

Honeybourne Parish Council

Minutes of the Honeybourne Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall on 12th August 2014

Present: Cllrs. D. Cowan (Chairman), P. Brookes, A. Simmons, G. Clelland, D. George, B. Johnson, T. Probert, M Powell, A. Attridge and S. Matthews.

In Attendance: Mr J. Stedman (Clerk) and one member of the public.

77. Apologies: Apologies were accepted from: Cllr. C Clear.

78. 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.

79. Public Open Forum: A member of the Public informed the meeting of two very overgrown footpaths, Ref: PROW 548 & 549. The Chairman confirmed they would be investigated and cleared where appropriate.

Ward Members Report: Cllr Alistair Adams's not in attendance

80. Minutes:

- a) Council agreed the wording of the minutes of the July ordinary meeting, the Chairman signed them as a true record of the meeting.

81. Clerk's Report on Matters in Progress:

- a) Network Rail – correspondence regarding the ownership of land possibly suitable for further car parking was sent in July and a response is awaited.
- b) Free NHS Health Check Service – Council noted the information.
- c) Hypodermic syringes found in the area of Honeybourne cemetery car park. This information was passed to the local police and they are monitoring the site.
- d) Stevenson Way balancing pond correspondence with Peter Whiteman of Taylor Wimpey. Following a lengthy email exchange and accusations that the Parish Council were holding up the progress of adoption, an apology was eventually received as the matter clearly rests with Taylor Wimpey to resolve and not the Parish Council. Members considered that the commuted sum offered several years ago needed to be reconsidered due to the time scale of the adoption process, Clerk to bring this matter to the attention of Peter Whiteman and request a review of the offer.
- e) Report of speeding vehicles along Dudley Road. The police were informed of the matter and the local PCSO offered to carry out speed gun checks on Dudley Road.

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- f) Re-surfacing the Ullington section of Buckle Street. After reporting this on several occasions the County Highways officers have now agreed resurfacing will be carried out but no date for the works was forthcoming.

82. Planning Applications –

- a. **W/14/01513/PP:** Mr P Benfield, 1 Mickleton Road, Honeybourne: Remove existing hedge and replace with fencing to include trellis panels and climbing plants (retrospective) This application was dealt with under the Clerk's delegated power with the following comments made.
The Council strongly objects to the application for the following reasons: - The fence and its trellis are an overpowering feature on a rural village street scene due to its size and design. The design of the fence is not in keeping with any other frontages on Stratford Road and therefore is an incongruous structure in a rural village street where the predominant aesthetics features are green hedges, one of which was removed to install the fence. Concerns are raised over the fence obscuring the highway visibility splay when exiting the site very close to the village speed limit boundary where fast moving traffic has been experienced, also the very close proximity of this solid fence next to the highway raises concerns of general road safety. For the above reasons the fence should be removed and the original style of hedgerow replanted.
- b. **HRN/14/001:** Mrs C Furness, Location: Grove Farm, Stratford Road, Honeybourne, **Hedgerow removal:** The length of hedgerow/s to be removed is 2 sections of hedgerow totalling 350 metres. Reason for removal, amalgamation of fields to enable easier field operations. The Council has no objection to the application but considered the proposed coppice planting could be more substantial to compensate for the loss of the hedgerow.

83. Planning Decisions Noted:

- a. **Planning Appeal for** - W/13/02570/OU Land Adjacent, The Elms, Buckle Street Honeybourne for a single detached dwelling. **The Appeal is Dismissed**
- b. **W/14/01068/OU** - Taylor Wimpey Midlands Grange Farm, High Street, Proposal: Demolition of buildings and erection of up to 75 dwellings. Provision of new village hall, public open space including amenity area, balancing pond, pumping station and associated earthworks, landscaping, car parking and other ancillary works - and as approved under permission reference number W/12/01020/OU but without compliance with condition 22 to allow commencement of development prior to road works. **Granted** with 27 conditions

84. Planning Matters:

- a. New Permitted Development Rights- The policy document from WDC was noted.
- b. **Clerks report on a meeting with Mr Rob Beattie of Taylor Wimpey.**
Members noted the Clerk's report and agreed that the proposal to issue a "Licence to Build" for health and safety reasons was unnecessary and not required at this time but an option to have the licence later would be requested. The licence would allow construction work on the new Village Hall to take place while the main site construction was underway. In consideration of the estimated time span to start the construction of the new Village Hall a request to complete the land transfer as soon as possible will be made to Taylor Wimpey. The Village Hall committee will be informed of the current situation with a request to open a dialogue to progress the project for the new Village Hall. Royal Mail will be informed that the proposed new letter box can be installed on the High Street after the end on March 2015.

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- c. **Appointment of a conveyancer for the new Village Hall site.** The Clerk confirmed that the County Council legal department would act for the Parish Council and the council agreed to appoint the County Council as conveyancers for the land transfer.
- d. **Commutated sum offer and the adoption of the amenity land on Grange Farm.**
Taylor Wimpey withdrew their original offer for the Parish Council to adopt the amenity land and balancing pond on the site as time constraints caused them to transfer the land to a management company, the adoption option is still open to the Council but as the commuted sum is reduced from £143,000 to £28,000 and Council agreed that the 80% reduced offer to be unacceptable. The outcome of this is the new Village Hall will be required to pay a maintenance fee to the management company for servicing the site.
- e. **Lioncourt Homes:** The Clerk reported that Lioncourt Homes are held up by National Grid over technical matters regarding the site access being built over the gas pipeline. Bovis Homes will be developing the site and wish to start as soon as possible after the access matters are resolved with National Grid. The site parking area used by Network Rail will be the development sites parking area allowing an immediate start on the development which is expected in the autumn.

85. Finance:

- a. Council approved and agreed the Clerk's schedule of Payments, Receipts and Balances and cheques were signed accordingly.

86. Street Lights:

- a. Members to report any lights in need of attention. None at this time.
- b. Council considered the David Wilson Homes proposed streetlight scheme for Abacot Fields and after studying the site plans, the locations for three streetlight was agreed. Clerk to inform David Wilson Homes of the council preferences.
- c. The Council's streetlight engineer's structural survey report of the parish owned streetlights indicated four streetlight in need of imminent attention due to pole top deterioration. The Clerk will resurvey the four streetlights to ascertain any constraints on their replacement with steel columns and report to the next meeting.

87. Public Rights of Way (PROW) & Parish Paths Warden (PPW)

- a. **Footpath 527c off Harvard Avenue:** After consideration of information from members and the PROW County Council officer members agreed not to install any obstructive devices and to monitor its use or abuse. The County Council PROW officer will be informed of the council's decision.
- b. The PPW reported that the footpath which crosses the brook at the David Wilson Homes site has had its closure order extended and a new footbridge over the brook will be installed shortly by the County Council.
- c. The PPW will inspect the reported blockages on the footpaths 549 off the Weston Road heading east towards the railway line and 548 starting at the Mickleton Road by the disused railway bridge/line. Any remedial action to be passed to the handyman.

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88. Highways:

- a. Highway matters to be reported for County Highways attention:
 - i. The unresolved damaged hand railings on the Gate Inn cross roads raised footway.
- b. **VAS data collection.** The Clerk reported that 7216 speed violations were recorded on Station Road in 11 days in one direction and a further 3025 on Stratford Road in 8 days. Members report very excessive speed is a regular occurrence on Station Road and it was agreed to send the VAS data to the Safer Roads Partnership and the police requesting speed enforcement is carried out on a regular basis. The Council also wishes to have sight of the County Council's traffic management and road safety policy to enable a comparison with Warwickshire County Council policy as most all of Warwickshire's villages have extensive speed control measures. Cllr Alistair Adams will be asked to source the information from the County Council.
- c. The Clerks reported on a further request for ditch clearance on Shinehill Lane and that the drainage officer confirmed that landowners had been asked to clear ditches and wished to wait and see if the clearance is carried out.

89. Mowing Contract Matters:

- a) **Payment Request:** Following the Council's offer to pay a reduced fee for the May mowing invoice from Gardens by Design (GBD) the Council considered a further letter from GBD demanding the work was carried out and full payment is demanded. After considering the evidence available and the relatively small amount involved it was agreed to pay the full amount claimed and close the matter as the contract is terminated.
- b) **Fortis Housing:** Council agreed to signing a letter of agreement from Fortis Housing for the Council to include their two property sites maintenance into the Parish Council's mowing contract. It was confirmed that Fortis would fully reimburse the Council's costs and Fortis has agreed to a 5% administration fee to be added to costs.
- c) **The Leys Mowing:** The mowing contractor's quotation to collect and clear the very excessive cut grass on The Leys was agreed, the contractor will be requested to complete the grass collection as soon as conditions are favourable.

90. Lengthsman and Handyman:

- a. The following actions to be requested
 - i. Weeding the base of the raised footpath at the Gate Inn cross roads.

91. The Leys Playing Field:

- a. **Inspection:** The regular weekly visual inspection report was considered to be satisfactory.
- b. **Annual Safety Inspection:** Wicksteed Playscapes annual safety inspection report indicated the play equipment is safe. The report brought some minor matters to the Councils' attention which were noted, one of which was the loose litterbin which will be monitored by the Council's inspector.

92. Sport & Recreation Field Development

- a. **Funding:** The Clerk issued a financial report on section 106 and other funding available for the field development project. The report indicated that the proposed phase one of the development was in budget and could proceed immediately. The council agreed to instruct the project manager Ken Watkins, to proceed with the phase one proposals which include the new access, field drainage, and utility services installed into a building suitable to service the sports use of the field.

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- b. Drainage:** The drainage and pitch scheme from PDS was considered along with the first quotation TLS and Council agreed the PDS quotation was their preferred quotation and contractor. The Clerk to instruct the project manager to proceed with PDS for field drainage. Consideration was given to the considerable expense of disposing of arising from the drainage and a suggestion to use the soil for a narrow bunding on the filed boundary will be investigated further with the project manager.
 - c. Field Name Signs:** The project Architect requested confirmation of signage design at the new access and the wording for the new field name signs. The Council agreed a substantial sign each side on the new access with the wording “Honeybourne Sport & Recreation Field” the construction to be in Everwood material as advertised by Glasdon, and in the design of the Glasdon Gateway signs.
 - d. Access Plans:** The project Architect issued draft plans for the new access design and it was agreed the design was acceptable and could be submitted as a planning application to WDC. The plans to be lodged in the name of the Parish Council to gain the local authority discount.
Members raised two points (1) that there might be a telecom pole very near the proposed access and this should be checked before plans are submitted and (2) the field’s pedestrian gate may need to be moved for the access site. Clerk will inform the architect of these matters.
- 93. Allotments:**
- a. Mediation of tenant plot vacation dispute:** Council considered the copious evidence of the disputed transfer of gardening equipment between allotment tenants and agreed the Clerk will liaise with tenants to try and reconcile the dispute by having the requested equipment returned in exchange for a year’s plot rent.
- 94. Matters Raised by Members for the September meeting:**
- a.** The Chairman suggested a welcome letter for all the new residents to be delivered when a new development is fully occupied, the matter will be considered in September.
 - b.** Members requested that the poor and sporadic delivery of the Evesham Journal, which includes the Village News magazine delivery, is investigated and considered in September.
- 95. Correspondence to Note:** None
- 96. Meeting Dates:**
- a.** Members confirmed the next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for the 9th September at the Village Hall at 7.30.
- There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.

Chairman

Date