

Minutes of Lindridge Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 8th November 2017 at Lindridge Parish Hall, Eardiston

Present: Cllr Mrs A Winwood, Cllr Workman, Cllr Mrs T Lowe, Cllr N J Benbow, Cllr Mrs K Pardoe, Cllr Evans

In Attendance: Cllr C Dell, PC Mark Broughton, PCSO Vanessa Snape, Mr Alan Bush, Mr Stuart Coull, Mr Nick Fairbrother, Ms Gill Hazeldine, Ms Anne De Laurier, Ms Sonia Rainbird, Mr Nicholas Swift, Ms Lauren Thompson, Mr Ian Vanes, Mr Neil Vanes.

PUBLIC MEMBERS SESSION

10 residents of Eardiston attended to raise with the Parish Council their concerns about the danger to pedestrians of traffic speeding through the village. In response to initial comments, Cllrs Winwood and Workman described the work which had been carried out by the Parish Council over the last two years. White gates had been installed at both ends of the village to make it clear to motorists that they were entering a village and should expect to encounter traffic hazards. A VAS unit had been purchased (paid for out of the Parish Council's funds) and was now installed. The Safer Roads Partnership had positioned a camera van in the village periodically. To general disbelief, it was explained that SRP had now removed the camera van from Eardiston because the average traffic speed was over 40 mph (in the 30 mph limit). WCC Highways have been prepared to advise and many hours have been spent in discussion with their staff. The Parish Council has now implemented all the safety measures which WCC has proposed, but WCC itself is not prepared to take any practical action to make traffic safer. As a response to the lack of action from WCC, the Parish Council has recently formed an action group together with other parish councils affected by speeding on the A443.

Cllr Winwood explained that WCC would not permit any narrowing of the carriageway in Eardiston as the A443 was a main road. This was challenged by the meeting - examples of this being done in other counties eg A361 in Warwickshire and Northamptonshire and A44 in Herefordshire were mentioned.

Several examples of dangerous driving were described. In response to a question from Ms De Laurier, it was confirmed that no record was maintained of near misses, there being no means of capturing the data. Danger to children from traffic was emphasised by Ms Thompson and Ms Rainbird raised the particular difficulties of the disabled.

In response to a question from Ms De Laurier, PC Broughton confirmed that police would attend Eardiston with a hand-held speed camera.

Cllr Winwood thanked so many residents for having taken the time to attend and to make their feelings known to the Parish Council. It was suggested that residents should email the Parish Clerk with their specific concerns and they would be passed on to WCC Highways. Alternatively, the more direct contact received by County Councillors and MPs from members of the public the better the chances of action.

The public session of the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

PC52. Receive Apologies for Absence

Parish Clerk

PC53. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest

None declared.

PC54. Minutes of the 13th September 2017 Meeting

The Minutes were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

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PC55. Agree, check and minute accounts

Cllrs Mrs Lowe and Cllr Evans agreed, checked and signed accounts with the exception of the audit fee invoiced by Grant Thornton which it was decided would be challenged.

The Bank Reconciliation as at 30 October 2017 was approved and signed by Cllr Mrs Winwood.

Accounts paid since last meeting

- Parish Clerk, Salary – Sept & October 2017 £ 600.40
- Post Office – Tax Payments – July/Aug/Sept £ 18.20

• **Accounts Unpaid**

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- Parish Clerk, Expenses for Sept & October 2017 £
62.30
- Parish Lengthsman – Sept & October 2017 £ 426.00
- Mr C Bunn – Grass Cutting of Parish Hall for Sept & Oct 2017 £
56.00
- Lindridge Parish Hall – Hire of Hall 13/09 & 04/10 & 05/10 £
60.00

PC56. Progress Reports for Information

District Councillor – Cllr Dell advised the meeting that he had nothing of significance to report but was very happy to take questions. A discussion about how the District Council might be involved in addressing the ongoing concerns about the speed of vehicles travelling through Eardiston then ensued. Cllr Dell explained that the District Council could only have very limited involvement, if any, as the responsibility for such matters lay wholly with the County Council. The Chairman advised Cllr Dell that arrangements were being made to meet with an MHDC representative to improve the Council's understanding of the work and process involved in preparing a neighbourhood plan. The Chairman also advised Cllr Dell that given the strategic significance of the planning application for The Moor site (17/01474/FUL) the Council had sought to have an explanatory note inserted into Temespan including a reference to the MHDC website.

Parish Hall Representative.

Cllr Williams updated the meeting on work completed by he and Cllr Benbow in conjunction with representatives of the Village Hall committee. A detailed review of all relevant documentation had established much clearer terms of reference for both groups and would ensure efficient and effective relationships going forward. A report (with appropriate recommendations) had been previously circulated and was accepted by the Council.

The work to establish a sewer connection had now been completed.

Bookings for the village hall were following traditional seasonal variations and were meeting expectations.

Enquiries had revealed that the erection of the Village Hall sign (previously used at the Nags Head) may need planning permission and were continuing.

Councillors

Cllr Benbow informed the meeting that the Council had received an invoice from our auditors (Grant Thornton) which represented a significant increase on previous years. As no satisfactory explanation of the increase was given he sought the Council's agreement to challenge the invoice. Unanimously agreed.

Action: Cllrs Benbow and Evans to prepare an appropriate response to the auditors seeking clarification of the invoiced charges.

Cllr Williams queried whether the Council was planning to make any provision for additional grit bins to be offered to the Parish? The ensuing discussion revealed that MHDC might hold an inventory of existing bin locations and a strategic analysis identifying further potential bin sites.

Action: Clerk to approach MHDC to obtain details of current grit bin locations and any available strategic analysis relating to potential grit bin sites – including criteria upon which any decisions for allocation might be prioritised.

Cllr Workman updated the meeting on the minor works still ongoing to finalise the VAS and white gate placements in Eardiston. He also advised that he now had a limited stock of free 30 mph wheelie bin stickers. He had met with a WCC representative and secured agreement for an improved gully clearance programme for the A443 in Eardiston. The A443 Action group of Parish Councils had held its first meeting and another was now scheduled. He and Cllr Evans had also met with a WCC Highways representative to address road surface defects on the approach road to Menithwood and to have speed monitoring equipment installed in Menithwood following complaints from local residents.

Following an enquiry from a local resident, Cllr Mrs Lowe sought, and was given, advice on action that could be taken when a residential property was being used for commercial purposes and was causing a nuisance.

Cllr Mrs Winwood expressed concerns that rumours were circulating that the work on the landslip in Frith Common was being rescheduled into two phases, split over this and the next financial years, due to budget considerations. Such action could lead to further road closures.

Action: The Clerk to approach WCC to seek information on the programme of continuing and further works and report back to the next meeting.

Clerk – In the Clerk's enforced absence due to illness Cllr Benbow reported that changes to the PAYE arrangements were leading to payment difficulties. As a result, the Council was invited to consider adjusting its financial regulations and practices to permit electronic payments. Agreed.

Action: Clerk to explore enabling electronic payments. Cllrs Benbow and Williams to redraft financial regulations accordingly and review Council processes to ensure propriety is preserved.

The Clerk had received correspondence from the Eardiston group overseeing the restoration of the telephone box raising various queries and seeking a contribution to the costs of refurbishment. The Council had received a small grant from Cllr Dell to assist in such schemes. It was agreed that the Clerk should check whether the grant money received had already been allocated and if not, then they could be given the Eardiston group. Other queries should be addressed by the Clerk

Action: Clerk as above.

Recent correspondence from WCC indicated that the increased flood risks associated with a ditch in Mamble had been assessed and would be addressed. The Chairman advised that she had spoken with the Chair of Mamble PC who was content for Lindridge PC to continue to pursue the matter.

PC57 - Speed Reduction Measures in Eardiston – Discussed in Councillors section.

PC58 – Road and Drainage Issues within the Parish – Discussed in Councillors section.

PC59 – Risk Assessment – Cllr Williams presented his draft risk assessment for consideration by the meeting. He explained that a recent circulation by CALC indicated that all councils might be required to appoint a data officer but that further information would be forthcoming. The Council thanked Cllr Williams for his efforts, agreed to adopt the risk assessment in its current form and to bring the matter to the next meeting for discussion in the light of any further information about the appointment of a data officer.

Action: Clerk to bring forward at the next meeting.

PC60 – Parish Hall Sign – Discussed in Councillors section.

PC61 – To Discuss Draft 2018/2019 Precept

Cllr Benbow introduced his previously circulated paper and explained the rationale for all changes to last year's proposals. He confirmed that the Council's reserves were still healthy and the proposed precept would keep them within our agreed policy

parameters.

He had identified a possible saving by transferring key documents from the existing TSB safe keeping arrangements to the 'Worcestershire Hive' where they could be archived free of charge. The Council voted upon this proposal which was carried unanimously.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Benbow about arranging the transfer of the relevant documents to 'The Hive'.

The Chair explained her suggestion that funds previously allocated to the Garden Competition were no longer required and should now be included in 'donations'. She further proposed that they should be awarded to the PTA of Lindridge School. After discussion, the proposal was supported by a vote of 4 in favour and 3 abstentions.

Cllr Evans suggested that, despite the investment in 'Floodkit' equipment for the Village Hall it would still be prudent to maintain a £500 reserve to support the Emergency Plan.

Cllr Evans reminded the meeting that the proposed precept still left less than 20% of the funds raised to be directly spent on what might be termed parish enhancements and that every effort should be made to minimise our administrative costs where possible.

Cllr Benbow proposed the precept to the meeting. It was seconded by Cllr Evans and unanimously carried pending any additional information that might arise before formal adoption at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to bring forward to the next meeting.

PC62 – Review planning matters, applications and decisions

PLANNING REFERENCE – 17/01173/FUL

Red Lodge, Frith Common, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, WR15 8JX

Use of mobile home for holiday let

Mr and Mrs T and S Love

APPROVED

PLANNING REFERENCE – 17/00916/HP

Alterations and extensions to provide ensuite bedrooms, re-located kitchen and utility together with previously approved detached garage.

Mr & Mrs N Fairbrother

PLANS AMENDED

PLANNING REFERENCE – 17/01449/HP

Construction of new driveway and parking (retrospective)

Mr and Mrs Bush, Selridge, Dumbleton Lane, Eardiston, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8JH

PLANNING REFERENCE – 17/00158/LB

Reinstatement of original window, replace all existing windows and the removal of upvc patio doors and replace with timber fold door.

Flat 10, Eardiston House, Eardiston, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8JH
Miss L Thompson

APPROVAL

PLANNING REFERENCE – 17/01474/FUL

Proposed change of use from industrial to mixed use industrial estate incorporating Class B1, B2 & B8 together with Modified Access, Demolition Works and Associated Landscaping and boundary fence.

The Moor, Eardiston, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8JJ

COMMENTS REFERRED TO MHDC

Given the strategic significance of the planning application for The Moor site (17/01474/FUL) the Council had sought to have an explanatory note inserted into Temespan including a reference to the MHDC website.

PC63 – Report of Matters Arising from Last Meeting – Meeting with Mr D Clarke MHDC to discuss a potential neighbourhood plan was still being arranged.

All other items already discussed above.

PC64 – Correspondence for information –

- Audit return from Grant Thornton
 - Email from and to Dr N Swift – re: speed in Eardiston and telephone box
 - Letter from HMRC – PAYE Revision
 - Letter to Mrs P Marsh, Lindridge Parish Hall – Sewerage Works
 - Letter to Mrs G Hazeldine, Co-option onto Lindridge Parish Council
 - Letter to Electoral Services – Mrs G Hazeldine
 - Email to and from Axiom Training
 - Email to and from PC V Snape – speed issues in Eardiston
 - Letter to and email received from Mr S Smith, Economic Development Manager, MHDC – Planning Application of The Moor, Eardiston
 - Email to and from Mr Davies, Lindridge – speed issue on A443, Lindridge
 - Reported items to WCC and MHDC
 - Email to P Green, Ditch at Mamble
 - Email to and from Came and Company re: increase to fixed assets
- **PC65 – Items for Future Agenda**
- - Road and Drainage Issues
 - Speed Restrictions in Eardiston and A443 action group
 - Website
 - Risk Assessments
 - Precept 2018 - 2019

PC66 – Items for Teme Span and Next Meeting Date

Items to be submitted:-

Action:

- Cllr Workman would draft a short article detailing the strength of feeling about vehicles speeding through Eardiston clearly expressed and evidenced by public attendees of the meeting
- Parish Path Warden Vacancy

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th January 2018 at 7.00pm at Lindridge Parish Hall, Eardiston.

The meeting ended at 10.00 p.m with the Chair thanking G. Hazeldine and A. De Laurier for their attendance as observers and potential councillors.