

Whittington Parish Council



Clerk to the Council: Carol Chambers, 1 Crookbarrow Cottage, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RL
Email whittingtonpc@live.co.uk: **Tele** 01905 358470
Web Site Worcester.gov.uk/myparish **Facebook**.com/whittingtonpc

Minutes of the meeting of Whittington Parish Council held on 10 November 2015 at 19.30 at Whittington Village Hall

Democratic Period/ Question Time

Parishioners expressed concerned about the trees that were cut down on Swinesherd bypass, they were amazed at the total destruction of the trees. They were aware that the trees were felled because they were growing into the power lines, but thought that the trees could have been topped rather than felled.

Parishioners expressed concern that the village had become a 'rat run' to avoid traffic tailbacks on Swinesherd bypass and Whittington Road, they added that the village had an Access Only Order in place noted that the people who do not observe the Order could be prosecuted, parishioners were worried that the police did not seem to want up hold the law and that the police seemed to be using a blanket discretion and not the enforcement of the law. Parishioners also expressed concern about the speed of the traffic that drove through the village and thought that 30mph was to fast. They also spoke of accidents and near misses that they had had when driving to and from their homes.

1) Attendance and Apologies -

Those Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Macleod
Councillors: Cllr M Baker, Cllr A Guy, Cllr F Richards
Officers: Mrs C Chambers (Parish Clerk)
Attendees: 4 parishioners

1) Attendance and Apologies - Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Clark, Cllr Rob Adams, PCSO Julie Pardoe. Mr David Chestney Chairman of the ERDG.

The Chair announced that Miss Pat Whitehead had resigned as Councillor for personal reasons.

2) Declarations of Interest and Ethical Matters.

- a To receive declarations of Personal (non prejudicial) Interests in items on this Agenda and their nature. **None.**
- b To receive declarations of Prejudicial Interests in items on this Agenda and their nature. **None.**
- c Ethical Matters. **None.**

3) Minutes of previous meeting of the Council. The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2015 had been circulated to all Members with the agenda it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

4) Community Issues

a. Trees at Swinesherd. The Clerk informed the Council that the trees were marked with paint months before they were felled. The Clerk had taken photos of the trees and emailed them to the Tree Warden Mr David Hallmark, he had contacted WCC they had informed Mr Hallmark that the trees were to be felled to stop the trees growing into the overhead power lines. A parishioner whose land was adjacent to the boarder of the tree line had written to Cllr Baker, the parishioner was surprised at the damage of the trees and was not consulted before hand. Cllr Baker thought that the trees formed a noise reduction barrier therefore the trees should have remained and not totally removed, he added that the trees could have been managed to avoid growth into the power cables. Cllr Guy also reiterated that the felling of the trees was extreme, he added that tree preservation orders in other areas of the parish should be made to prevent trees being unnecessarily felled. To was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact WCC for a new tree warden following the resignation of Mr Hallmark, It was also **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the power company to have the trees reinstated.

b. School Parking. A parishioner had reported to the Council with regards to school parking The Council **RESOLVED** that the school traffic has a right of access to the village and Cllr Richards would liaise with the School.

c. Barriers on Swinesherd Roundabout

Following another incident on the Swinesherd Roundabout several parishioners expressed concern that the barriers at Swinesherd were inadequate and would not/do not protect pedestrians. Parishioners were concerned that pedestrians would be injured as the barriers had been bent onto the footpath which demonstrated that the barriers were not strong enough to protect pedestrians. The Chairman had spoken to Jon Fraser of Highways and he would be in contact with her to discuss the issue. Cllr Guy reassured parishioners that the Council had, on several occasions tried to resolved this problem. Cllr Adams was to continue chase up the issue with the relevant authority.

d. Continuing Issue of Village Rat Run at Peak Times

The speed of the traffic which used the village as a rat run was raised, a parishioner suggested speed bumps, but Jon Fraser had confirmed to the Chairman that street lighting had to be in place for speed bumps. Cllr Baker confirmed that several surveys had taken place in the past but nothing had been resolved. Cllr Adams reported that he had been advised to get a survey of the village to confirm what parishioners wanted and then petition the relevant authorities. Following discussions took place on speed bumps, one way lane, more double yellow lines and additional speed sign. Cllr Adams would get a representative from Highways and/or WCC to attend a site meeting.

5) New Planning Application / Consultation

- a. W/15/02129/PN** - <http://bit.ly/1OdsOwk>
Bloor Homes
Land Adjacent Kilbury Drive off, Spetchley Road, Spetchley
Substitution of house types on 62 plots following grant of planning permission
reference W/12/02045/PN.
It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that there was no objection to this application.

- b. **W/15/01514/OU** - <http://bit.ly/1eLuuSI>
Robert Hitchins Limited
Residential development (up to 300 dwellings), including infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space, and landscaping. Access from the A4440 Swinesherd Way.
All matters reserved.
Land Rear of Hill House, Swinesherd Lane, Spetchley
The above planning application was due to be decided by the Planning Committee at Wychavon DC on Thursday 12/11/2015. The Officer recommendation was one of Approval - Outline. The decision rests with the Members of the Committee.

Cllr Guy announced that he had put his name forward to address the planning committee on this application. The letter of objection had been authorised by the Chairman and are annexed 1 to the minutes. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council objected in the past and continued to object to this planning application. WPC would be represented by Cllr Guy at the Planning Committee meeting at Wychavon DC on Thursday 12/11/2015.

6) Finance.

a. **Receipts:** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report which listed the receipts for September & October 2015, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that all receipts listed for be approved.

Payments: The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report which listed the payments for September & October 2015, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that all payments listed be approved.

b. **Bank Reconciliation:** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda the bank reconciliation up 31 October 2015. The 3 accounts showed an overall balance as at 31 October 2015 was £32,430.19. The original bank statements were available at the meeting.

c. **Proposals for expenditure.** To consider proposal for expenditure.
Allotment Management Course held by SLCC (society of local council clerks)
To be held on 29 February 2016. Cost £125. Deferred to next meeting.
Stationery/Administration cost £4.00 to be refunded to the Clerk. Deferred to next meeting.

d. **Budget 2016/2017.** At the meeting to be held on 12 January 2016 the precept for the year 2016/2017 would have to be set. The Clerk had circulated with the agenda the current years Actual - v- Budget figures. The Clerk asked members to consider any new projects that may need to be budgeted for and to consider how much budget to set against the existing budgets headings. The Chair noted that a budget for the Neighbourhood plan be put in place. **Noted.**

e. General Information

The Clerk reported that payment of the Lengthsman invoice for works completed in October had been paid. **Noted.**

7) Highways & Byways.

To receive reports of Highways (Roads & Pavements) & Byways (bridleways & footpaths).
Highways issues. (see agenda item 4). Cllr baker reported on the parking on the corner of the left hand side (opposite Cllr Bakers house) which had caused problems. Cllr Adams would arrange for a representative from Highways to meet with the Chair/Councillors to discuss all the issues noted in agenda item number 4.

8) Training, meetings and seminars.

The Clerk had attended Calc training course on the new auto enrolment of staff pensions and briefly explained what she had learnt, the Chairman added that it would be discussed at the staff review. Cllr Clark had attended a Councillors training course, the Clerk reported that he had found it very informative.

9) District and County Councillors' Report.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Adams to the meeting, he continued to update the Council on District and County matters of devolution and shared services of the authorities, he added that Malvern hills and Wychavon already shared an MD and were to share other departments within the Councils. He added that a compulsory purchase order had been placed on land for the new Parkway Station. He reminded members and parishioner of the road closure at Woodbury Lane due to the upgrade of the Environsort Site. He also advised that the fire brigade were offering free fire safety checks. Cllr Adams reported on the work he is involved with for the armed forces community, which with the aid of a separately funded grant helped former service personnel who had retired from the armed forces. The Chairman thanked him for his report.

10) Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas.

WPC staffing Committee Staff review to be arranged in early 2016.

Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison: Cllr Baker reported that they had extended the hours from 10 to 11 at night, also a new glass breaker had been installed and they had upgraded the sprinkler system. He had also received complaints about noise of traffic such as JCB's etc he reported that they were to investigate the complaint, also a unit was used regularly to sweep the glass up on Woodbury Lane he also extended the invitation to members to visit the plant.

West Wychavon PACT: Cllr Baker reported that he had not met the Police Officer assigned to this area, and there was little or no communication as it was all handled via email.

Worcestershire CALC: The Clerk had previously circulated emails from Calc.

Whittington School: See agenda item 3b.

Whittington Village Hall: The Chairman noted that there was no Council Representative for Whittington village hall since the resignation of Pete Wood and Steve Brooker. The Chairman explained that following on from the recent revelation that Whittington Parish Council were Trustees a meeting was arranged. The Chairman reported on the meeting she and the Clerk had attended with Roger Phillips Chairman of VHMC and Anita Hodgeson. Mr Phillips explained the structure and added that WPC were trustees in name only with no power or decision making, WPC were to keep an eye on the management committee to make sure they were doing nothing wrong, he continued to explain that the MC were also Trustees in their own right of the Charity. Following discussion the Chairman addressed those present and wondered who owned the land and was land in trust. She added that the Parish Council should have a full understanding on what the PC was responsible for. It was also discussed that further clarity was needed for the s106 funding, as it would need to be clarified to which trustee eg PC trustee or MC trustee the funding had been pledged. The Chair readout an extract of a 1958 document that Mr Phillips had quoted from, she added that the PC had not received any detailed reports from the previous PC representatives. The Chair added that she did attend the VH Annual Meeting at which received a financial report, which would be discussed at the Trustee meeting when further information is attained. Following further discussion it was **RESOLVED** to appoint a solicitor to clarify the Trusteeship of Whittington Parish Council and the Trusteeship of Whittington Village Hall Management Committee. A meeting of both Trustees would then be arranged.

Neighbourhood Watch: None.

Whittington Church: The Clerk read out a report prepared by Mr David Chestney Chairman of the Elizabethan Room Development Group. Copy of which are annexed the minutes at annexed 2. The Council thanked Mr Chestney in his absence for his very comprehensive report

- 11) Police Report** - The Clerk circulated an email from PCSO Julie Pardoe which stated that there were no crimes to report.
- 12) Correspondence & Council Consultation.** None at time of printing.
- 13) IT - Facebook & Communication** - Various Items were discussed for Facebook and the Web site.
- 14) Enhancement** - None.
- 15) Community Events** - None.

Any Other Business

It was noted that Councilors were sorry that Pat Whitehead had left the council and her input would be missed. It was also reiterated that the council expressed that they were working for the community.

16) Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be Tuesday 12th January 2016 at Whittington Village Hall.

Dear Mr Marshall,

Addressing Wychavon Planning Committee on 12 November 2015

As required by the published notice of the forthcoming Planning Committee meeting on 12 November, I am hereby providing (before 12.00noon on 9 November 2015) a copy of the statement which I will read to the committee for and on behalf of Whittington Parish Council.

Whittington Parish Council objects to the application to build 300 houses at Swinesherd.

Whittington Parish maintains that the process that led to the inclusion of this site in SWDP was flawed. We all know what happened and grave concerns persist.

Members' attention is drawn to the following:

1. The applicant was promoting this site five months before it was written into the SWDP. Clearly, this is ***developer led planning*** and not ***plan led development***.
2. SWDP has not yet been adopted. The Saved Policies of the Local Plan still hold and must take precedence.
3. Public consultation on SWDP Main Modifications only opened this week, inviting comments on changes to the Significant Gap – on which this application encroaches. To rush to approve this before the consultation concludes flies in the face of the democratic plan-making process.
4. Highways refused access off Swinesherd Way for Uffnell's Farm citing danger to road users and disruption to traffic flows on a strategic route. The very same issues apply here. Also, local infrastructure is already over capacity and will choke completely. Congestion and high-speed collisions are not the only factors, as lives will be lost on blocked ambulance routes to and from A&E.
5. Swinesherd residents were reassured by the applicant that it "***would be plain stupidity to take access/egress directly past a nursery with no specific parking***" but this has since been forgotten and the application shows a radius on the access corner far tighter than safety limits permit for exit from a 70mph dual carriageway onto what is only a country lane, past a children's nursery.
6. The Local Flood Authority confirmed "***..this site is at considerable risk of surface water flooding***". It is only week 2 November and already the ground is saturated with pooling water.
7. For years your own planning officers documented this site as unsuitable for development. It was "***Ruled Out***" in every SHLAA since SHLAAs began. Its green fields got special protection up to and including the SWDP Preferred Options.
8. The site is "***locked in***" by 70mph roads and as such residents would have to be car-using commuters, when NPPF demands "***sustainable development***". That hundreds will use a foot & cycle bridge is just not credible. Even if approved, a bridge cannot be built as its landing west of Swinesherd Way is already under development as housing.
9. Your own Landscape Officer has confirmed that this application breaches environmental policies of both the Local Plan and SWDP. The loss of open space, mature hedgerows and numerous oak trees would have profound

negative effects on woodpeckers, herons, owls, skylarks, kestrels, buzzards and bats. Intolerable levels of traffic noise, pylons, overhead HT cables and a Foot & Mouth burial pit in the neighbouring field all make this an inappropriate site for housing.

The report from the case officer on this application reads like a list of reasons to refuse rather than approve. How the recommendation comes to be one of approval is not evident and seems to be wholly reliant on the oft repeated mantra that the site is going to be allocated for housing in the SWDP.

Whittington cannot and will not be characterised as NIMBYs. Ours is only a Category 3 village as it has so few facilities, but please remember that the Parish Council did not oppose the 273 houses already under construction in Whittington and actively supports Worcester Six and Worcestershire Parkway. However, you are urged to refuse this application, or at least defer a decision until after the Middle Battenhall Farm appeal which will probably succeed and negate any need to build at Swinesherd.

Yours sincerely,
Councillor Andrew Guy

For and on behalf of
Whittington Parish Council

Whittington Parish Council meeting 10 November 2015

Dear Carol,

I'm afraid that I can't make the Parish Council Meeting tomorrow as I haven't yet mastered the art of being in two places at once! I'd be very grateful if you could make our report on the ERDG to the Council along the following lines:

1. The Appeal for funds was launched on October 24th at the Gift Day and everyone should have had a copy of the brochure - probably more than one! We have made a good and encouraging start having passed the first £10K but there is a long way to go. The Appeal will continue through next year and donations can now be made on line through BT MyDonate <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/whittingtonparishchurch> which must go into the browser complete. Using Google or other search engines does not seem to work!
2. The ERDG has now split into two groups, one dealing with seeking grant and the other with all fundraising events (sales, concerts, flower festival, etc.). Main target for grant remains the Heritage Lottery even though first contact was not helpful; further approaches are planned. Landfill Tax is another area with about 6 other charities being explored.
3. Steve Brooker is pursuing Section 106 money as you know; we would welcome involvement in the planned meeting with Wychavon's Jem Teal and will take any steps that will help promote Whittington's cause and secure proper funding from the proposed development.
4. Our Faculty application is now well advanced after appropriate consultation and remains to be determined by the Diocesan Chancellor. We had a visit from the Church Buildings Council in London who were very supportive of our efforts.
5. A further planning application has to be put in for the Jubilee Room (the portacabin), apparently, to keep it going until the new facilities in the extension are built and available; this has just been submitted and will come before the Council in due course. Needless to say it is vital to secure these facilities until that time is reached and it is to be hoped that the process is as speedy (and trouble free!) as possible.
6. We are continuing to pursue the survey started on September to establish local peoples' views on the best uses for the new room; this will be done at the parent/teacher evenings at the school this week. Any more returns from local people would be welcomed as this sort of information is very useful in grant application quite apart from its ultimate purpose.

I'm sure that's enough to go on with but do please add your own comments in any way you see fit. We have our next full meeting on Monday so there's plenty going on!

Many thanks,
David