

Honeybourne Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on 9th October 2012

Present: Cllrs. B Johnson (Chairman), A Attridge, S Kendrick, D Cowan, P Brookes, G Clelland, D George, S Matthews,

In Attendance: Cllr. Alistair Adams, Mr J Stedman (Clerk) and twelve members of the public.

Apologies were received from: Cllrs. A Simmons, T Probert and M Powell

122. Disclosures of Interests

To declare and disclose any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and to declare any other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature, if necessary.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: None

Other Disclosable Interests: None

Register of Interests: The Chairman reminded members of the need to update their register of interests and that the Clerk has copies of all members register of interests if they wish to review them

123. The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public open forum.

Public Open Forum;

The Chairman informed the meeting of collecting bags having been distributed throughout the village carrying the title "Air Ambulance Services". After investigation it appeared that this organisation is being investigated by both the West Mercia Police and Worcestershire County Regulatory Services. The Chairman suggested the Clerk reports the matter to both services as the arranged collection day is next Monday. His suggestion was fully supported by all.

High Speed Broadband provision: David Lewis the County Council's consultant, Mark Melluish from ITS, a Broadband supplier, and Ben King of Warwicknet an internet service provider gave a presentation on Broadband speed improvements for Honeybourne and Pebworth. Chris Brooks from WDC and the Broadband officer for the County Council also attended the meeting.

A report on the presentation is appended to the minutes.

Ward Members Reports

Cllr. Tom Bean: Not in attendance

Cllr Alistair Adams: His report is appended to the minutes, he also raised the matter of the section 106 funding from the new village developments asking the Council to consider how they wished to use the funds to help ensure it came to the parish. Further discussions will take place and be reported to the next meeting.

The Chairman closed the adjournment at 8.35 and reconvened the meeting.

124. Minutes: Council agreed the wording of the minutes of the September ordinary Council meeting, and the Chairman signed them as a true record of the meeting.

125. Clerk's Report on Matters in Progress:

- a) Confirmation of the SWDP consultation submission was made on the 12th September and a receipt returned
- b) Peter Luff's response to the various planning letters sent to Government (see minute 128a)
- c) The Strimmer repair at Vale Gardens is complete and operational
- d) Forestry Commission letter update - Wayne Barnes the Commission's local officer informed the Clerk that an environmental impact assessment was required and had been requested from the Heart of England Forest company. He also indicated the Parish Council would be a consultee to the assessment.

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- e) Cemetery ditch blockage; Mr Hayball reported that a large tree trunk was in the ditch and would block the bridge if it moved down the ditch with a potential of causing local flooding. The Council agreed it should be removed as soon as possible and Limebridge Rural Services Ltd was best equipped to carry out the removal, the Clerk to action the works.
- f) Western Power Distribution mains interruptions; the power cut on 3rd October was reported to WPD and members wished to report a further interruption on 4th October, Clerk to action this.

126. Planning Applications– Lead Members, Cllrs. Andy. Attridge, Sandra Kendrick and Mike Powell
None at this time

127. Planning Decisions to Note:

- a. Planning Inspectorate: Ref 2172588: Land off, Station Road, Sharba Homes appeal, Granted
- b. W/12/01020/OU –Taylor Wimpy, Grange Farm amended plans for hedge removal and highway matters Granted with 30 Conditions
- c. W/12/00913/OU Lioncourt – land between Dudley Road and Station Road – application withdrawn by the applicant

128. Planning Matters:

- a. The Clerk reported that 10 Downing Street had returned a brief letter regarding the Chairman's letters sent to the Prime Minister, Eric Pickles MP, and The Daily Telegraph. The local media had published the Chairman's letter in the Evesham Journal.
- b. The Chairman stated that the letters sent to Eric Pickles MP from Carol Graves and Steve Bullen were excellent.
- c. Members agreed to request NALC and CALC to support a campaign on the planning issues as raised in the above letters.

129. Cemetery & Churchyard Lead Members, Cllrs David George and Sylvia Matthews.

- a) The Clerk reported on the interment of David Herbert in Grave No 3C
- b) The Clerk reported on an option to purchase grave 4C by Mrs Herbert.?
- c) The Clerk reported the welding of the cemetery gates is in hand with Mr Barry Matthews

130. Street Lights:

- a) Lighting faults to be reported: none at this time.

131. Public Rights of Way – Lead Members, Cllrs. Trish Probert and David Cowan

- a. There were no new matters to be reported to PPW
- b. Council considered correspondence from the County Council Footpath Officer regarding PROW maintenance reports from the PPW. Concerns were raised over the current arrangements and it was agreed to write to the PPW over the concerns raised by the Footpaths Officer.

132. Highways: Lead Members, Cllrs. Trish. Probert and David Cowan

- c. Highway matters to be reported to County Highways
 - i. Station Road bridge surface deterioration
 - ii. Potholes on Buckle Street top of the hill north of the village
- a. **Tree Works:** Members considered two quotations for a 25% canopy reduction to two Ash trees in Brick Walk and a canopy lift to two smaller trees on The Green. It was agreed to accept the quotation of £225.00 from Arbour Vale Tree Surgeons. Clerk to action the works.

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- b. **Quiet Lane:** Mr Steve Bullen confirmed that Bretforton Parish Council had embraced the scheme and wished to further the initiative by adding routes to Badsey and Blackminster. Steve also confirmed that Cllr Tom Bean has expressed his support for the scheme. Further information will be given at the next meeting.
 - c. **VAS Sites:** Council considered the County Highways Officer's proposed sites for the VAS and agreed all but wished to add the village approach on Weston Road and a mid-section of Stratford Road to the VAS sites. Clerk to make the request to the Officer.
 - d. **30mph Zone Extension:** The Council considered the County Highways response to their request for a 30mph zone extension over the Railway Bridge on Station Road. The Officers response stated that without the support of the County Council ward member the request could not progress as County Council policy would be compromised. The council considered that this is a totally undemocratic policy.
 - e. **Letter to Cllr Tom Bean:** In further consideration of the above matter the Clerk proposed that a draft letter to be sent to Cllr Tom Bean requesting his support to the Parish Council's request being considered over the requested extension to the 30 mph zone on Station Road. The council agreed the wording of the letter and further agreed his support should also be requested for the proposed speed limit changes at the Taylor Wimpy site access on Weston Road as suggested in the planning consultation but still not resolved. Clerk to amend the letter accordingly and send it as soon as possible by recorded delivery.
- 133. Lengthsman** Lead members, Cllrs. Trish Probert and David Cowan
- a. New matters to be reported for action:
 - i. Check and clear if necessary the grips in the vicinity of the Gate Inn cross roads
- 134. Handyman**
- a. New matters to be reported for action; Item b below
 - b. Council considered the replacement of the first wooded bollard on Brick Walk that has been sawn off. As spare matching bollards are available the Handyman will be asked to replace the bollard. Clerk to action the works
- 135. The Leys Playing Field** Lead Members, Cllrs. Graham Clelland and David Cowan
- a. **Inspection:** Cllr. Graham Clelland reported that the regular monthly visual inspection found no problems with the play equipment.
 - b. Cllr. Graham Clelland issued the dimensions of the proposed play area fencing and the Clerk will pursue a quotation for its installation.
 - c. Dog control order signs; the Clerk reported they are being pursued through WDC
- 136. VISA and Recreation Field** :Lead Members, Cllrs. Graham Clelland and David Cowan
- a. The VISA report on the progress with the recreation field was not available.
 - b. **Field Lease:** The Chairman confirmed that as the Parish Council's Conveyancer wishes to add further clauses to ensure compliance with the land transfer document from W.R. Haines and avoid any future conflict, the Conveyancer has corresponded with W.R. Haines Solicitor and his response is awaited.

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137. **PACT:** Lead Member Brian Johnson

- a. *Item raised by Cllr Trish Probert:* There is a problem at present with cars parking all the way round the bend outside The Pottery etc. (1-5 High Street) making it impossible to see round the bend. Members agreed this is a problem and requested the matter is referred to the County Highways officer to find a solution.

138. **Mowing Contract:**

- a. Council agreed to the amendments to the mowing contract for 2013-15. A full tender process will be undertaken for the new contract and a public notice will be placed in the Evesham Journal requesting interested contractors to tender, the closing date for response to be 5th November.

139. **Allotments:**

- a. Cllr David George informed the Council he had a meeting with Mrs Fairfax but had not received the administrative documents for allotment management. He had received one outstanding rent payment of £20.00 and passed this to the Clerk. HAGA has a fund of some £200 and intend to use this to clean up neglected plots. HAGA had collected fees of £5 to cover public liability insurance and no longer wished to do so; David asked the Clerk to check if the Parish Council's insurance covered public liability for the allotments. He will report further at the next meeting.

140. **Training:**

- a. Training dates are now confirmed as; all on Mondays' - December 17th, January 14th, 21st & 28th -all @ Honeybourne Village Hall 6.30 start.

141. **Stephenson Way:**

- a. **Commuted Sum:** The Clerk reported on a letter received from Taylor Wimpy making an offer of a commuted sum based on a 20 year term. Council considered this to be acceptable in principle. Clerk to write and confirm this consideration.
- b. **Land title:** Council considered a letter and documents received from Eversheds LLP regarding the balancing pond adoption and the transfer of the land title. The documents indicated the land title is with Taylor Wimpy allowing the transfer to proceed, however the Chairman pointed out the Severn Trent Water SUDs document may have some anomalies which need to be resolved before an agreement can be considered. A response will be sent to Eversheds indicating that the Council is only prepared to take over the amenity area incorporating the balancing pond for maintenance purpose and assumes that the built balancing pond and its visible extremities will become the responsibility of Severn Trent Water.
- c. **Foul Water Pollution:** It was reported to the meeting that the foul water pollution reported at the September meeting had emanated from Stephenson Way foul water pumping station which is not adopted by Severn Trent Water and still controlled by Taylor Wimpy. The station has no telemetry therefore pump failures are not reported and pollution occurs.

142. **Policy:**

- a. **Code of Conduct:** Council agreed to adopt the Code of Conduct for members of Honeybourne Parish Council as circulated by the Clerk. Following the adoption the Clerk will issue a copy to the Wychavon District Council Monitoring Officer and post the document on the Council's website.
- b. **Standing Orders:** Following the adoption of the Code of Conduct the Council agreed to necessary amendments to the Parish Council's Standing Orders to accommodate the changes made by the new Code of Conduct.

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143. Newsletter:

- a. Council agreed to publish an autumn newsletter; the Chairman requested members to submit articles to the Clerk for publication as soon as possible.
- b. A request to publish an article from the youth club was considered and it was agreed the newsletter is for Council business only and the request was declined. However the Clerk will suggest that the Parish magazine and the village website may be suitable alternative methods of circulating the article.

144. Broadband and IT: Lead Member, Cllr Peter Brookes

- a. Cllr Peter Brookes informed the Council how important it is to get local businesses and private householders to sign up to have high speed broadband. He anticipated the average cost would be approximately £35 per month for a domestic line and more for business connection. He proposed a flyer should be sent to all businesses in the locality asking them to sign up to the new service, the more that sign up the less the individual costs would be. Cllr Brooks proposed that the flyer should be posted to all business and offered to prepare the flyer for the Clerk to post, his proposal found favour with the Council.

145. Finance:

- a. The Council approved the Payments, Receipts and Balances as listed in appendix A
- b. The Clerk's financial reports and bank reconciliation for the second financial quarter were agreed by Council as a record of the account and balances.
- c. The Clerk reported on the receipt of a VAT claim of £871.54 up to 30/08
- d. The Clerk reported on the receipt of the second Precept payment from Wychavon District Council

146. Matters raised by members and items for future agendas – none

147. Correspondence: For consideration - none

148. Correspondence Noted; Clerks and Councils Direct and Newslite

149. Meeting Dates:

- a. It was confirmed the next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for the 13th November at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm
- b. It was confirmed the Finance group meeting is scheduled for the 12th November @ 7.30

150. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.35 pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____

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APPENDIX A: FINANCE

Payments to be Authorised

Oct-12

Cheque No.	Payee	Details	Total Payment	VAT Element	Net Payment
1031	Limebridge Rural Services	Leys and Recreation field	27.89	4.65	23.24
1032	Hartwell & Co	Rec Field maintenance	66.49	11.08	55.41
1033	J Stedman	Clerks Salary & Expenses	342.40		342.40
1034	HMRC	PAYE & NIC	428.74		428.74
1035	John Hyde	Handyman Works	231.25		231.25
1035	John Hyde	Lengthsman Works	197.10		197.10
1036	Hightrees	Mowing Contract	449.16	74.86	374.30
1037	Vale Gardens Ltd	Strimmer repair	88.07	14.68	73.39
1038	Worcestershire CC	Leys Rent 1 year	572.70		572.70
			2,403.80	105.27	2,298.53

Payments received and banked			
Received From	Details	Amount	Banked
HMRC	VAT Repayment	871.54	12-Sep
WDC	12-13 Precept final	25,950.00	30-Sep
Total		26,821.54	

**All paid up Account
Balances**

CURRENT ACCOUNT	£9,697.68
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£48,578.60
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	£58,276.28

Clerk's report on the High speed Broadband presentation

David Lewis the County Council's consultant, Mark Melluish from ITS, a Broadband supplier, and Ben King of Warwicknet an internet service provider gave a presentation on Broadband speed improvements for Honeybourne and Pebworth. David Lewis gave the presentation and explained the reasons for the scheme to improve rural Broadband speed under a DEFRA funded initiative and part funded by Worcestershire County Council and Parish Councils. The scheme will provide a fibre optic connection into the village and connect into the existing copper wire local network. It is anticipated the speed will increase to 10mbs at 2.5km from the connection box in the village. A further estimate was made over the potential cost to customers which will be about £35.00 per month depending on the service up take. When the fibre optic supply is in the village anyone can, at extra cost, have a fibre optic supply direct into their property which will give a 100mbs Broadband speed. The scheme is well under way and now is the time to get users to sign up for the new service as around 350 new accounts are needed to ensure the scheme is viable.

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District Councillor report

- Honeybourne

Month: October 2012

**Prepared by Alastair Adams – Honeybourne & Pebworth Ward,
Wychavon District Council**

Planning

1. **Planning Appeals** – Following the bad news last month that the Planning Inspector had ruled in favour of the 70 dwellings at Lioncourt Homes development in Station Road, more bad news this month! To everyone's dismay the planning inspector has approved the development of 44 dwellings in Sheep Sales Fields by Sharba Homes. How the Planning Inspectorate based in Bristol can overrule the wishes of the residents of Honeybourne, the unanimous decision of the Parish Council, and unanimous decision of Wychavon District Council seems absolutely crazy to me! As a consequence, I urge all residents to write letters of their feelings to the Prime Minister, and to Eric Pickles, the secretary of State. I have already received copies of many letters on this matter. The problem seems to revolve around the 5 year land supply but using the outdated numbers imposed by the RSS(Regional Spatial Plan) which the Conservatives agreed they would abolish on their first day in office after the last general election. However because of a Judicial Review by a developer, the abolishment of the RSS seems to be taking far too long.
2. **SWDP** – The 2nd public consultation has now closed, and we are waiting to see if there are any further changes to the plans for Honeybourne.
3. **Taylor Wimpey Site – 75 dwellings** This is the site mentioned in the SWDP between the High Street and Weston Road and had been given planning approval prior to the 2 appeals. The section 106 legal agreements has just been signed which gives the village funds from the developer for various beneficial things for the village, including land for a new village hall. However, there is still the issue outstanding with the Highways Dept of Worcestershire County Council who stopped the extension of the speed limits along Weston Road saying it was not necessary. I support the Parish Council and the many residents who have objected to this change, and I have written to the Portfolio member for Highways on the WCC and the leader of the WCC asking them to reverse this decision. The Developer is happy to revert to the original plan which extends the 30mph limit and introduces a 40mph speed limit too along Weston Road.
4. **Long Marston Army camp development** – Following the SDC Planning Committee rejection of the detailed planning application on Monday 3rd September, the developers have appealed. Also they put on another public exhibition at Quinton on 26th Sept to show their plans on expanding the Leisure facilities.
5. **SIMS Recycling plant and the Birds Group plans** – As mentioned in my last report, the planning applications at this site will affect not just Wychavon District Council but also Stratford District Council and Cotswold District Council. Therefore a meeting with the Heads of Planning and other key personnel was held on the 19th September which I attended to discuss the following::
 - i. **Pre-planning application for 380 dwellings** –this proposed planning application by Birds Group. has stirred up a lot of residents' objections in Quinton, Long Marston, Dorsington, Pebworth and surrounding area. Although, it is believed it would be extremely unlikely to get planning approval, as it is not in the SWDP, there is still fear about it; especially following the outcomes of recent planning appeals in Honeybourne. The developer held a public exhibition at the Masons Arms in Pebworth on Tuesday 25th September which I attended. The reaction of most people I met was one of total opposition to the idea, and fury over the questionnaires the developers were circulating at the exhibition – the questions were not relevant, or of extremely minor relevance.

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- ii. **Planning application to change the working hours of the SIMS recycling plant** – 2 out of the 3 planning applications concerning this site have been removed by SIMS. However, the remaining application is still trying to remove the restrictions on the working hours which could mean 24 hours, 7 days a week working. Naturally again there is concern from surrounding villages due to noise and increase in traffic. A noise survey was being carried out, and a traffic survey has been requested.
6. **Broadband** — The Consultant is attending the next Honeybourne Parish Council Meeting at Honeybourne Village Hall on Tuesday 9th October starting at 7.00pm with 2 potential suppliers to discuss how we can move forward following his report. We have also heard back from DEFRA and we have won through to the next round of potential funding for this project.
7. **Ward Walks** – I accompanied Jack Hegarty, the MD of Wychavon District Council, on Friday 21st September and we visited 10 local businesses. The good news was they all seemed to be doing well in these hard economic times, and many were investing in new infrastructure, apprenticeships and growing their businesses. This bodes well for the local economy, but many did say they had problems recruiting people, and the poor speed of Broadband was also affecting their business. Jack is following up on all the comments given so hopefully the District Council can help these 10 businesses to do even better, and grow even more!

End of report.