

Whittington Parish Council



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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Whittington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12 September 2017 at 19.30 at Whittington Village Hall

Democratic Period/ Question Time:

Those Present:

Chairman: Cllr S Macleod
Councillors: Cllr A Guy, Cllr F Richards,
Officers: Mrs C Chambers (Parish Clerk)
Attendees: Cllr Adams and 2 Parishioners

Democratic Period/ Question Time: Simon Clerk former WPC Councillor expressed concern about the Wildmore play ground which seemed to attract lot of teenagers, he also reported that drivers were cutting across the grass verge/footpath from Dalziel Drive into Staplow Road. The Chairman confirmed that Cllr Boase had reported it and was in talks with Bloor Homes to add an extra bollard to stop the vehicles cutting through, Cllr Adams also confirmed action would be taken. Mr Clerk also thanked the council for their work and support whilst he was a member, the Chairman thanked Mr Clerk for his work on the Council. The Chairman also announced that Christine Watts had resigned as Councillor as she felt that she wanted to do more charity work.

Agenda 09/17

- 1) **Apologies.** Apologies for absence were submitted by Cllr Boase and Cllr Pearce.
- 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 Meetings of the Council.**
 - a The minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2017 had been circulated to all Members with the agenda, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.
 - b The minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on 23 May 2017 had been circulated to all Members with the agenda, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

4)* Finance.

a. Receipts and Payments:

The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a list of the receipts and payments for April, May, June, July and August 2017. Original Receipt and Payment invoices were available to view at the meeting. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the receipts and payments for April, May, June, July and August 2017 be approved. Full list is annexed to this report.

b.* **Bank Reconciliation** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda the bank reconciliation for April, May, June and the bank reconciliation for July and August 2017. Original copies of HSBC Bank Statements were available to view at the meeting. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliations for April to August 2017 be approved. Both bank reconciliations are annexed to this report.

c. Proposals for expenditure:

1. **Notice Board - Wildmore Estate.** WDS Signs Ltd had confirmed the cost of supplying a double A2 portrait vandal resistant public notice board design with arched top heading, lettering and logo in the top middle mounted on a matching support frame with finials, all powder-coated as before would cost £1,155.00 + Vat. Plus secure packaging and insured delivery of £55.00 + Vat.

Note - Following the meeting with Chris Shaw of Bloor homes on the Wildmore Allotment Site on 11th August 2017 Chris Shaw asked the Clerk to forward the quote to him, as Bloor homes would pay and install the new notice board on the Wildmore Estate. The Clerk added that no confirmation from Bloor Homes had been received.

2. **Swinesherd Signage. See agenda item 7**

3. The Chairman mentioned about the broken bollards on the verge outside the village hall, Cllr Richards thought that the bollards might come under the VH refurbishment and would inquire about the cost of new bollards, the Chairman mentioned the funding available from the PC.

d. **Conclusion of 2016/2017 Year End Audit.** The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a copy of the Conclusion of Audit Notice from the external Auditors, Grant Thornton. **Noted.**

e. **New Banking Mandate.** The Clerk had requested that the bank mandate be updated. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the signatories on the new banking mandate for HSBC Bank be Cllr Susan Macleod and Cllr Andrew Guy.

5) New Planning Application

Application Number :	17/01734/FUL - http://bit.ly/2gMTA9t
Location:	Hill End, Church Lane, Whittington, WR5 2RQ
Description of Proposal:	Part removal of existing rear lean-to Single-storey rear extension with hipped roof, New pergola and patio area to south side of extension Additional parking spaces to north side of site North elevation: replacement of 2 ground floor windows with a single window, Internal alterations including new lift, WCs and staff kitchen, Repair/rebuilding of brick boundary wall to LPA approval
Applicant :	Fine Agrochemicals Limited
WPC Comments:	No Objection

Planning Application/Consultation - For Information

Application No: 17/01117/FUL

Location: Pond Farm, Church Lane, WHITTINGTON, WR5 2RQ

Description of Proposal: Enclosure of an existing agricultural building to improve use.

Applicant: Mr N Hodgetts

WPC Comments: **No Objection**

6) Police Report - from PCSO Julie Pardo, West Mercia Police extract below

We do not have any incidents to report however we are receiving reports from residents on the new Wildmore estate of anti-social behaviour from some of the young children living there. We have been in contact via leaflet with all the residents and have spoken to a number of children from the estate. We have also received reports of vehicles being driven over and through public footpaths. Councillor Adams has been contacted and one of the drivers (delivery) has been identified and reported.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Julie Pardo her work on the Wildmore Estate.

7) Highways & Byways.

The Chairman asked Cllr Adams about a speed sign along the straight road on Church lane, she requested that the DFS sign should cover the length of road from the Church past the Village Hall, Cllr Adams would speak to WCC. The Council also requested additional signage to stop Lorries driving through the village as the existing sign 'not suitable for HGV's was not clear and signage needed to be put at the both ends of the village

a **Tree Preservation Orders** - Cllr Guy reported that the TPO Officer at WDC, Sally Griffiths had not responded to several emails over several months to which he had requested confirmation from her that the TPO's had been issued, he expressed concern as the developers, Persimmon had started ground work on the site where 300 new houses are to be built. He added that there were 2 trees which are protected and should have a TPO, he expressed his frustration at the lack of communication from Ms Griffiths and the disregard of the Councils concern to protect the trees on this site. Cllr Richards asked Cllr Adams follow up, the Chairman added that she would like written confirmation that the TPO's had been issued.

b Swinesherd Signage - Whittington Walk Development

Cllr Guy had requested that his report (below) be considered by the Council -

I am very concerned about the rebranding of Swinesherd, for marketing purposes, by the developers. The SWDP and previous Local Plans have been drafted specifically and carefully to preserve local distinctiveness and prevent the coalescence of settlements. The Strategic and Significant Gaps policies have been and are in place to ensure that developments do not merge different places in South Worcestershire into one amorphous urban sprawl. The Significant Gap in what was the M5 Protection Corridor was hotly debated when the SWDP went to Examination in Public by HM Inspector and whilst its resultant extent was set specifically to incorporate this development at Swinesherd, it was to do so without compromising the principle of preventing coalescence.

I would therefore like to think that the developers will be encouraged to rethink their branding of this development, with a formal letter from Whittington PC to Wychavon DC objecting to the name proposed. Persimmon (Pegasus and Robert Hitchin before them) have not engaged in any form of

communication, correspondence or consultation with Whittington PC over this development and such disregard for local interests and sentiment is more than a little disappointing. Swinesherd cannot be allowed to merge with Whittington anyway, despite the clearly expressed and documented spirit and intent of the SWDP, and the views of local residents, by simply changing its name of a thousand years.

So, I hope we can all agree that the costs of erecting a welcome sign for Swinesherd at the entrance to the development will be worth every penny to ensure a Worcestershire settlement dating back to Anglo-Saxon times is not lost forever thanks to the whimsy of a marketing executive at a PLC head office over 150 miles away. I attach an email from Worcestershire County Council regarding the ordering of such a sign and suggest that we get this sign ordered and up sooner rather than later. Whittington PC took the view that signs for Whittington village would be money well spent, at a time when Whittington had fewer dwellings than the number now coming to Swinesherd... and so it was! Those at the entrances to Whittington are most effective in ensuring that every visitor (and resident) knows they are entering a place with its own identity, and character.

It is only right that what has worked so well for Whittington should be replicated for Swinesherd. It may also be sensible to order another of the roadside "gate" features for Swinesherd at the same time. The gates and flower boxes into Whittington have amplified the welcoming effect and let all who see them know that not only do we have our own identity, we also take real pride in it.

2. Highway Signage Quote - from Nicky Fletcher BA, Worcestershire County Council, Traffic management engineer (Signage)

Thank you for your enquiry. While I deal with a few other signs please be aware that the costs to the Parish Council will depend on how many signs are required, but most schemes will cost around £900 for 1 sign and £1550 for 2 signs + the cost of the sign but will include labour, stop/go traffic management, foundations, 76mm posts & fittings, cherry picker hire, site visit, administration fees, utility and planning searches, and VAT. Prices will increase if larger posts or more extensive traffic management is required.

Once implemented the costs of maintaining the signs must be met by the Parish Council. The County Council will advise the applicant of any works required to be carried out and the costs, once agreed the work will be scheduled, however if no authorisation is received, then the signs, for the whole route, will be removed and a bill raised to recover costs from the Parish Council.

3. Clerks Report

a) In response to the above, the Clerk had contacted Debra Sollis at Wychavon DC, she reminded the Clerk that WPC had been consulted on the development and referred to an email sent on 27th April regarding street names for this development and received the following names from WPC for the first phase.

Swinesherd Lane
Skylark Rise
Mollys Run
Woodpeckers Lane
Oak Turn
Old Meadows
Saxon Fields

She also confirmed that the roads would be named as above and the name Whittington Walk was a development name which the developers would use to market the properties.

b) **Whittington Parish Boundary**

The Clerk highlighted that there were currently 2 properties in Swinesherd that fall within Whittington Parish Boundary, the new development (Whittington Walk) will be within Whittington Parish Boundary and not in Swinesherd. She also asked the Council to consider the ongoing cost, such as cleaning, repairing and maintenance of the sign(s) as it is unlikely that Highways would adopt them.

Resolution: Cllr Guy asked the Council to commission a sign for Swinesherd, Cllr Richards added that the developers, Persimmon, did not communicate and there was no consultation with parishioners, he agreed with the proposal. Cllr Guy added that Adrian Roberts would arrange for representative to come to WPC meeting. Following discussion, the Chairman had reservations on the siting of the sign being in Swinesherd, but would not want street furniture and suggested that the council wait until new residents move in. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Council commission a sign for Swinesherd. It was also **RESOLVED** that no street furniture would be installed until new residents had moved in.

Cllr Guy reported on the bridal way under motorway, which had been closed for 6 months he added that the temporary closure was disproportionate, due to Badger sets, several parishioners had complained, Bridal way number wt523. from 22 August, he also reported maze had been planted across pathway 517 which had completely blocked and pathway'516 had 'bull in field sign'. The Clerk would report the complaints.

8) Training, meetings and seminars. Cllr Boase had attended a Calc Course for new Councillors.

9) **District and County Councillors' Report.** Cllr Adams confirmed that an extra bollard would be placed at the footpath from Wildmore to Staplow drive which would stop vehicles driving through as a short cut. Cllr Adams also mentioned that he would be arranging a Ward Walk in November with Jack Hegarty and other senior members of Wychavon he added that the Walk would include Wildmore, Whittington Village and Swinsherd, the visit would include the speed limit along the dual-track, Whittington Walk and TPO's. The Chairman thanked Cllr Adams for his report and for arranging a Ward Walk to which councillors would be in attendance.

10) **Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas. None.**

WPC staffing Committee The Chairman reported that at the Staffing Committee meeting held on 15 May 2017 it was agreed to recommend that the Clerk be enrolled in the WCC Pension Scheme. It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** to enrol the Clerk, Carol Chambers into the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Worcestershire CALC: It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** the Cllr Boase would be WPC representative to Worcester Calc

Whittington School: **None.**

Whittington Village Hall: Cllr Richards as Chairman of the WVHMC reported that the safety inspection on the VH was out of date, at meeting of WVHMC on 27 July it was decided to close the VH with immediate effect on Health & Safety grounds. A Fire Risk and electrical inspection had been done and remedial work had been completed to bring the Fire Safety and Electrical standards in line with the insurance boundaries, he added that the grounds had been cleared and an entrance gate had been installed. A WVHMC meeting would be held on Monday 18 September, the meeting would discuss the way forward and the accounts would be submitted to the committee and put to an external auditor. Mr Richards reported on a meeting he had attended with Committee Vice Chairman Malcolm Macleod and WPC Chairman Susan Macleod and WPC Clerk Carol Chambers with Senior Members of WDC, they advised of the best way forward and gave good advice on the correct survey and documentation, they discussed several options that the Committee could take such as PWLB loan, increase in precept they also confirmed the funding that had been ring fenced for the

VH...S106 £8.5K + £51,111 Kilbury drive development for community facilities £22,500 Swinesherd Way which had been allocated but not available yet + £103K in the VH bank AC + £18K from the parish council, Mr Richards added that WDC officers were very open and engaged and advised the committee to put together a proposal with a survey of cost estimate and a plan, they also advised that because the VH was a polling station and additional £9k could be made available from the community grant. The Chairman thanked Fraser for his work, Cllr Guy was also acknowledged and praised his work. The Chairman also thanked Cllr Adams for arranging the meeting with Wychavon

PACT/Neighbourhood Watch: It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** the Cllr Boase would be WPC representative to PACT/Neighbourhood Watch.

Whittington Church: **None.**

Brethren Church; David Ball reported that a large amount of the congregation had visited their Church for Friday evening service, he apologised for any inconvenience caused by parking on Walkers Lane as their car park was full, the Council and Chairman of the WVHMC offered the use of the VH car park.

Allotments; It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** the Cllr Boase would be WPC representative for Allotments. The Clerk reported that she has asked Cllr Boase to help with administering the allotments

12) Correspondence & Council Consultation. The Chairman read out a letter from Nigel Huddleston MP. The letter advised the Council to contact him if there were items on the agenda that he should be made aware of, he also acknowledged the vital contribution the parish council makes in the community. **Noted.**

13) IT - Facebook & Communication. None.

14) Enhancement. None.

15) Allotments - Wildmore Estate - Development Issues/Update. Report by Cllr Boase.

1) The Council had been made aware of several issues with the street signage on the Wildmore estate that were of concern to the new residents. Cllr Boase as a resident has been in touch with Chris Shaw at Bloor Homes and the issues listed below have also been relayed to Chris Shaw by the Clerk.

Montgomery Mews - this road is an extension of Pitscottie Place and is completely invisible to anyone unless they know they need to turn off the main road and into Pitscottie Place first. It's the road for which we are most frequently asked directions.

Pitscottie Place - this sign is placed on the blind side of the junction with Dalziel Drive. It would be helpful if it were to be moved to the other corner and had 'leading to Montgomery Mews' added to it.

Grandison Gardens and Deane Drive - both of these road names are on the blind side of their respective junctions with Dalziel Drive for incoming traffic and simply need moving to the other side of the road to make them visible.

Disbrowe Dive - this is a short stretch of road about 25 yards long, as an extension of a branch of Dalziel Drive. The sign has been placed part of the way down this short stretch of road sideways and would be more helpful if it could be turned to face the traffic. It has 'leading to Honeywood Place' included on the sign. However, Honeywood Place will have been seen by most drivers long before they see Disbrowe Drive. Having this extra wording is superfluous, although it does no harm.

However, we believe there should be a sign for Dalziel Drive at the junction where it splits in two directions, with one of the signs including the words 'leading to Disbrowe Drive'.

2) The initial response from Chris Shaw of Bloor Homes is copied below.

'I will ask the Site Manager to comment on this but in our experience most people tend to use use Sat Navs and as long as streets are marked with signs this confirms where the Sat Nav is taking you and visitor , friends etc soon learn the layout . .

Also the issue tends to be a short term one as people quickly find their way around and once the postie and friends , delivery drivers etc. have been to the area they soon learn the layout .

The layout has been carefully designed so that low vehicle speeds are the norm-the main spine road has bends in it and is designed to ensure safe highway conditions .

I have visited the site many times over the build period and whilst the spine road is not yet linked with Persimmon part way through their build the layout does in my experience tend to limit the speed at which cars travel which is a good thing as the Travel Plan exercise we carried out suggests a lot of people are walking to local schools and nearby facilities . Once the cycle way and footpath links (and the bridge) are completed this should be encouraged even more.

Notwithstanding the comments above I will come back to you on this as obviously residents have a concern'.

3 Allotments

An inspection of Uffnells Allotments was held on Friday 11 August with Chris Shaw Planning Manager Bloor Homes with Lynn Stevens, Wychavon DC Senior Parks and Greenspace Officer and WPC Clerk and Cllr Boase. The Clerk reported that the allotments looked well maintained (there were just a few weeds). The fencing had been erected around the allotment site and 2 water taps had been installed. The top soil looked good, Lynn dug approx. 1 foot down. Bloor Homes are to install 2 gates on the allotment site. Chris Shaw of Bloor Homes had verbally agreed to erect and pay for a WPC notice board, to be positioned in the middle of the estate and not on the allotment site, cllr Boase would advise on the position for the new notice board.

The Clerk also reminded Members of the ongoing cost that needed to be considered -

- 1) A hedge to be planted around the allotment site. This would be on the outside perimeter of the allotment site on Wychavon land, Lynn, WDC officer had agreed in principal that we could plant a hedge, if the Council wish.
- 2) Paths on the allotment would have to be regularly sprayed for weeds.
- 3) Water charges

Wildmore - Cllr Richard Boase Report

I'm sorry to be missing this meeting given the anti social behaviour issues that we have been facing on the Wildmore and Hatton Grange developments. These are ongoing, but the Police Safer Neighbourhood team have been very supportive. You and Carol are aware of these issues from

earlier email correspondence, but if you would like a chat with me ahead of the meeting, please let me know.

I have copied you into emails to Bloor and Wychavon District Council in relation to the inadequate road signage and I have also supplied photographs of street junctions to my fellow Councillors and made suggestions for how signage might be improved. I hope you will have the time to discuss these suggestions at the meeting.

Finally, the new footbridge (design based on the Spetchley Bridge) has now been installed between Grandison Gardens and Leslie Walk. It has become a firm favourite for children as a play area, which in itself is not a problem, but I am concerned about safety measures. Already I have seen children crossing the bridge on the outside edge by holding on to the railings and sliding along a very narrow ledge. There doesn't seem to be any form of barrier to prevent children from accessing the outside edge of the bridge. Already a child has been seen falling down the unprotected steep slope to the side of the bridge and into the brook below. Apparently he got up immediately and he didn't appear to be harmed, but next time he or one of his friends may not be so lucky. The footbridge is a great asset, but unless natural fencing or other barriers are erected to the side a child could hurt themselves by playing there. These children are also using the brook below the bridge as a place where they can throw builders rubble and other material to create a dam in the brook. I realise the footbridge hasn't been adopted by the District Council yet so I have reported it to Bloor Homes, but I think it is something of which the Parish Council should also be aware.

16) Review of WPC Standing Orders - The Council had reviewed WPC Standing Orders - No amendments were made.

17) Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 14 November 2017 at Whittington Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Councillor S Macleod
Chairman