

At a Meeting of Whittington Parish Council held at Whittington Village Hall on Tuesday 13th November 2012 at 19:30 Hrs.

Democratic Period/ Question Time: Four Parishioners were present. One asked if there was any further information regarding the Uffnells Farm development. The Clerk advised that subsequent to the Public and Parish Council meetings relating to this development on 30th October the Parish Council's response had been submitted to the Planning Authority and he had no further information. A question was asked about the Village Centre (Pond Farm) development. The Clerk explained that the owner and his agent had intended to be present but had decided not to. The scheme was understood to be ongoing.

Another Parishioner reported on the problems of Parking in the village, his comments were endorsed by others, and the Clerk explained that the Chairman was aware of the problems and felt that this should be a matter for discussion and a co-ordinated response, and that he anticipated a further meeting might be called. Parking by school parents combined with the parking of large vehicles outside the church was reported as creating a potential problem of access for emergency vehicles.

A parishioner pointed out that remedial work had been asked for in respect of the footway at the B 4084/M5 Motorway J7 roundabout a very long time ago but that no action had been taken.

Martin Baker reported on the Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison Group - see 2012.145.

2012.130 Attendance.

Present: J.E. Chamberlain, S. MacLeod, C.A. Smith, P.J. Wood. In the absence of the Chairman, S. MacLeod (vice chairman) took the chair for the meeting.

In Attendance: P.S. Roe, Clerk.

Apologies: S.L. Brooker, District & County Councillor R.C. Adams.

2012.131 Declarations of Interest, Dispensations, and Ethical Matters.

- a. There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on this Agenda.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interests in items on this Agenda.

The Clerk pointed out the situation relating to Councillors' interest in the setting of the precept if they lived in the Parish and the need for Councillors so affected to request a dispensation in this respect.

c. Dispensations: A request from Councillor McLeod for grant of dispensation had been received re Precepting and related matters. Councillors Smith and Wood were supplied with forms to submit similar request following which the Chairman adjourned this item until after item 2012.138 to allow their completion.

When the matter was brought back to the table it was agreed (JEC/CS) to grant a dispensation from the requirements of S31 of the Localism Act 2011 to Councillors McLeod, Smith, and Wood in respect of matters pertaining to the setting of the Council's Annual Estimates, Budget, and Precept. The dispensation was to last for four years or for the life of the present Council whichever was the less.

d. Ethical Matters. None raised.

2012.132 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30th October 2012 having been previously distributed were taken as read, and adopted (JC/CS) without amendment.

2012.133 Co-option of Members to fill vacancies on the Council.

There were no applicants to fill the two vacancies on the Council.

Members considered ways of encouraging people to join with suggestions including advertising in the free press, the School Newsletter, and re-mailing parishioners, while continuing to advertise the vacancies in the Parish Magazine and on the Council's notice boards. A parishioner requested two application forms which the Clerk was to send

2012.134 Planning.

- a. New and Unresolved Planning Applications: None.
- b. Previous consultations: None to report.
- c. Planning Decisions: None received.
- d. Other Planning Consultations:

Worcestershire County Council: Minerals Local Plan details of the Plan had been forwarded to Members, who had no comments.

e. Other Planning Matters: None Raised.

2012.135 Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.

- a. Parish/Neighbourhood Plan: The Clerk explained that this matter had been removed from this agenda, pending a meeting with F. Davies 21/11/2012. JEC asked to attend this.
- b. Other Matters: None

2012.136 Finance.

The Clerk reported as follows: -

- a. Receipts: since the last meeting: HSBC Interest HRDB - £27.09 (net - to be corrected) Dep. a/c22p
- b. Payments: a list of invoices and requests for payment totalling £292.00 was submitted. Payment was approved (SM/CS).

- c. Proposals for Expenditure.
 - i) Budgeted Expenditure: It was agreed (SM/PJW) to pay the budgeted Churchyard Maintenance Grant of £150.
 - ii) Other Expenditure: None proposed
- d. Other Finance Matters:

The Quarterly Accounts report to 30/9/2012 having been previously sent to Members was approved (CS/JEC) unanimously.

2012.137 Highways & Byways.

a. Highways Matters:

General:

Meeting with Jon Fraser & Roy Fullee The Clerk reported briefly on the meeting held on 6/11/2012. The meeting had been wide ranging, identifying “Highways” areas where it was felt that cooperation/action was lacking. A detailed written response was to be provided by the January meeting of the Council. Members suggested that Highways personnel be invited to attend that meeting, the Clerk counselled otherwise believing that the response should be analysed first, which Members accepted.

Maintenance:

Previous Matters:

B 4084/M5 Motorway J7 roundabout: Maintenance of footway NE corner: this had been mentioned at the above meeting

Old Road: Overgrown Hedges opposite the Swan. This was to be contracted out by WCC

Walkers Lane: Overgrown Hedges along lane. WCC had cut back a few brambles but declined further action.

New Matters: None

Traffic Management:

Previous Matters:

M5 Motorway J7 roundabout: Speed limit to be reduced - consultation started by WCC.

WCC had agreed to mark pedestrian/cycle route over island

Village Gatings: That at “Walkers Lane had been ordered - installation date to be advised. The “gating” at The Swan end of the village was being dealt with separately as part of the Roundabout Improvements, and as far as was known there had been no progress.

Speed enforcement B4084. } The Chairman had met with Chief Inspector Reakes-Williams

Enforcement of Access Only Order: } and Inspector Sean Kent, South Worcestershire Police. He had intended to report back to the Council at this meeting but had been unable to be present; however some of the Council’s concerns relating to speeding, road safety and Community Support Officers powers (or lack of Police powers) had been eased.

Yellow box junction markings at Swan Roundabout - no further response from WCC- see above

New Matters: None

DFS: Latest report in Circulation file.

b. Byways Matters:

General:

Bridleways:

Nothing further reported re BW RoW 523.

Footpaths:

Nothing further reported re obstruction of FP RoW 503

2012.138 Training.

Details of training offered by CALC had been sent to Members.

JEC had attended 2 training sessions in October and gave positive feedback, offering to fully brief Councillors at a future in-house training session

JEC would also like to attend a training session “Being a Better Councillor 2 - Financial planning” to be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 11th December 2012 at a cost of £50. Members agreed (SM/CS) that she attend.

2012.139 Estimates & Budgets for 2013-2014.

The Clerk/RFO indicated that with a few exceptions the Council’s income & expenditure was roughly in line with budget.

He explained that during the year to date various suggestions had been put forward requiring provision of funding and in order to progress with the budget he sought instruction re these and any other requirements. Members sought that provision be made (above and beyond the “normal”) for signage in conjunction with the Village Gatings and elsewhere, provision of bollards on roadsides, bulb planting, and Neighbourhood Planning meetings.

2012.140 Wheelie Bin Stickers.

Members briefly considered the purchase of speed limit stickers for fitting on Wheelie Bins, but since they spent most of their time out of sight no proposal was put forward.

2012.141 Trees on Crookbarrow Hill.

The Clerk's reported that WDC Trees Officer had advised that she had been considering the Council's request for a TPO to be placed on the Whittington Tump tree and it remained on the list of possible future Orders. There were issues however which needed further investigation, the most important of which is the status of the Tump as Scheduled Ancient Monument. She had promised to keep the Council updated.

2012.142 Neighbourhood Watch in Whittington.

In the absence of the Chairman who had requested this item be included, Members agreed that it be adjourned to the next meeting.

2012.143 District and County Councillors' Report – For Information.

Councillor Adams was not present

2012.144 Police Report - For Information.

West Mercia Police were not represented

2012.145 Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas.

- a. Reports of Committees and Working Groups and of Councillors & delegates representing the Council on outside bodies, to ask relevant questions, and to consider appropriate action.

WPC staffing Committee: Nothing to report.

Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison Group: M. Baker reported the continuing problem of accumulations of broken glass on the B4048 Pershore Road and the recent lack of meetings of the group and suggested that WPC liaise with Councillor Adams who chaired the liaison group.

West Wychavon PACT: The Council's representative C. Smith had not attended any recent meetings and had nothing to report.

Worcestershire CALC: The Council's representative J. Chamberlain had nothing to report.

Whittington School: The Council's representative S.L. Brooker was not present to make a report.

Whittington Village Hall: The Council's representative P.J. Wood reported that the Committee had met last week with M.A. Brown and N. Hodgetts to review revised proposals relating to design and funding of a new Village Hall.

- b. Reports of Councillors on other matters. None.
- c. Inclusion of specific items on a future agenda. None

2012.146 Inclusion of items in the Parish Magazine.

Items to be included this month were the tree on Crookbarrow Hill, selected Crime Reports received from PCSO Allchurch, Info re Parking, the Chairman's meeting with the Highway Authority, WCC Minerals Plan, Gating at Walkers lane and Casual Vacancies.

2012.147 Correspondence.

Correspondence received since the last meeting had been periodically sent out to individual responsible Members specifically, other more general items were included in the Correspondence File for circulation and were noted in the "Clerk's Digests".

2012.148 Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Meeting of the Council will be Tuesday 8th January 2013, at Whittington Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 21:20 Hrs.