

**DRAFT MINUTES
MEETING OF KINGTON & DORMSTON PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Kington & Dormston Village Hall
Monday 18th July 2022 at 7:30pm**

Present: Cllr M. Tilt (Chair) Cllr I. Bull
Cllr R. Drake Cllr V. Longmore
Cllr P. Collins Cllr T. Richards
District & County Cllr L. Robinson

In Attendance: Clerk, 13 members of the public were in attendance

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Notes are covered in an aide memoir at the end of the minutes

1. CO- OPTION

There were no applicants for Parish Councillor as yet however one parishioner has shown an interest-they could not attend the July meeting but will attend the September meeting.

2. APOLOGIES- None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST- None

4. GRANTS FOR DISPENSATION- None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022 were approved as true and correct.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS:

a) County & District Councillors Report- Linda Robinson

Last month was a welcome respite after the hectic month of May with all the Parish meetings & PC AGM's. Plus, annual meetings for County & District Councils.

The Jubilee celebrations were extremely well supported and enjoyed by residents. I managed to visit ten across my Division on the Sunday including your own and even a slight downward turn in the weather did not dampen the enthusiasm for enjoyment. It was great to see residents enjoying and appreciating your refurbished hall which even had live music playing.

There was a huge variety of events from street parties to morris dancing, beacon lighting, fun fairs and tea parties. The villages came up trumps with bunting, flags and decorated houses and village halls. It reminded me of how diverse our communities are and how good at organising Community events. I recognise though how much hard work goes on behind the events before and after and would like to thank all those involved in turning their visions into reality.

I personally planted several trees in some of our parishes as part of our Lord Lieutenant's green canopy initiative. I am pleased to tell you that so far over 16,000 trees have been planted in Worcestershire to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee, Happily the good news continues for tree planting.

Successful funding bid for Heart of England Forest project

Heart of England Forest and 'Defra Heart of England: growing momentum, capacity, skills, and trees' has been awarded a £499,446 grant from the Trees Call to Action Fund, led by Defra, the Forestry Commission and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

In partnership with Heart of England Forest and Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils, we are running this three-year project to engage with landowners and local communities to increase tree cover across the landscape.

Working together to identify suitable areas for trees to be planted, facilitate tree planting, and support woodland maintenance, new woodlands will be created that benefit the environment, boost biodiversity, and provide havens for communities to enjoy. As we increase the level of tree cover then more skilled people are needed to plant and maintain the new woods. The project will create four full-time roles, in addition to four forestry apprenticeships, and will provide training for local volunteers, increasing the number of people with the required skills and ensuring the sustainability of these new woodlands. Evidently 150 acres have been brought by DEFRA in Naunton Beauchamp as part of this scheme which is very exciting.

Covid-19 update as of 17th July

April saw the end of free testing and this has affected the reliability of infection data. While official testing rates have fallen significantly, information from other sources presents a different picture, although data is still patchy.

Infection rates are on the rise again nationally. The English average is 309 rising to 330 per 100,000 in Wychavon which has the highest rates in the County. The highest prevalence is amongst people in their 50's. more people have been re infected and it is felt that the latest Omicron variant is more transmissible but with less significant symptoms. There are currently 117 people with Covid symptoms in our Acute hospitals in Worcestershire which shows a considerable increase since mid-June. Vulnerable people have now been offered a fifth vaccination booster. As it stands 83% of people in Wychavon have received at least the first dose. View the latest vaccination data on the Worcestershire County Council website.

Ukrainian situation.

More families have arrived into our towns and villages currently 1035 in 430 homes in our County. They are being supported by County & District agencies. 2,400 residents have expressed an interest in hosting $\frac{3}{4}$ of which were in the south of Worcestershire. 337 of these refugees have come into Wychavon to 136 hosts and 150 children are settling into our schools. Sadly, as the situation in Ukraine worsens so more refugees are expected to arrive as the conflict with Russia continues.

Cost of Living Crisis

This situation is also worsening together with increased energy costs. Current rail strikes are adding to the pressures felt by many. Food costs have also increased and we are aware of increased demand at our food banks. Wychavon and County are offering 'Here to help' schemes so please let me know if you know of any families that are struggling and we can signpost them in the right direction.

2021 CENSUS RESULTS

WYCHAVON has seen the second-largest population size increase in the West Midlands over the past ten years, according to the 2021 census. The population has increased by 13.3 per cent from around 116,900 in 2011 to 132,500 last year, while the overall population in England grew by 6.6 per cent. This has seen Wychavon rise from the 185th to the 175th most populated area in England. Just 200 people were living in each square kilometre of land

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in 2021, a slight rise from the 176 people in the same area in 2011. This was below the 434 residents per square kilometre in England last year.

The past decade has seen an increase in the number of households, with the amount of properties rising from 49,466 in 2011 to 57,400 in 2021.

There has been a 51 per cent increase in the amount of 70 to 74-year-olds since 2011 compared to a 37 per cent rise in England. There has also been a 46 per cent increase in the number of 75 to 79-year-olds, whereas the national average in this age group is 22 per cent. Wychavon has seen a significant rise in the number of young adults, with a 29 per cent increase in those aged between 25 and 29, while there are 39 per cent more 30- to 34-year-olds than ten years ago. The biggest decrease in population has come in people aged 40 to 44, which saw a decrease of 17 per cent. There was also a ten per cent drop in the number of people aged between 45 and 49.

Overall, there has been a 31.5 per cent increase in people aged 65 and over and a 7.9 per cent rise in those aged between 15 to 64 years. There was also a 9.5 per cent rise in the number of children aged 14 or below.

7. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Robinson shared that a site visit had taken place regarding the road noise on the A422 with the Chief of Highways but little noise was present. It is hoped that the current period of hot weather will help to settle the road material.

8. LENGTHSMAN

Cllr Collins asked for the lengthsman to trim the area around the VAS machine-Clerk to action.

9. PLANNING

a. Applications considered at the meeting: None

b. Applications approved since previous meeting:

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|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| <u>W/22/00918/FUL</u> | Building Off Kington Lane Kington | Erection of new cow housing with robot milking facilities (Phase 1 of 4) and new slurry storage | Application Approved |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|

10. FINANCE –

a) The following payments were approved by all Cllrs:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Luke Farnsworth | Lengthsman December/ Jan | £300.00 | Cheque 000510 |
| Lisa Cope | Salary | £384.00 | Cheque 000511 |
| HMRC | Lisa Cope Tax | £96.00 | Cheque 000512 |
| Lisa Cope | Expenses | £54.84 | Cheque 000513 |

b) The bank balance as of 15/06/22 was £7,674.03

11. PROPOSED JBM SOLAR FARM

Thirteen parishioners were in attendance all concerned with the proposed Solar Farm in Stock Green, Cllr Drake started by giving an overview of the meetings attended concerning the project so far.

From Cllr Robinson discussing the issue with the parishioners before the meeting one main concern was that many residents of Kington & Dormston were not aware of the proposals and how it could affect the village and therefore it was suggested that a Village Facebook page and/or WhatsApp group was required- Cllr Richards agreed to set up

both groups. Residents will need to email the Clerk with their mobile number to be added to the WhatsApp group and people can be added by friends and neighbours also
 Several residents agreed to help with posting leaflets to parishioners' houses to increase awareness, but it was agreed that this would prove more beneficial once the formal planning application comes through so that residents can directly comment on the application number through Wychavon.

Cllr Robinson read out comments made by the Conservation Officer on the project which were strongly opposed to using the site in question. A parishioner suggested trying to place a conservation status on the land in question as it is an area of natural beauty-the PC agreed to look into this and it would require working closely with Stock & Bradley PC and Inkberrow PC- Clerk to make contact.

Representatives from Stock & Bradley PC were present who stated also that a Just Giving page had been set up to help with any future planning consultant costs which may be required to oppose the project and or pay for an environmental study on the area-details can be found on their Facebook page and website.

12. STAFFING COMMITTEE AND VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE

Following the resignation of Cllr Laight, Cllr Bull agreed to join the staffing committee and Cllr Collins agreed to display agendas/minutes on the Kington Noticeboard. A Cllr is required to be a representative on the Village Hall committee-to be confirmed at the September meeting.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT

All Cllrs agreed to adhere to the new 2022 Worcestershire Code of Conduct as circulated by the Clerk.

14. WORCESTERSHIRE 20 IS PLENTY CAMPAIGN

The campaign was discussed but it was agreed by all Cllrs not to implement the scheme as it would not be enforceable and would need to cover the entire parish.

15. BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW

A further consultation by the Boundary Commission still suggests Kington & Dormston be moved to Inkberrow Ward from Upton Snodsbury Ward. If parishioners disagree with the change they are urged to visit the site <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/> and register this before the deadline of 8th August 2022.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk circulated correspondence before the meeting from six parishioners expressing concern about the proposed Solar development by JBM-discussed in item 10.

17. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Collins asked for Village Flagpole to be added to the September agenda, following a request from a parishioner.

Tree planting needs to be added to the September agenda also

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting was agreed for Monday 12th September 2022 starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed Chairman.....

Date.....

KINGTON & DORMSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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AIDE MEMOIRE

Public Question Time

Covered in Item 11

Several parishioners expressed concern of not knowing about the JBM Solar project and how communication could be bettered.

One parishioner wants the PC to work with Inkberrow and Stock & Bradley PC to see if a conservation status could be applied for on the proposed development land

One parishioner commented that the project should not be referred to as a Farm but a Solar Industrial development.