

Democratic Period/ Question Time: No members of the public wished to speak.

2013.59 Attendance.

Present: M. Baker, S.L. Brooker, J.E. Chamberlain, A.J. Guy.

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

Apologies: S. MacLeod, C.A. Smith; P.J. Wood (received during meeting by text message)

2013.60 Declarations of Interest, Dispensations, and Ethical Matters.

- a. M. Baker declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in item 2013.62 (planning application W/13/00533/PP) on this Agenda.
- b. There were no declarations of Other Disclosable Interests in items on this Agenda.
- c. Dispensations: The Clerk reported that A.J. Guy had requested a dispensation in respect of matters pertaining to the setting of the Council's Annual Estimates, Budget, and Precept. The dispensation was granted by the Clerk under delegated powers and was to last for four years or for the life of the present Council whichever was the less. No new dispensations were sought.

2013.61 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th March 2013 having been previously distributed were taken as read, and adopted (SLB/MB) without amendment.

2013.62 Planning.

- a. New and Unresolved Planning Applications: M. Baker withdrew to the public gallery.
Application Number: W/13/00533/PP
Proposal: Garage conversion to form habitable ancillary accommodation.
Location: Grove Cottage, Whittington, Worcs.
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Baker
Remarks: Councillors had no objection or comment regarding the application
M. Baker returned to his place on the Council
- b. Previous consultations. None
- c. Planning Decisions: The following Planning decisions had been notified to the Council.
W/13/00268/PP - Single Storey rear extension, Vale House Old Road, Whittington, J. Deeley - Approved SYC (time, specified plans, completion of water management work).
W/13/00046/CU - Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden, land off Church Lane, Whittington, D. Baker, The Great Redfield Trust. Refused (out of character, potential for unauthorised structures, track would visually intrusive)
- d. Other Planning Consultations: To consider the Council's response to Planning Consultation Documents.
MHDC: had invited comment re Kempsey P.C.s application to be a Neighbourhood Planning Authority. Members did not wish to respond to MHDC formally but instructed (AJG/SLB) the Clerk to make contact with Kempsey P.C. as a neighbour P.C. to ask that WPC be kept up to speed with the process and development of their Neighbourhood Plan and especially any developments abutting the WPC Boundary. WPC would reciprocate in respect of its neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk expressed doubt that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area abutted Whittington Parish at all.
- e. Other Planning Matters:
Uffnells Farm development: The Chairman asked if any Councillor had anything further to report; no one did. The Chairman closed the meeting to ask District Councillor Adams if he had any knowledge of the situation. He advised that the Section 106 agreement was proving difficult as the Highway Authority was seeking a contribution of around £1m. The Chairman reconvened the meeting. The Clerk suggested that WPC might wish to write to the Planning Authority expressing the view that the contribution offered by the developers in respect of Parish Facilities should not be sacrificed to this demand: Members agreed unanimously.

2013.63 Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.

None

2013.64 Finance.

The Clerk reported as follows: -

- a Receipts: since the last meeting: HSBC Interest 22p. A Credit Note for £10 had been obtained from CALC re the training the Clerk did not attend. A VAT recovery of £226.10 had been made and received. WCC re Lengthsman - £485.10 awaited re January, February & March 2013.
- b Payments: a list of invoices and requests for payment totalling £988.22 was submitted. Payment was approved (SLB/MB).
- c Proposals for Expenditure. None
- d Approval/adoption of Annual Accounts for 2012-2013. Draft accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members approved (SLB/MB) the Summary Account which the Chairman signed. Members also reviewed the Annual Return and agreed (SLB/AJG) that Section 1 - Accounting Statements 2012/13 be approved; it was signed by the Chairman. Section 2 would be discussed at the May Meeting.

e Other Finance Matters:

High Interest Deposit Bond with HSBC. The Clerk had reported the details of the arrangement and in view of the likely need to change banks in the future advised against renewal. The Chairman took the view that a six month commitment was justifiable and proposed that the bond be renewed. Being seconded by M. Baker this was agreed.

Cheque Signatories - Bank mandate. Members unanimously agreed that completion of a new list of signatories be delayed until the New Clerk was in place.

Payment of Clerk's Salary - The Instruction to cancel the Clerk's Salary payment (S.O.) required countersignature, which the Chairman provided.

2013.65 Highways & Byways.

a. Highways Matters:

General:

A copy of the response from WCC to WPC's complaint re the Highway Authority's failure to respond to meeting 6/11/2013 as promised had been sent to Members before the meeting, along with the Clerk's explanations and updates.. Members reviewed this in detail instructing the Clerk how to respond in respect of each item.

M5 Noise: Nothing reported

Maintenance:

Works for the Lengthsman: None

Previous Matters:

Old Road: Overgrown Hedges opposite the Swan reported - action was awaited.

New Matters: None

Traffic Management:

Previous Matters:

Advertisements on Roundabouts & elsewhere in Whittington still o/s

New Matters: None

DFS: Latest report in Circulation file

b. Byways Matters:

General:

A.J. Guy asked if there had been any further response from the Countryside Access Officer to the complaints submitted following the last meeting. The Clerk advised that there had not and that he would expect to pursue this for the next meeting.

2013.66 Training.

Nothing raised.

2013.67 Neighbourhood Plan & Whittington Parish Neighbourhood Development Forum

The Chairman explained his concerns about the inclusion of a "pecuniary interest" clause in the Constitution which he considered was undesirable. Not all Members agreed. The Chairman indicated that he considered such a clause would make the constitution unworkable and that he would not be prepared to chair the WPNDF with such a clause in place. He had instructed the Clerk not to delay in sending off the application, then to hold off from so doing and then to send a modified submission. The Clerk had declined to accept the last instruction believing that the Chairman was acting ultra vires, (the Chairman did not share this view) and that the last instructions he had received from the Council and the WPNDF were to submit the application in its entirety. If that was not now required he sought instruction from the Council as to what was required. Members agreed (SLB/JEC) that the minimum submission be made comprising the Application and Neighbourhood Planning Area map only. The other parts of the original application would be reviewed and finalised at future meetings of the WPNDF and the Council.

2013.68 Annual Parish Meeting 30th April 2013.

The Clerk advised that the invitation to the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting and nomination forms for election to the WPNDF had been included in the Parish Magazine as agreed. Some had already been delivered and the Clerk had received one nomination form.

The Clerk submitted the Public Notices of the Meeting on 30th April (for the Notice Boards) for signature by the Chairman. These were duly signed and later posted. An explanatory notice referring to the "Whittington Green Project" prepared by the Clerk in response to a request from the Council was not approved for display.

2013.69 Renewal of Lengthsman Contract with WCC

Members agreed (SLB/AKG) to renew the contract with WCC for WPC to provide Lengthsman Service.

2013.70 District and County Councillors' Report – For Information.

County and District Councillor Adams reported on the new season of "WDC Youth Bus" activity, the forthcoming centenary of the First World War and Worcester City's intention to provide a focus for remembrance, and the progress of the project for provision of improved Broadband Service in the County.

2013.71 Police Report - For Information.

No police representative was present.

The Chairman closed the meeting temporarily to allow public comment.

N. Hodgetts commented on the intended election of Individual Members of the WPNDF at the Parish Meeting when there was presently no agreed constitution.

The meeting was reconvened.

2013.72 Reports by Councillors and Delegates, and Items for Future Agendas.

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

WPC staffing Committee: S.L. Brooker had nothing to report.

Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison Group: At the Chairman's request M. Baker reiterated the advices given at the last meeting.

West Wychavon PACT: At the Chairman's request M. Baker reiterated the advices given at the last meeting.

Worcestershire CALC: The Council's representative J.E. Chamberlain referred to the training session run by CALC on 19th March on "Financial Responsibilities" which she had found extremely relevant. She also proposed to attend the Neighbourhood Watch AGM at Hindlip on 24th April.

Whittington School: The Council's representative S.L. Brooker reported that the Head Teacher had indicated that he did not wish the School to be represented on the WPNDF.

Whittington Village Hall: The Council's representative P.J. Wood was not present.

- b. Reports of Councillors on other matters. None

- c. Inclusion of specific items on a future agenda.

Section 2 - Statement of Assurance on Annual Return,
Neighbourhood Plan,
Youth Bus.

2013.73 Inclusion of items in the Parish Magazine.

Items to be included this month were a canvass of interest in the Youth Bus and of support for the new Worcestershire flag.

2013.74 Correspondence.

Some 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".

The following items were drawn to Members attention for possible response:

Wychavon Parish Games - details in Circulation File

2013.75 Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Scheduled Meeting of the Council was Tuesday 14th May 2013, at Whittington Village Hall, but as he was not able to attend the Chairman proposed that the meeting be held on 21st May, which was acceptable to most Members present. The Parish Meeting was planned for 30th April.

2013.76 That, due to the sensitive, personal and confidential nature of many aspects of the following item the Public & Press be directed to withdraw.

Being no longer appropriate this motion was not put.

2013.77 To note the situation regarding employment of a new Clerk and to take any necessary action.

The Chairman advised that the original interviews had had to be cancelled. A new panel comprising J.E. Chamberlain, A.J. Guy and S. MacLeod was to be convened for the evening of 17th April. The Clerk was to make the necessary arrangements and to attend to provide technical support.

The Meeting closed at 21:42 Hrs.