

## Wickhamford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009 No. 09/09

Clerk to the Council, Mike Smith, 12 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford WR11 7RT

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Present T. Waller Chairman, J. Poulter V. Chairman, Councillors, D. Folkes, D. Heeks, J. Newbury and M. Smith Clerk.

1. Apologies

R. Gilks, PC Gail Greenhouse and District & County Councillor L. Eyre (who will be late).

2. Declarations of Interest

J. Poulter declared a personal interest in 5h

T. Waller declared a personal interest in 5f & 5i

3. The meeting was adjourned for Progress Reports and also the Public Question Time, notes of which are appended to these minutes.

4. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2009 were approved.

5. New and Ongoing Items.

a) Play Area. The Clerk reported that the quote for the replacement of Play Area items was almost twice the expected amount, therefore it was decided to refurbish the items to the required standard. The Council agreed to meet on site to discuss the work required and initiate a plan of action.

Adjourn for L. Eyre's Report

### Local Economy

Worcestershire's Economy Action Group will meet on 18<sup>th</sup> September bringing together the map of strategic companies in Worcestershire with Advantage West Midlands hot spot work. A medium to long term recovery plan is being formulated to guide resource allocation. District Councils are bidding up to £10,000 for our Local Area Business Growth incentive funds to support local schemes. A follow up to last years brainstorming sessions will be held on the Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 3-7pm: "Global Slowdown, Local Actions" 3pm to 7pm

## Voluntary and Community Grants

Round Four opens for bids 14<sup>th</sup> September: First base Community arts grants, celebrating diversity grants, supporting community based activities for older people. Each grant is for a one year or one off activity. A helpful guidance session will be Evesham Town Hall 9.30-11.30 Wed 30<sup>th</sup> September.

## Carbon reduction programme

The Energy Saving Trust consultants are working with the County on reducing Council and area wide CO2 emissions and climate change work.

## Successful Funding bids

The County has successfully bid for £387,000 to fund a two year project aimed at improving inter-generational work across the County.

## Achievements

The Early Years Service has been shortlisted for the Nursery World Awards 2009.

Worcestershire's play partnership's Playbuilder project has received National acclaim.

School admissions is now an online service.

## Compost bins

Last day for discounted compost bins £12 is 30<sup>th</sup> September – normal cost £50.

## Contact point

The new secure database of all children living in England is due to go live in Worcestershire in November.

## Local issues

### Flooding 11 Pitchers Hill

This area was looked at about 5 years ago when the Main Road was kerbed and the footway fronting the property was shaped to fall towards the road, thus directing water away from the property. In conditions such as July 2007 the water came from the rear of the property, as well as the run off from the hardened surfaces and with the rear garden falling towards the front, the property would have formed a lake. DL has arranged late Aug 09 for the area to be investigated again by decanting water from Council jettors to see the line the overland flow takes.

### A44 turning into Pitchers Hill for Manor Road

Officers KH have looked into the possibility of providing a right turn lane for Manor Road and the road is not wide enough to provide a facility that would meet Department for Transport criteria. The forward visibility to the junction is good, so we wouldn't consider any signing of the junction unless there was a proven accident problem. The accident stats show no recorded accidents in the last 3 years they are unable on this basis to recommend any further measures.

### Sign Clutter on A44.

Officers KH have arranged for the route to be looked at and we will remove any redundant signs in due course.

## Hub

Apologies – the new system has teething problems and is not particularly user friendly – update requested.

## Flooding

The latest formal update that I received 13<sup>th</sup> July was that some more detailed modelling is to be carried out (by JBA an engineering consultancy firm that the EA often use for detailed design and modelling) to establish options and the most favoured and effective scheme for each of the 3 villages (and Murcot). I was also advised that there are some land owner issues in Broadway which means that there may well be a move away from a retention basin towards some sort of embankment and small holding pond. I am advised funding is in place. The project manager has been off sick which has meant that progress was held up but a second person starting the ball rolling again and the project manager has begun a phased return to work. The expected timescale has slipped to summer 2010 in view of all the above. I am asking the EA for a date when they can produce a newsletter to update the public and when they would come to a public meeting. I will keep the Parish Council informed as information is released to me. I am informed verbally a newsletter and website to keep residents informed is planned. I am checking if the agency approves of the embankment work that has taken place.

## Bridleway Issues

I have a meeting with Kevin Oliver et al 28<sup>th</sup> September 4.30pm

## Red Telephone Kiosk

Can I assume the Parish Council will follow up on this with a reply?

## Resume Meeting

- b) V.A.S. Update. Councillor J. Newbury reported that the next Pact meeting would be in a weeks time and hopefully the four Parishes can move forward. The Clerk has been assured by the Environment Services that we are allowed to site the signs on the A44. The Chairman explained that we must all be aware that the cost of these signs would have to be reflected in next years precept. To ensure clarity a vote was taken as to whether or not to continue. The vote was 2 for, 1 against with 2 abstentions, therefore this was carried.
- c) Bins / Sandbags. It was agreed to install the Bins complete with Sandbags at both sites on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October.
- d) Delegation of Councillors. We already have Councillors who have delegated roles, i.e. J. Poulter, Grasscutting & Cemetery, J. Newbury, Pact and D. Folkes, District Councillor. Suggestions were made at the previous meeting but as there were no offers to accommodate roles from Councillors the item will be shelved for now.
- e) Rainwater Issue. The Clerk contacted D. Lavender whose team will investigate and report back. This was also covered in L. Eyre's report.
- f) Telephone Kiosk. The Parish Council has been contacted by BT in respect to "adopting" the Kiosk as they will be removing the telephony system at the end of November. A vote was taken, the result being 4 for and 1 against. The Council will move forward with the adoption.

- g) Cemetery. A complaint had been made to the Clerk that all the fresh flowers on the gravestone's had been removed on a specific day. The local Police Officer was informed but as this has not happened since no further investigation will be required.
- h) Bridleway / Footpath. Councillor J. Poulter informed the meeting that this is still ongoing. Councillor L. Eyre informed the meeting that she is having a site meeting with Kevin Oliver and will report back at the next meeting.
- i) Parking on the Green. This was a topic in the Public Session hence to say it has been resolved. There was a question asked as to whether we could put some "No Parking" signs to stop vehicles blocking the pathway. This was agreed. Clerk to instigate.
- j) Sandys Avenue Yellow Lines. This is still an issue; the Clerk will contact the Highways Dept.

#### 6. Planning.

None.

#### 7. Finance.

Councillors already in possession of balance sheets.

Cheques signed,

M. Smith, Newsletter.

GBD (Evesham), Grasscutting.

#### 8. Date of the next meeting confirmed as 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Meeting Closed at 8.35

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

#### Notes of the Public Question Time

Parking on the Green

No Parking signs