

Honeybourne Parish Council

Minutes of the Honeybourne Parish Council Ordinary Meeting held at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall on 10th February 2015

Present: Cllrs. D. Cowan (Chairman), C. Clear, A. Perry, M Powell, A. Simmons, G. Clelland and B. Johnson.

In Attendance: Mr J. Stedman (Clerk) Ward member Cllr Alistair Adams and 20 members of the public.

209. Apologies: Apologies were accepted from: Cllrs. T. Probert, S. Matthews, P. Brookes and A. Attridge.

210. 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 and other Interests: None disclosed.

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.

211. The Chairman adjourned the meeting for open forum.

Public Open Forum:

- a. A member of the public requested a parish wide litter pick as he considered the whole parish is very severely littered on all roadside verges. The Chairman confirmed the matter would be brought to the attention of the District Council as they are the street cleaning authority and have contractors to carry out regular litter picking throughout the parish.
- b. The matter of dog mess piled up on the walkway to the Station was brought to the attention of the Council and the Clerk confirmed that the First Great Western station manager would be informed of the problem.
- c. Several members of the public made strong comments and objections regarding the planned role play events to take place on land between Honeybourne and Pebworth. The Council noted the comments as the matter is for consideration later in the meeting.

Ward Members Report: Cllr Alistair Adams's report is appended to the minutes.

The Chairman re-convened the meeting at 7.50

Note:

In the interest of the public present, the Chairman elevated item 10 of the agenda to allow the Council's debate on Profound Decisions role play events. The debate is recorded in minute 219 below.

212. Minutes:

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

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213. Clerk's Report on Matters in Progress:

Members noted the following matters: -

- a. Letters regarding the new notice boards sent to HMP and Premier Stores
- b. Allotment internal hedge cutting completed
- c. Brandon Lewis's reply to the letter sent regarding SWDP,
- d. Recreation Field planning application fee cheque signed by two members.
- e. WDC confirmation of receiving the precept demand for £57,000

214. Planning Applications – None to consider

215. Development Matters:

- a. A report from Cllr Alistair Adams on the progress with the Taylor Wimpey site access traffic calming was noted, along with the possibility of the Parish Council being responsible for future maintenance of the solar powered VAS device on Weston Road.

216. Honeybourne Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

- a. Council agreed to the excellent proposals put by Cllr Alex Perry for the initiation of a Honeybourne Neighbourhood Development Plan. It was further agreed the initiative should be promoted in the Village Newsletter and village notice boards prior to the Annual Parish Meeting when the WDC Planning Officer responsible for NDP's will be invited to address the Annual Parish Meeting.

217. Community Matters:

- a. **Heart of England Forest** drop-in session at Great Alne on 10th February – Cllr Graham Clelland and the Clerk attended the event and were informed of the ongoing growth of the forest around both Honeybourne and Spernal, currently the forest extends to some 6,000 acres and will continue to expand for the foreseeable future. All of the forested sites will have permissive footpaths, bridle ways and some cycle tracks. Map and other information is available on the charities Heart of England Forest website.
- b. **Parking matters** and parking signage in Stephenson Way. Cllr Mike Powell confirmed Mr Alan Field, the station manager, had supplied the 8 "No Parking" signs as promised but left the residents to install them. Cllr Mike Powell also reported that as expected, the commuters are still parking on the private roads, driveways and greens of Stephenson Way. Negotiations with Network Rail and Bovis Homes are ongoing to try and secure a car park area on the new development site opposite the station.
- c. **Removal of the car** from the Station car park. Despite many attempts by Alan Field to have the car removed members reported it is still in the Station car park. Clerk to pursue the matter with WDC and Alan Field.
- d. The Clerk reported that correspondence to Ms Caroline Fone, the Network Rail contact who Alan Field has designated to deal with road adoption, has failed to respond to any emails. The matter is to be referred back to Alan Field as the only contact details supplied was an email address.

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218. Finance:

- a. **Payments:** Council approved the Payments, Receipts and Balances as circulated by the Clerk.
- b. **Sec 106 arts funding** for the Village Hall and the Honeybourne School activities. The Clerk reported that a positive response was received from the WDC Officer controlling Sec 106 agreements. This information will be passed to the Village Hall committee and proposals for using the fund will be considered by the Village Hall committee and other specialists for art related Village Hall infrastructure.
- c. **A funding transfer** request from Cllr Alistair Adams to facilitate a WDC ward members grant through the Parish Council's accounts for an H-BUG event was agreed on the condition that the Council only pays the event expenses on receipt of an invoice from H-BUG. Any payment will only be up to the full amount of any grant received.

219. Profound Decisions Role Play Events

- a. The Council noted and agreed the Clerk's report on the public meeting for the Profound Decisions Role-play event held at Pebworth Village Hall on 26th January.
- b. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Chairman of Mickleton Parish Council had requested a joint letter of objection to the role play events be sent from Pebworth, Mickleton and Honeybourne Parish Council's , members declined the request and agreed that, if appropriate, a letter be sent to all the Heart of England Forest trustees from the Council.
A proposal from a member of the public to invite the role play event organisers to a meeting with Honeybourne Parish Council was rejected as it would not be in the public interest to hold a further meeting comparable to the Pebworth meeting on 26th January.
- c. Council considered a request from the Pebworth Campaign Steering Group to supply any comments or questions about the Profound Decisions Role-play event proposal. Council agreed the draft minutes should be forwarded as requested.
- d. Council considered a request for a response from Robert Woodthorpe Browne MBE regarding Profound Decisions events, it was agreed to uphold the information request. Clerk to action a response.

220. Policy:

Protocol for Reporting at Meetings of the Council or Committees. The council agreed to the adoption of the Protocol for Reporting at Meetings which will be used at appropriate meetings, the document will be placed on the Village Hall notice board and the Council's website.

221. Cemetery

- a. The Chairman reported that all the works for the grounds maintenance contract in the cemetery and churchyard was satisfactorily completed and a good job done.
Matter resolved.
- b. **Annual review of cemetery fees.** It was agreed to increase the fees for 2015-16 by £5.00 per item for parishioners and £10.00 per item for non-parishioners. Clerk to inform the appropriate funeral directors, the Vicar and post the new fees on the Councils website.

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222. Street Lights:

- a. Members to report any lights in need of attention. - Chairman reported a streetlight failure in Westbourne and this was considered to be a HMP streetlight. Ownership checks will be made and if appropriate the matter will be reported to HMP via Cllr Colin Clear.
- b. The Clerk reported on the replacement of streetlights at the Gate Inn cross roads and Green Close, it is held up due to staff illness at E-on, and the delay will be pursued by the Clerk.
- c. To receive a report on the new streetlight in Stratford Road, on the junction of the cemetery access. This is awaiting a new column to be installed by E-on.

223. Allotments:

- a. The inside of all three allotment boundary hedges have been cut by the Council contractor as a requirement of the tenancy agreement.

224. Public Rights of Way (PROW)

The footpath from Westbourne to Station Road has surface tarmac break-up making its use difficult for some pedestrians. Clerk to report the matter to County Highways.

225. Highways:

- a. **New highway matters** to be reported to County Highways.
 - i. Grit and gravel deposited on Station Road needs road sweeping
- b. **Shinehill Lane drainage** update – The WDC drainage Officer informed the Council the matter is now resolved as all requested remedial works are complete.
- c. **VAS Data:** The Lengthsman's report on the VAS data collection.
 - i. Station Road 21 days 18,051
 - ii. Western Road 21 days 15,631
- d. **Community Speed Watch Scheme.** A traffic speed monitor placed on Station Road from 14th to 21st January indicated that the average speed of traffic is 33.7 mph during the day in both directions. This data concludes that traffic calming or a speed watch scheme cannot be substantiated at this time.

226. Lengthsman and Handyman:

- a. Council agreed to the Handyman painting the new notice boards with a water repellent to help prevent lock jamming caused by wet weather conditions swelling the wood.
- b. New matters for the Lengthsman or Handyman. –
 - i. Install the new litterbin on the Recreation Field.

227. The Leys Playing Field:

- a. **Inspection:** The regular weekly visual inspection report was considered to be satisfactory.

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228. Sport & Recreation Field Development

- a. Members noted the comments in the reports from Mr Ken Watkins and the Clerk which confirmed : -
 - i. The development planning application is lodged with WDC
 - ii. Final funding arrangements are being made with WDC Officers
 - iii. An application for a water supply is lodged with STW

229. Community Centre

- a. The Clerk reported that Taylor Wimpey have requested the contact details of the Council' solicitor to progress the transfer agreement for new Community Centre land.

230. Existing Village Hall Cllr. Graham Clelland

- a. A request was made to the WCC Principal Conveyancer to investigate the securing of the Village Hall land title on behalf of the Parish Council. The matter is ongoing.
- b. Having received a report from the Clerk that sec 106 arts funding is a strong possibility Cllr Graham Clelland agreed to report this to the Village Hall committee.

231. Correspondence Noted:

- a. An email received from a parishioner suggesting the Council write a letter of thanks to David Wilson Homes did not find favour with the Council as it was felt not appropriate due to many issues with the construction works and site planning matters.

232. Meeting Dates:

- a. Members confirmed the next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for the 10th March at the Village Hall at 7.30.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____

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District Councillor & County Councillor report - Honeybourne

Month: February 2015

Prepared by Alastair Adams

District Councillor, Wychavon District Council

County Councillor, Worcestershire County Council

County Council News:

From April 2015, the Care act 2014 introduces a series of reforms that affect existing and new service users, their families, and carers. There are 60,000 carers in Worcestershire. For more information, see www.gov.uk/careandsupport

First Schools – there is a county wide move by academy schools to hold public consultation on whether to add a year 6 thus making them align with first schools in Gloucestershire and Warwickshire. This is causing widespread concern in middle schools as it will affect their funding. Everyone is asking all schools, high, middle and first schools, to work together to find a solution. The County Council recognises that a move over to a 2 –tier school structure in Worcestershire over time is the most likely outcome as only 5% of pupils in UK schools now use the 3-tier system. However, the schools need to work together on this to achieve the best outcome for our children.

Planning – Wychavon District Council

The Good News is Wychavon has won some major planning appeals recently and at last the planning inspectors are agreeing that WDC do have a 5 year housing supply. This is a big step forward and should help prevent any more unwanted new housing development in our villages!

1. **Grange Farm – Taylor Wimpy – Traffic Calming** I think we are there at last! WCC and Taylor Wimpy have agreed to share the cost of a new flashing “Slow Down” solar powered sign at the entrance to the village. They have also agreed there is space for the entrance gates on the grass verges. This is in addition to the agreement to extend the 30mph speed limit by 194metres towards Weston, install red tarmac at entrance to the village, to have central reservations with bollards in the middle of the road, and dragon teeth to warn motorists that they are entering a 30mph speed limit. **So after over a year of battles, we are at last at a point where we should have some very good traffic calming measures installed very soon, which should slow down the traffic entering Honeybourne from the South.**
2. **Profound decisions** – this is a new pre-planning application for an events site halfway between Honeybourne & Pebworth so no information yet on the WDC planning website. However, the paperwork seen to date on the internet suggests up to 1500 visitors each event, and up to 40 events per year – To find out more, please google “Profound Decisions” to find their web page and look on YouTube to see the type of fighting games they run. A meeting occurred last Monday 2nd February in Pebworth village hall and was well attended with nearly 200 residents showing their opposition to Profound Decisions holding any events on this land. A steering committee has been formed by residents to fight this proposal. A letter has been written to the Trustees of the Heart of England Forest which is a charity set up by the late Felix Dennis to plant 40,000 acres of trees.
If you want to help fight this and help the steering committee, please contact john Bicknell on 01386 830162 or email him on J.Bicknell@btinternet.com

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Highways :

1. **The pavement in School Lane will be resurfaced and widened this month** – thus the road will be closed this month during the works
2. **Speeding survey results supplied to the Parish Clerk.**
3. **Ways to stop HGV's using Mickleton Rd as a rat run** - We have agreement that GCC will lead on imposing a weight limit on this road, with the support of Worcestershire CC.
4. **Overflow from Honeybourne Railway Station** – Bovis Homes have in principle agreed to help provide an overflow carpark on their development and will liaise with Great Western/Network Rail/WDC.
5. **Buckle Street near Ullington Hall –Grooves in road** – This is now programmed into being re-tarmaced before end of Feb
6. **Adoption of Roads in Stephenson Way** - County Highways gave a summary of the problems to date, and what was causing the delay in adoption of these roads. I have asked Sir Peter Luff, MP, to help me in chasing Network Rail to try and get things resolved, and progress at last seems to be happening

Councillor's Divisional Fund

In addition to the good causes already authorised, the following actions have happened this month :

1. The old Long Lartin Staff sports ground & club building – a grant has been requested to help turn it into a community asset – paid
2. Roundabout charity that supplies furniture to low income families – a grant to help fund an apprentice – grant form submitted
3. Pebworth Church – help requested to repair a wall - paid
4. Blackminster School – help requested with brochure to promote school - grant form submitted
5. Honeybourne Cycle Fest has requested help with marketing – pending

Finally I visited various businesses in the area last month, and was very impressed with how many people they employ, their successful growth, and their commitment to this area and community. I visited the following:

1. Unipart
2. Kanes
3. Planet Products
4. Organics
5. All Things Rural
6. Roundabout

End of report.