

Wickhamford Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting, 8th March 2017, 03/17

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

01386 830676 email wickhamfordpc@sky.com

website <http://worcestershire.gov.uk>

Present J. Newbury Chairman, T. Waller V. Chairman, Councillors, D. Heeks, J. Poulter and R. Gutteridge
B. Thomas District Councillor
T. Locke, P. Locke, S. Bearcroft and K. Maden, Members of the public

1. Apologies PCSO, P. Schoenrock, County Councillor L. Eyre, Councillor K. Nash

2. Declarations of Interest

Item 9 Councillor J. Poulter

3. **The meeting was adjourned for the Public Question Time.**

The Memorial Hall Committee submitted a request for part of the Community Benefit Fund for refurbishment of the Memorial Hall. It was pointed out that the fund is primarily for Community Projects. It was suggested that the Memorial Hall Committee re-evaluate their requirements as an overall project and to look at other funding options to assist with the costs. The Parish Council may then look at their request in further detail

4. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th January 2017 were agreed

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

None

6. District / County Councillors Report.

County Councillors Report

Key activities are

- Response to the LTP4 consultation
- Improving scrutiny and feeding into a DCLG enquiry re Scrutiny
- Parkway contractor chosen. Next month will share Worcestershire's amazing ambition in terms of railways with you.

The Boundary Commission for England

It has recently carried out a consultation on initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries. Nearly 20,000 responses were received as part of the consultation.

The next stage of the review will see all those representations published, which will take place on Tuesday, 28 February 2017. People will then have four weeks to comment on them, with the deadline for responses Monday 27 March 2017.

All representations will be published on the commission's website at www.bce2018.org.uk. The commission would like to encourage people to take the time to see what others have said about the initial proposals, and add their views.

Following the secondary consultation, the commission will be considering all representations received from both consultations, and will consider whether any revisions are needed. If they decide to revise the proposals, they will consult on the revised boundaries. Any such consultation will happen towards the end of 2017, or in early 2018. For more information on this please contact Elaine Dicks, Deputy Returning Officer and Electoral Services Manager on 01386 565162 or email elaine.dicks@wychavon.gov.uk.

Local Flooding

Badsey Brook Scheme – work starts in May this year. EA say it won't help Wickhamford I think in part it will – see below

- Partnership funding agreements are in place. 2 million of Government Grant in Aid funding, is secured enabling the scheme construction to begin. The Environment Agency's English Severn and Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committee have contributed over £1 million. Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council are contributing £555,000 and the local parishes have raised £312,000.(by the end of the process
- Detailed archaeological investigations, part funded by Worcestershire County Council, are now nearly completed.
- Specialist contactors are currently on site carrying out tree clearance in preparation for the main flood scheme works.
- Construction will start this summer on this now £4 million flood storage area which will be able to hold up to 135,000 cubic metres of water during times of flood and will only allow a set amount of water to flow downstream at times of intense and high rainfall, reducing flood risk along the Badsey Brook downstream of Broadway.

A long haul but it shows how perseverance has achieved this outcome.

The Project team on the Wickhamford Scheme.

The recommendations from the recent work and the report are to take forward Property Level Resilience measures and provide advice to local landowners on the best watercourse maintenance regimes to reduce flood risk.

EA are currently aiming to hold a public drop in session and begin detailed property surveys around April - May this year. The drop in's will provide the opportunity to present the findings from the report, to demonstrate a range of property level resilience measures, and to sign people up for the property surveys. We aim to send out the non-technical report to partners and residents before the drop in sessions, once dates have been confirmed, and officers will be available at the sessions to answer any questions.

The installation of the measures is targeted for delivery during the 2017/18 financial year. Works may continue through into the 2018/19 financial year due to the number of listed buildings in the target area that may have additional needs which lengthen the survey and installation process.

They apologize for taking so long to get to this point. With the funding now confirmed and the report completed we are now in a position to drive the scheme forwards and engage in more detail with residents and landowners. John and Mike may wish to talk to Rebecca Collins the lead on this project to discuss arrangements for the drop in session. I am working to find out the dates.

Is the best venue the Memorial Hall?

White Gates

I understand that you are as most other parish council in my division (7) buying the cheaper white gates which will be easier to clean. Gerry Brienza has had conversations about locations so I have passed to your parish a share of my Locally Determined Fund monies to pay for the installation of the white village gates. This equates to £678.57. Please note if there are any monies remaining after the purchase of the village gates this should be used to supplement the Lengthsman scheme.

Latest economic summary

The February 2017 edition of the Worcestershire Monthly County Economic Summary has been published. The claimant count for those aged 18-64 has decreased in Wychavon by 10 since last month and currently stands at 635. This is a decrease of 40 from 12 months ago.

The claimant count rate is 0.9% of the 16-64 population. This is the lowest across Worcestershire (Worcestershire 1.2%, West Midlands 2.3% and England 1.8%). The number of 18-24 year old claimants is 135 – a rate of 1.7% of this particular group of the population (Worcestershire 2.2%, West Midlands 3.2% and England 2.5%). This figure is down 5 from January's report and identical to the figure recorded 12 months ago

Heat mapping study

The heat mapping study Wychavon has been leading on has gained extensive coverage on BBC local radio, with a report from Farming Today (featuring a brief interview with Chris Brooks) having being filtered out to other stations. The element that seems to grab attention isn't the heat mapping but the potential for geothermal heat in South Worcestershire.

Follow this link to get to the Farming Today report –

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08dmk49> The clip comes in around the 3 minutes 10 seconds mark. There is also a BBC video here:

<https://www.facebook.com/bbcherefordandworcester/videos/vb.111193162286434/1404097369662667/?type=2&theater>. This features Chris Haynes, retired engineer, member of TEV and the project steering group and Chris Brooks.

Ward walk outcomes: the business park is much tidier and has improved greatly re wastage handling and fire risks. I was quite impressed. Made contact now with new owner of Wayside.

Knotweed – new patch this year – old well treated – need to pick up in about a month.

The Manor access on to Golden Lane

Golden Lane is a classified road being a Class III road, C2048. The formation and layout out of a means of vehicular access to a classified road requires the submission of a planning application. Enforcement case open for this site which is being investigated by William Barber. Bradley should update. County are clear – it needs permission.

Sandy's Avenue parking problem – Bradley to feedback your thoughts

District Councillors Report

The County boundaries are due to be changed.

The Golden Lane issue is ongoing and Enforcement have been notified. DC Thomas asked for photographic evidence be sent to him

Parking in Sandys Avenue is again an issue with a resident calling out the police to remove a vehicle from blocking their drive at 6.30am. This is an issue caused by Rooftop Housing to which they seem oblivious to, or are not willing to engage in meaningful discussions to resolve

7. Police Officers Report.

Since my last report, there have been only 9 calls to West Mercia Police since 18/01/17 from residents of Wickhamford. No crimes have been recorded having been committed in that time period. There have been a number of dwelling burglaries in a neighbouring parish but there is very little to go on as there are no witnesses.

8. Big Lunch

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting to allow Councillor TW to contact the bank as to signatories although it was agreed, in principle, to donate the monies to the Memorial Hall

9. Community Benefit Fund

Dealt with in the public session although Councillors voted unanimously to consider a possible part funding on an improved project in principle providing the Memorial Hall Committee obtained another source of funding.

10. Newsletter Delivery

It was decided to continue with the method of delivery until a more suitable delivery system can be sourced. The next newsletter will advise residents that this, and all Council documents, can be found on the website at www.wychavon.gov.uk and follow the links to Wickhamford Parish Council

11. Smartwater Update

The Chairman outlined the update from discussions held at the Pact meeting. The recommendation was to order approx..90% of the requirement as further kits can be purchased at the same price, when and if required. The best possible way to ensure residents knowhow to use the scheme is for a group of volunteers (supplied) is to visit residents individually

12. Sports Club/Playing Field

It was agreed unanimously to waive the fee for the Playing Field **this year only** in recognition of the use of the welfare facilities of the Sports Club for our workmen during the installation of the new Play Area equipment

A quote of £500.00 had been submitted to trim two trees and to remove the Sports Wall from the Playing Field and make good with topsoil. This was accepted

13. Vehicle Exhaust Pollution

This complaint will be passed to Wychavon District Council

14. Golden Lane

Dealt with in District Councillors report but Councillors agreed that a letter should be sent to the Highways department and copied to L. Eyre and B. Thomas raising our concerns over the development

15. Post Box

After numerous emails and telephone conversations since July 2016 Royal Mail have finally decided to remove the Post Box on Pitchers Hill, and due to the fact that the village has two other Post Boxes it will not be replaced.

16. Footpaths

Councillor TW raised concerns over some footpaths in the village that are not marked and in some cases blocked. The Clerk had informed Fiona Argyle at Countryside Access and Mike Gwynne our Footpath Officer, and requested a meeting to discuss the above. We await a positive response

17. Village Gates

Councillors were made aware that CC L. Eyre has split her Locally Determined Fund between her Parishes who wish to install "White Gates". This equates to £678.57 for each Parish. The Clerk will look at prices ahead of the next meeting

18. Cemetery

It was agreed, in principle, to approach the landowner adjacent to the cemetery with a view to the Parish Council purchasing a plot of ground to extend the Cemetery. This would still be available for the Landowner to use until required by the Parish Council

A legally binding document would be drawn up by our solicitors

19 Correspondence.

Email sent to Sports Club confirming their request for events on the Playing Field and the relevant costs 26/01

Email sent to S. Thomson for advice on the need for a public meeting re the Smartwater Project (item 11)

Email received from a resident re vehicle exhaust pollution (Item 13)

Letter sent to Wickhamford PCC advising them of our contribution towards their mowing costs and their roof repairs

Email received from L. Eyre regarding a complaint from a Rooftop resident re their imminent new neighbours. Rooftop have responded

Email received from WDC notifying that our (New Homes Bonus) is now £1,350.00

Confirmation received from WDC re submission for 2017/2018 precept

Complaints received regarding the works being carried out in Golden Lane (Item14).

Telephone call from,(P. Burch) our internal auditor, that he will no longer be carrying out audits due to ill health

Complaint received from a resident via WDC regarding trees bordering his property and causing a nuisance to his property (Item12)

Email received from a resident concerned that the parking article in the newsletter was personal. They were assured it was not

Email received from Rooftop Housing re the issue regarding the planting of conifers on a high pressure gas main by the owner of the Sandys Arms on Rooftop property

Email received from Chairman regarding signage of footpaths (Item16)

Email received from Royal Mail regarding post box on Pitchers Hill (Item15)

Notified WDC of broken down trees in the village ref (s) 285781 & 285782

Letter received from Wickhamford PCC thanking the Parish Council for their decision to donate monies towards their mowing cost and the roof repairs

Emailed WDC re damaged Drain Cover in Manor Road ref.285639

Contacted the Stonemason reference the cost of repairing a broken headstone. (Item 18)

20. Plans Reviewed,

W/02738, Dogs Trust. Approved by WDC

W/02758, Dogs Trust. Approved by WDC

21. Finance.

Balance sheets made available for Councillor's.

Cheques signed,

M. Parkinson, VAS Changeover £90.00

Wickhamford PCC, Donation £500.00

HMRC, 4th Quarter Tax £163.80

M. Smith, Ink + Paper £25.98

Memorial Hall, Hall Hire £135.00

Receipts,
Merstow Green, Interment £100.00
Tomlins, Burial + Plot £425.00

- **Items for the next Agenda**
Community Fund, White Gates, Village Benches, Cemetery

22 To confirm the date of the next meeting as 10th May 2017 which will also be the Annual Statutory Meeting

Items for the next Agenda must be received 7 days prior to the next meeting

Mike Smith

Clerk to Wickhamford Parish Council

Meeting Closed at 9.20 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman

Notes of the Public Question Time