

HANLEY CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 19th September 2013 starting at 7:00pm in Hanley Swan Village Hall.

Present: Councillors: Sue Roberts (Chairman) Tony Atkinson John Taverner
Jackie Bass Sue Adeney Robert Lamb Wendy Roberts-Powell
Francis Harcombe (from 8pm)

Apologies: PPW Colin Rowley

In Attendance: Rebecca Abunassar (Clerk) DCllr Mike Morgan CCllr Tom Wells (from 8.30pm) 5 Parishioners

125/13 Welcome: The chairman welcomed all present.

126/13 Declarations of Interest

- a) Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: Cllr Sue Roberts declared an interest in item 13c as the applicant.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: None Declared

127/13 To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011): None received.

The meeting was closed to allow parishioners present to speak on any matters relating to the Parish.

The Chairman asked the Parishioners present if they wished to speak on any matters on the agenda or relating to the Parish. All present wished to discuss Item 7 a) on the agenda, the planning application for 2 new properties 13/01045/FUL behind New House and Montrose Cottage. It was agreed to bring the item forward and discuss the application to allow comments from the Parishioners.

The Clerk updated the Council on submitted amendments to the original plans which had been received that day. The amendments were to overcome objections already received. Not all of the parishioners present were aware of these changes as they were not on the online planning application and therefore the changes were read out to all present.

The plans were discussed in great detail and all parishioners in attendance contributed to the discussion. Several protected species had been reported to have been sighted in the hedgerow and gardens and a full report on the habitat had been requested by the planning department. It was agreed to request a copy of the report when it was available.

The question of the proximity of the new houses to the hedge boundaries was raised and whether planning permission was required to remove the existing hedgerow. It was **agreed** that the Council would not object to or support the application until the species report had been received but the Parish Council would submit the following comments and ask for the following conditions if it were to be approved:

- the existing hedge should remain and not be removed as it provides screening for the houses in Hanley Orchard.
- would it be possible to locate the new houses closer together in a more central position on the plots moving them further away from the existing boundary hedges?
- Could it be made a condition to have windows on the upstairs floor facing existing houses to be top hung and obscure glazed to offer more privacy to existing

residents?

Action: The Clerk to email concerns and proposed conditions to Andrew Moody and request a copy of the Species Report when it becomes available.

A parishioner also brought to the attention of the Council a sign on the main road that had rusted and could pose a hazard. It was agreed that the clerk would contact David Jew.

Action: The Clerk to report this matter to David Jew at Highways.

The Parishioners also commented on the poor condition of the road to Blackmore. The Chairman advised it was anticipated it would be repaired in the Autumn once the main Three Counties' events had taken place. This led to the question of what benefits the Parish could receive from the Three Counties Showground to compensate for the inconvenience the events caused Parishioners. The Chairman agreed to raise the matter with Ken Nottage, Chief Executive of the Showground, as he would be invited to attend the November meeting.

128/13 To Receive the Report of the Local Police Officers (subject to duties)
Crime report for last month: The crime figures for the last 3 months were read out by the Clerk.

129/13 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th July 2013 having been previously circulated were **approved** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

130/13 Matters Arising & Progress Reports not Listed elsewhere on the Agenda

a) Min 88b/12: Notice board adjacent to the Former Hanley Castle Post Office: The Chairman informed the Council the relocation of the notice board was complete and the board was now positioned by the postbox in Church End.

b) Min 69c/13: Anne Ballinger gift

The suggestion of a bowling green at Bowling Green was proposed. It was discussed and agreed that such a project would require ongoing cost and maintenance and therefore not in the spirit of the bequest. The possibility of purchasing a projector was discussed again and it was decided to continue to investigate the purchase of a projector to use at future meetings but ideally something more tangible should be bought with the gift for example a seat, tree or similar.

Action: Councillors to continue to source ideas. The Clerk and Cllr Lamb to investigate the cost of purchasing a projector and type of equipment required and used by other Parishes.

c) Min 70d/13: Cycle Route

Cllr Adeney advised that the proposals were not progressing well, and focus appears to be on 'what cannot be done' rather than 'what can be done'. Cllr Adeney had emailed Lindsay Weir to voice her disappointment and to ask for parameters of what is required and clarification on costings involved in some of the proposals.

Safer routes via the High School could be a possibility but would be something to look into at the next meeting.

Cllr Atkinson raised the point that Gerry Brienza had not delivered on any of the actions he said he would, for example addressing the corner at Gilberts End. He proposed the Council arrange for the corner by Gilberts End Farm to be dug out. Cllr Harcombe thought that Highways would have 'won the day' as the Parish Council would have undertaken the work for them. It was agreed that it would be a possibility to ask the Lengthsman to undertake the work but to invite Gerry

Brienza to a future meeting to meet with the whole Council. It was also suggested that Jonathan Fraser and Adrian Hardman were also invited to the meeting.

Action: Cllr Adeney to continue to request action by the County Council and to update the Parish Council at the next meeting. The Clerk to contact Gerry Brienza, Jonathan Fraser and Adrian Hardman and invite them to a meeting to discuss the state of the roads and empty promises.

131/13 Projects related to the Section 106 Funding:

a) Cricket Club: No update available but there may be news after their AGM.

c) Parish Council: A detailed updated specification had been drafted by Cllr Lamb and issued to three contractors to provide like for like quotations. Two companies had been met at the site and the requirements discussed. Quotations were requested to be submitted by the 4th October. A draft section 106 application form had been sent to Jo Cross for guidance and her comments received. The form would be submitted as soon as the quotations had been received and it was known which contractor was going to be used.

Action: The Clerk to forward all quotations received to Cllrs Roberts-Powell and Bass and arrange a meeting with them to finalise project requirements.

d) Youth: The equipment had finally been installed with the tarmac having recently been laid. The Opening Ceremony had been postponed but Cllr Adeney proposed the new date of 8th October at 6.30pm with the Youth Group gathering from 6pm. The invitees would be contacted again and advised of the new date.

It was reported that the blue tooth on the shelter was not working and pictures of the peeling instruction sticker had been sent to Monsterplay with the request that it is fixed as soon as possible.

The broken kickboard was discussed and a quote of circa £280 had been provided. It was agreed that this was a fair amount and the Council voted to proceed with the repairs.

Action: Cllr Adeney to organise an official opening and the Clerk to email an invitation to guests for the revised opening ceremony. The Clerk to continue to liaise with Monsterplay to ensure the equipment is fit for purpose. Cllr Roberts to organise the repair of the kickboard.

132/13 Planning: a) To consider planning applications referred by MHDC for comment:

13/01045/FUL Erection of 2 no. dwellings and associated private drive
Land rear of New House/Montrose Cottage, Welland Road, Hanley
Swan

Please refer to comments under the open section of the meeting/minutes.

13/00959/FUL Proposed new house. Demolition of garage and altered access
Rear of 32 Quay Lane, Hanley Castle

After careful consideration Members raised **no objections** to the application

b) To consider under the Scheme of Delegation any Planning Applications received between publication of the agenda and the Meeting: None received

c) Details of Decision Notices Received to-date:

13/00666/HEX Extension of time limit to commence development on application
10/00576/HOU single storey extension to rear
The Balconies, Hanley Swan, Worcestershire, WR8 0DN

APPROVED: 24th July 2013

13/00704/S73 Variation of Condition 2 on 12/01337/S73
Czero, Blackmore Park Ltd
APPROVED: 24th July 2013

13/00293/FUL Extensions and alterations
Unit 8, Hanley Workshops, Hanley Swan, Worcestershire, WR8 0DX
APPROVED: 30th July 2013

13/00842/FUL Demolition of a fire damaged building and erection of single storey
portal framed pitched roof industrial unit
Unit 4 & 4A, Merebrook Industrial Estate, Hanley Road, Welland,
APPROVED: 8th August 2013

13/00928/HOU Extension of existing garage and workshop to house biomass boiler
and pellet fuel store.
Rhydd Gardens, Worcester Road, Hanley Castle, Worcestershire
APPROVED: 2nd September 2013

13/00718/HOU Extensions and internal alterations.
Ayton House, Roberts End, Hanley Swan, Worcestershire, WR8 0DL
APPROVED: 2nd September 2013

13/00882/LBC Re-roofing, timber frame repairs, installation of roof lights and
removal of chimney stack
Hanley Hall, Gilberts End, Hanley Castle, Worcestershire, WR8 0AS
APPROVED: 4th September 2013

13/00898/FUL Temporary relocation of existing mobile classroom.
Hanley Castle High School
APPROVED: 9th September 2013

(Subject to the mobile classroom hereby permitted shall be sited on the land for a limited period
expiring three years from the date of this permission, at the end of which period it shall be
removed from the site and the land restored in accordance with a scheme to be submitted
to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.)

d) *Details of Appeal Notices received to-date:* None received

e) *Possible Enforcement Actions Required:* None received

133/13 Highway Matters

Report & Works for the Lengthsman: Cllr Taverner reported on behalf of the
Lengthsman. The VAS was currently in Hanley Swan and the Clerk from Welland
had sourced a known working battery from Upton Town Council to double check
that it was the machine and not the battery that was faulty. The Welland Clerk
would contact the Clerk to advise of their opinion.

The overgrown hedge at Gilberts End is causing problems but the owner is
proving hard to contact. Cllr Lamb thought he might have a contact who could
get the address of the owner and it was agreed to try before asking the
lengthsman to cut the hedge back.

**Action: The Clerk to continue to liaise with the other Parishes and
determine their preferred option of contributing towards a new machine
or the servicing and replacement battery of the existing machine. Cllr
Lamb to source the address of the land owner at Gilberts End.**

b) Reported Highways Issues: The Clerk had previously circulated David Jew's email addressing the Parish's Highways issues that had been raised. Unfortunately he felt little action could be taken as additional speed indication measures would be of little significance.

Potholes had been reported outside the British Legion Club and ownership of the road was in doubt. Festival Housing had confirmed that it did not belong to them.

Action: The Clerk to contact Highways and request that the potholes are filled or if they will not take responsibility for the road, or that they provide ownership details.

134/13 District & County Councillors Reports

a) District Cllrs Morgan & Perry: DCllr Morgan talked about the proposed Local Area Neighbourhood Plan being lead by Upton Town Council, to which Hanley Castle, Ripple and Longdon were invited. He said it would be a very worthwhile meeting for the Parish Council to attend as he thought Neighbourhood plans were very important especially after he attended the conference run by Harriet Baldwin. There was confusion over whether Malvern Hills had an adequate 5 year land supply as the Inspectorate had ruled against a sufficient one as the SWDP had not yet been signed off by the Secretary of State and the Inspectorate were using a different basis on which to calculate their land supply figures. DCllr Morgan advised that whilst the SWDP was going through the signing off process planning approval was more likely to be given as the District Council cannot afford to have decisions overturned by the Inspectorate.

DCllr Morgan also updated the Councillors on the impending arrival of Uniformed Parking Enforcement Officers who will be patrolling the area from November. If there are specific areas the Council wish to be targeted they should speak to Gordon Morris and he will make the arrangements. There are 8 people on the team and they will work in pairs.

b) County Cllr Tom Wells: CCllr Wells spoke of his dismay over the letter he had received from Dorothy Bowen and said he was unsure how to respond. He thought the most appropriate action might be to look at a new configuration of the driveway. CCllr Wells said he would speak to Gerry Brienza to try and have further discussions with the engineer.

He went on to talk about the cycle route proposals; what a worthwhile project he thought it would be and that he wished to support it. He discussed the other projects within his area that he was supporting. He gave an indication of the possible contribution he could make but advised he would also expect the Parish Council to contribute to the project.

Like DCllr Morgan he talked about the SWDP and noted that whilst waiting for it to be signed off the District Council were seeing sites that were rejected under the SWDP being put forward for approval and only by demonstrating 'demonstrable harm' could applications be refused. He warned that Hanley Castle may now see a rise in speculative applications.

Cllr Roberts mentioned she had heard that the field at the top of Chapman's Orchard may soon have a planning application submitted.

135/13 Reports of the:

a) Parish Paths Warden: Report read out by the Clerk. Cllr Harcombe confirmed a new bridge had been installed at Tickerage but he did not think it would alleviate the flooding problem.

b) Pond Wardens: Report read out by the Clerk

c) Playing Field: Report read out by the Clerk

136/13 Environmental Matters

Verge Project – Cllr Adeney provided a summary of the verge project and informed the Councillors they were producing an action list and a report that would be circulated amongst the Council. She advised that dog poo bags would

be provided by the caravan site and would hopefully reduce the amount of dog waste on the pavements.

She was pleased to report that the area of verge that had been sown was showing at least six species of wild flower. The brambles continued to be a problem but a working party arranged for the 9th November would hopefully address some of the problem.

The Group would like to start addressing the inconsistencies of the mowing of the verges within the settlement boundary of the Hanley Swan village as some are maintained but not others. The two areas causing most concern were the Church car park to Jubilee Cottage and the area outside Chapman's Orchard.

The Environmental Group were going to revisit their terms of reference and send them to the other Councillors for clarification.

Action: Cllr Adeney to email the Clerk the Environment Group's report for circulation.

137/13 Correspondence

a) **Merebrook Pond** – The circulated email was discussed and it was agreed to contact the parishioner and ask if the water levels had improved after the recent rain.

Action: The Clerk to contact Allister Dann.

b) **National Planning Framework** – Cllr Atkinson agreed to attend the meeting with Upton Town Council, Ripple and Longdon Parish Council to discuss Neighbourhood Plans, 26th September

138/13 Finance:

a) **Payment of Accounts:** Members **approved** the payments of accounts as in the presented schedule in Appendix 1.

b) **Notification of receipts received:** in Appendix 1.

c) **To consider Applications for Discretionary Rural Rate Relief:**

i) Messers R A Phipps – Jessamine Cottage

ii) Miss S Roberts – The Three Kings

The Chairman, having declared a Disclosable Interest left the room. In the absence of the Chairman, members present elected Cllr Taverner to chair the meeting for this one item.

Members unanimously supported the two applications for Rural Rate Relief under category B. Cllr Roberts returned to the meeting and the Chair.

d) **To consider updating software on existing laptop or new laptop**

With changing technology and the requirement to view planning applications on-line it was agreed that the purchase of a new laptop with up to date Microsoft office was required.

Action: The Clerk and Cllr Lamb to research laptops and indentify suitable ones for under £500.

e) To receive notification of the Conclusion of Audit from Grant Thornton.

Action: The Clerk to post notices of conclusion of satisfactory audit.

139/13 Topics raised by Councillors, Committees, Clerk & Parishioners:

a) **Neighbourhood Planning Event** – The pressing need for a Neighbourhood Plan and the costs involved was discussed.

Action: The Clerk to circulate notes from the conference.

a) **Dangerous Manhole Cover** – An email from a parishioner detailing a dangerous manhole cover close to the village pond was circulated prior to the meeting. Despite assurances from Nexus the cover had not been made safe.

Action: The Clerk to continue to liaise with Festival Housing to resolve who has responsibility for the manhole.

140/13 Items for Future Agendas

a) Invitation to Hanley Castle High School Head Teacher and Chair of Governors to attend the next meeting.

141/13 Date of Next Scheduled Meeting: 17th October 2013

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm

Signed Date: 17th October 2013

Chairman

Appendix 1: Schedule of Receipts & Payments 19th September 2013

Payment of Accounts: The under mentioned accounts were approved:

September Cheques for Approval		
Came & Company	Add. Prem. Youth	25.00
Worcestershire CALC	Book	56.25
Peter Saunston	July Lengthsman	26.00
Information Commissioners Office	Renewal	35.00
New Farm Ground Maintenance	July & August Cuts	1377.00
WDBF Ltd Glebe Account	6 mths Rent	100.00
Mrs Abunassar	August Pay	332.29
Peter Saunston	August Pay	36.00
Hanley Castle Parish Magazine	Donation to Parish Link	500.00
Grant Thornton	Annual Audit fee	120.00
Mr P Brewer	Relocation of Noticeboard	40.00
	Total	2647.54

Signed

Date: 17th October 2013

Chairman