

Minutes of the meeting of Earls Croome Parish Council at the Village hall on Tuesday 16th November, 2021

Apologies Jeremy Owenson District Councillor, Nikki the clerk and Andy Millward.

Those Present Mark, Penny, Tom, Margaret, Charlotte, Robin and Katie, and Ann Smith, standing in for the clerk. Also present, Malcolm, Tree Warden, Mr W. Ball and Mr. Peter Surman.

Remembrance Service Mark thanked Penny for laying the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. The service was very well supported with 42 people attending.

Planning Application 21/01970/Full – Agricultural access onto Yorkshire Grey Car Park

The chairman introduced Mr Peter Surman who had come to give a presentation concerning the above application, which Mark said was very welcome because a lot of local people were concerned about this application. See text re Mr. Surman's presentation. The chairman asked if anyone had any questions and Margaret asked about the flyer which had been mentioned. This was a leaflet bringing this application to the attention of residents, but a few people had not received it. The chairman asked Peter what was the purpose of the access. Peter said it was an application for agricultural access for agricultural vehicles. Mark then asked why this additional access was needed when they already had an access by Hazeldene Cottages only 150 yards up the road. Peter said the Hazeldene access also served other properties and was dangerous and the new access would resolve issues of safety. Margaret said the information contained in the transport plan was useful. Penny asked about the loss of parking spaces on the car park. Peter said that 6 six places would be lost, but they had in fact managed to create another 3, so only 3 places. He also said that the number of seats in the restaurant had been reduced from 110 to 80 due to improvements. The chairman thanked Peter for the presentation.

Minutes of the last Meeting These were proposed by Penny, seconded by Katie and unanimously agreed by the members.

Absence of District Councillor Mark said that Jeremy Owenson our District Councillor had been absent for the last few meeting and we need to have updates on various matters. He proposed that the clerk write and ask Jeremy for a report. This was seconded by Penny and all were in favour.

South Worcestershire Development Plan We need to get the latest information concerning this plan from MHDC.

Highway Matters Many complaints were received from residents when the A4104 was closed and traffic was directed along Quay Lane. It was an intense volume of traffic along a single track with a weight restriction at each end, making it totally unsuitable. The traffic would have been far better diverted through Kinnersley. The passing bays were heavily

used and churned up and muddy. It was suggested that Hannah Davis be contacted with this complaint and asked if the passing bays could be consolidated and resurfaced.

Hedges Penny said that several hedges were overhanging paths, at New Cottages, Glebe Barn (Andy reported that he had brought this to the owner's attention), Mr. Smith's hedge along Quay Lane, (Tom said he would speak to Mr. Smith), and Mr. Wicken's hedge which is badly overhanging opposite North Quay. It may be that Nikki has already written to Mr. Wickens and this will be clarified. Penny reported that dustbins are often left on the footpaths after collection day and she herself had walked into one. Tom suggested that this maybe something that could be brought to people's attention via our Facebook Page.

Parish Paths Malcolm reported that £283 had been spent this year. A large tree has also fallen along the BOAT, which has been cut up by Robin Saunders. However, it is overgrown and Malcolm said there should be 3 ½ metres of headroom on a bridleway. He will send photos to Nikki and if this is highways responsibility it should be reported to them.

Trees Malcolm reported that he had ordered trees and they would be planted by Christmas. He had been grateful for help from Trina in the past with planting and Penny and Pete Green had also helped. The money given by Paul Middlebrough our previous County Councillor has now all been used. He has received offers of donations from David Beaven, one of Margaret's neighbours, and Bob has also offered assistance. The Queen Green Canopy project for trees of 15-30 in number has now closed for the autumn and Malcolm thought it better to leave more planting until next year. Malcolm has looked at the application form and would be happy to complete it in the future.

Ash Trees Concern was expressed that ash die-back is still effecting many trees on Marsh Common. A previous visit by Chris Arnold (tree surgeon) a few years ago was mentioned and after a discussion it was decided that the clerk be asked to write to him to do a further inspection of the trees. The cost of this should be noted when considering the precept. Margaret mentioned that some trees on the far left-hand side of Dunstall Common are in Severn Stoke Parish. They were notified of this and Roger Allard has carried out some work on their behalf.

Lengthsman Scheme Andy has sent a report listing various items he has carried out:- gullies and grips cleared, path along Church Lane cleared. Spoken to residents at Glebe Barn about overhanging hedge (mentioned above). He also mentioned reporting fly-tipping of used oil to W.C.C and asked members to look out for containers that have been used for this purpose. We need to ask him where this has happened and what type of oil was involved.

Commons

Smithmoor Documents relations to our claim for ownership of Smithmoor Lane have been signed and returned to the solicitors who will then make our claim to the Land Registry.

Mark related a recent incident when Mr. Teasdale had tried to make an illegal water connection to the blue pipe at the end of Smithmoor Lane. The clerk had written to Severn Trent to ask if they could police this situation. Their reply was they could only take action once an illegal connection has been made.

Tom read a letter to the meeting from Harry Gilder saying that due to the safety of their livestock they would not be grazing animals on Smithmoor Common again. The loss of animals last year had cost them £2,000. It was suggested that we take this up with our insurance company to see whether we could recover his loss, together with our loss of income. Margaret said the gate-post at the common entrance is still wobbly. This was something Steve Coole was doing in return for the mowing grass. The clerk was asked to take this up with Steve.

Dunstall Common Malcolm reported that the situation with dogs fouling the common was much improved.

Marsh Common Mark queried the boundary of this common opposite Turnpike Kennels. The field on the opposite corner was once common land but following the last war ownership went to Croome Estate. The boundary of Marsh Common is the dividing hedge between the common and the field from Dunstall Road to the A4104. The issue of the key to the gate on Marsh Common was mentioned. Mr. Gerrard of Mill Pond Farm has the key to this gate and Steve Coole or the clerk has the key to the gate on Dunstall Common. Nikki will be asked who has the key and it may be that if a better solution is needed a combination lock might be considered.

Report from County Councillor Martin Allen apologised for being late, but he had an earlier meeting. He reported that the Clearaway/Digaway application for the door of the building to remain open had been approved. Members that had originally been against this had said nothing and this was disappointing. Upton Town and Ripple P C are both keen on the idea of some form of art work at the roundabout, but an answer is still being awaited. Various speeding issues were discussed together with comments that people had made on Earls Croome Facebook Page. The possibility of speed checks on the A38 was mentioned although on a previous occasion not enough people driving over the speed limit were detected, but it may be time to request another check. After a discussion it was thought that somewhere near the Garden Centre would be a good place for speed strips to be positioned. We will write to the Police & Crime Commissioner, John Campion, and also Alan Amos, Head of Highways raising this issue. It was also decided to put both their details on the Earls Croome Facebook Page and encourage people making the comments to write to them. There have been complaints that the busses do not keep to the published timetable, but Alan Amos said that this was the responsibility of the bus company. W.C.C. have applied for £86,000,000 to fund running buses in this area. They will know by March/April if this has been awarded. Community Services have been running a mini bus

service from the surroundings villages to Tewkesbury on Wednesdays. Martin said there was enough data to prove there is a need for this service and he is proposing to try and continue with it for a ten week period. The C C will give a donation, he will give £1,000 and he will ask P.C.s for donations. The footpath in Orchard Close has been put on the C C list for 2022 - 2023 at a cost of £11,500. The C C will have a Revenue Budget Debt of £522,000,000 as at 31.03.2022.

Planning

Planning Appeal Ref:- APP/J180/W/20/3263247 & APP/J1860/C/3279663. This application is an appeal for which the travellers were given five year temporary permission for 6 pitches on the site at Baughton View Caravan Site, Baughton, Earls Croome, following an appeal in April, 2016. The temporary permission has now expired. All further comments must be sent to the plan inspectorate by 1st December, 2021.

Plan 21/01970/Ful Elgar Inn, Worcester Road. Creation of a new agricultural access – resubmission of plan **21/00136/Ful**. We originally objected to this first application before it was withdrawn. Mark commented that there were two plans with the application, one showing a roadway across the field connecting to the gateway, the other one not showing a roadway. Jeremy our D C has said that a roadway across the field would need planning permission in his opinion. Peter was reassuring regarding the concerns about the mud on the road raised in the leaflet sent to residents alerting them to the application. Katie said that not as many cars could fit on the car park and at busy times cars were parking along the service road. Robin said he thought we should be supporting this business being run by young people. Katie said that it had been suggested that Festival traffic might use this gateway and also quarry traffic, but Tom raised concerns if this was to be the case. Margaret queried how much land might be left for Festivals, and also suggested that we could ask for traffic to be limited. Katie also said that there was no record of any accidents having occurred at the Hazeldene Cottages access, which does not support the suggestion that this new access is required in the interests of road safety. It was questioned how it could be policed that other business at Ryalls Court Farm, i.e. Marquee Hire Co, and Portable Building Co. did not use this access. At this point Tom commented that this type of traffic may come under the classification permitted under farm diversification. Margaret said she was disappointed and felt that the application wasn't being dealt with in a democratic way. All members had been notified of this application when it was received, and the planning representatives had raised issues of concern, which were then notified to the members before the meeting. Mark said we also have to consider what the parishioners want and follow their wishes particularly the ones living along the access road who would be most affected. Mark emphasised that we don't want parking along the access road. Margaret suggested that Surman Farms could approach Croome Estate about extending the car park into the adjoining field. Several members said they had not had time to study the latest information and felt unable to make a decision on this application. It was suggested that in

the circumstances we ask MHDC Planning Department for a further 10 days to consider this application before submitting our comments. Members will be contacted once this has been agreed and a further short meeting will be arranged to discuss this item.

Plan 20/01827/Full Baughton Stud. Smithmoor Common Enforcement notice served.

Meetings Margaret said that she had attended two meetings recently, one concerning Carbon and another at MHDC concerning local planning for parish councils, which was being conducted by a Cornwall council looking for any inconsistencies. She would report on these at a later date.

Phone Box We have now missed the weather for painting the phone box, and this will need to be done next year.

Notice Board Nikki had put this item on the agenda, and we are not sure of the nature of the problem. It was bought a few years ago for about £1,500 and should be non-maintenance. Item will be left for next meeting.

Finance

Precept The clerk has provided details of previous years expenditure, and the proposed budget for the coming financial year. Members will study these and a decision regarding the precept request will be made at the January meeting.

The monthly bank reconciliation for cash and monies was undertaken for September and October and Charlotte confirmed that this was in order.

Payments made since last meeting:-

Mr.A Millward - :lengthsman payment – September	£204.00
Mrs. N Nicholson Clerk’s Salary – October (S/O)	£204.30
Mrs. N Nicholson Clerk’s work from home allowance October (S/O	£15.00

Payments to be reviewed and authorised:-

a) Mr.A Millward Lengthsman Payment October	£96.00
b) Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk salary- November (S/O)	£204.30
c) Mrs N Nicholson - Clerk’s working from home November (S/O)	£15.00
d) SME – Legal Fee’s on account for Land Registry - Smithmoor	£50.00
e) Mr. A Millward – Lengthsman Payment – November	TBC

Remittance

WDC - 2 nd precept payment	£1900.00
WCC Lengthsman Reimbursement- September	£84.00

WPD Wayleave Payment £87.02

NS&I Balance Transfer (Account closed) £2141.75

Date of Next Year's Meetings Members were happy with the dates suggested for next year's meetings:- 25th January, 15th March, 10th May, 19th July, 20th September and 15th November, 2022 Charlotte said she may not be able to make one or two but this is unavoidable. The date of the next meeting is January is Tuesday 25th January, 7.30.p.m at the Village Hall