

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th February in the Library.

Present: Cllr. D. Goodyear (Chairman), Cllr S Cumella, Cllr G Dawson, Cllr M Gardner, Cllr T Gale Cllr M Nott, Cllr T Studer and Cllr M Walker, District Councillor B Williams and Mrs J Dale (Clerk)

There were 8 members of the public present.

Democratic Period/ Public Question Time: -

Concern was expressed about the proposed housing behind the Crown and the responses to Harriet Baldwin's letters from the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Planning and the Chief Executive of Malvern Hills District Council. The Parish Council confirmed that 2 public sessions were planned on 16th and 17th February in the Village Hall from 10am – Noon both days. The full plans will be on display at that time and parishioners are invited to come along and make their views known in order that the Council can respond to MHDC. An extraordinary Council meeting will be held on Monday 18th February in the Village Hall at 7.00pm which will have a public question time session of 30 minutes.

It was stated that 85% of the parishioners are against this development. Housing needs surveys had not shown a real need and if the development goes ahead and the properties do not sell building will not continue.

A parishioner informed the Council that some of the old apple trees in Barbers Orchard had been felled. As there were no Tree Preservation Orders in place no action can be taken by Council.

147.12 Apologies – There were no apologies.

148.12 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 7th January were approved and signed accordingly.

149.12 District Councillor Report: Cllr Williams reported that the Electoral Services Manager at MHDC would be retiring shortly.

She also explained the changes in the Recycling system. All parishioners will receive letters explaining the changes but briefly MHDC have carried out a street by street assessment and each household will either receive a Standard wheelie bin, a compact wheelie bin or continue with pink bags if their property is inaccessible. The recycling bins will be emptied on a fortnightly basis with the black bag collections continuing on a weekly basis for at least the next 5 years. Cllr Williams was requested by Cllr Gale on 3 occasions if she would vote against the housing development behind the Crown as she acts as chair of the Northern Area Planning Committee.

150.12 Planning –

Application Ref 13/00087/FUL – Land behind Crown. Meetings planned see above.

Application Ref 13/00114/HOU – First floor extension and formation of granny annexe. Charcam Gables. Council are concerned about the possible effects on the neighbouring property and a site visit is planned.

151.12 Post Office Proposal:

The proposed changes to the post office services in the village as detailed in their letter of 2nd January were discussed: Council will respond as follows:

- Strongly support move to the shop
- Vital to keep the Post Office services in the village
- Concern about lack of privacy especially with elderly parishioners
- Access improved – i.e. wheelchair ramp
- The longer hours will be an improvement
- Concern about limited car parking
- Will request that the services being removed are re-instated.

Signed.....

Date

152.12 SWDP Consultation:

Council will respond to this consultation and this matter will be discussed at the Extraordinary meeting on 18th February.

A notice will be put up in the village encouraging parishioners to respond individually to this consultation.

Consultation closes February 22, 2013.

Cllr Dawson said it was important that we build a closer relationship with MHDC and we need to address this.

153.12 Correspondence:

SWDP – MH Area Calc notice of meeting 14th March – noted

Letters from MHDC & Parliamentary Under Secretary for Planning – see Public Time above

MHDC – Planning & Housing Training Programme – clerk to make bookings

Aqua Cleansing – clerk to send letter

MHDC Change to Recycling – see above (District Councillor's report)

154.12 Progress Reports:

Drains – Hollins Lane. Despite reminders to WCC Highways no response had been received. Cllr Nott had met some workmen looking at the drain but no work was carried out. Clerk requested to send formal letter of complaint to Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Council and also to mention the poor state of repairs being carried out to potholes which are a waste of public money.

Noise from MUGA – prices for sound improvement will be available for March meeting (Agenda)

155.12 Adoption of BT Phone Kiosk:

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Gardner and seconded by Cllr Dawson that Parish Council commence the adoption process of the phone kiosk in the centre of the village. The phone kiosk outside The Admiral Rodney would stay as is currently.

156.12 Broadband: Cllr Studer agreed to investigate methods and costs of possibly obtaining broadband via fibre optic.

157.12 Weighbridge Area: A quote had been received for the landscaping improvements to be made to the weighbridge area. 2 further quotes will be obtained asap. It is hoped to commence this work in March.

A quotation had also been received for the tree surgery work required. 2 further quotes to be obtained.

2 quotations were received for a replacement notice board which will form part of the improvements. Cllr Gardner proposed and Cllr Cumella seconded that the lower quote be accepted.

158.12 MRA:

Cllr Gardner gave a brief report on the AGM. This subject to be on the next agenda.

Transfer of assets – to be on March agenda

159.12 Library Electricity Costs:

Cllr Studer reported that he had looked at the roof insulation and felt that improvements could be made. He will follow this up. The clerk to update the Village Hall Committee.

160.12 Councillors' Areas: Deferred until March meeting.

161.12 Finance:

Payments were agreed and cheques signed accordingly.

162.12 Lengthsman:

No additional work. Ditches and gullies to be kept clear and gritting as necessary.

163.12 Clerk's urgent decisions:

Resolved ownership of trees adjacent to weighbridge.

Arranged for quote for tree work.

Reported construction traffic mess at Horsham

Arranged for Kingswood Lane grit bin to be cleaned and filled with grit.

164.12 Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Cumella reported that the Neighbourhood Plan committee had considered approaching neighbouring parishes with a view to a combined effort. Concern was raised that this could delay the process. The Clerk will write to neighbouring parish clerks. This will be discussed at the meeting to be held on February 18th.

Cllr Studer requested that the Parish Web site be included on the March agenda.

Potholes in Church Lane

The clerk to send a copy of the asset register to all councillors.

165.12 Date of next meeting:

Open mornings February 16th and 17th – Village Hall

Extraordinary meeting February 18th – Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting – March 4th in the Library.

Janet Dale

Clerk to Martley Parish Council

28th January 2013