hall.

**The Meeting closed at 21:55 hrs**