

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EARLS CROOME PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM AT EARLS CROOME VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllr Mark Smith (Chairman), Cllr Penny Green, Cllr Tom Goodwin, Cllr Margaret Herbert and Cllr Charlotte Bloomfield, Malcolm Tomkins (Tree Warden) Andy Millward (Lengthsman) and the Clerk.

1) APOLOGIES

District Councillor Owenson, Cllr Katie Etherington, Mrs Ann Smith (Advisor to PC),

2) PUBLIC: 3 residents in attendance.

X2 residents from Dunstall Common came to raise concerns regarding youths meeting in their cars at Dunstall Castle and racing up and down the road through the common and recording themselves, often on a Sunday afternoon. Police had been called via 101 but there were long 'on hold' times. Mark asked the residents to carefully get some footage and asked they persevere with the reports to 101. Mark advised this would be discussed in the meeting under Highways matters.

Another resident raised concerns regarding the number of red streetlights going up by the new roundabout. Mark explained these were a part of the planning for the roundabout works. There are likely to be 10-12 in total and red lights are lower frequency than white light, chosen to protect bats.

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2022 were proposed by Penny, seconded by Margaret, agreed by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5) MEMBER VACANCY – CO-OPTION

Mr Ian Wilson was co-opted onto the Council. The Co-option forms were signed in front of the Clerk and Cllr Ian Wilson was welcomed to the meeting.

6) CALC CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE

The Chairman advised that he thought as a whole the Council had a very good track record regarding civility & respect and he was concerned the pledge could lead to more bureaucracy. It was decided to investigate the pledge further and what it would entail going forward before signing up to it. This would be discussed again in the November meeting.

7) REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

District Council Report – Mark summarised District Councillor Owenson report.

The Boundaries commission had concluded their work and the new boundaries would be in place following the elections in May 2023

County Council Report

County Councillor Allen joined the meeting.

Martin advised that he had investigated having proper passing bays installed in Quay Lane as requested and that without considerable contribution from his County Councillor fund it would not be possible. He was unable to pledge the sums needed as he had already pledged money elsewhere for dangerous footways. Other repairs to Quay Lane were scheduled for Spring 2023. He was unable to get any further assistance regarding diversions

on Quay Lane during the roundabout work, however the last closures were due over the autumn with the project drawing to a close by Christmas and with luck the difficulties would then be over.

Martin gave an update on the local mineral extraction sites. He explained that the proposed rowing lake at the Fish Meadow extraction site was not linked to the current applications and a 2nd application would be required for this.

Martin explained his concerns regarding the health risks surrounding the Bow Farm mineral extraction and the County Councils disregard of the recommended 200m exclusion zone, this is a European directive that the UK is not subject too. The extraction zone is right up to a residency.

8) COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE (CB2)

Martin advised that he is funding a Community Bus service that goes to Tewkesbury once a week. It is going very well and has a regular number of users. Martin is exploring the potential of an Upton Shuttle to take people in/out of Upton. Martin is hoping to run services 4 days a week. First Bus are wanting to leave the current operation and he has been informed that locations with a Community Bus service will be first in the queue for WCC funded rural bus services.

9) SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Martin advised that the revised SWDP had not been voted on yet and the official consultation dates have not been shared as yet.

10) HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Members discussed what could be done regarding the cars gathering at Dunstall castle. The Clerk had invited the police to attend this meeting but had not had a response. Discussions included further signage, reducing the speed limit and the purchase of a VAS. Martin pledged £2000 towards a VAS purchase, and it was suggested the Clerk approach the National Trust for a contribution/grant, not only do they hold tours of Dunstall Castle, the popularity and growth of Croome Park has increased the traffic on all the approaches to the County Park. It was also suggested to approach the District Councillor for funding.

11) PARISH PATHS

Malcolm advised that he was continuing to clear paths under the P3 remit. He asked if he could have an increase to his hourly rate due to fuel cost increases. Mark asked Malcolm to work out what rate he required and notify the Clerk.

The lack of an official Parish Path Warden was discussed, and it was thought a local volunteer should be sought rather than waiting on WCC to recruit, it was suggested an advert be created and put on the local Facebook pages, in the Bridge and on the notice board.

12) TREES

Malcolm advised that watering of the saplings continued.

The trees he applied for as part of the Queens canopy will be delivered between Oct 31st-November 11th, 30 in total, and asked for volunteers for the planting. He also asked for a member to walk around with him to discuss the planting locations. Margaret agreed and Trina Smith would be included.

The Ash die back near the Highway at Marsh Common was discussed and it was decided that a professional should be asked to do a safety survey. Penny would ask Ann Smith to approach Chris Arnold initially.

13) LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

Andy updated members on his work, he noted he was within budget and was doing approximately 14 hours a month. He had things on a cyclic rota and asked that members notify the Clerk should they spot something that needed doing.

He advised members that removal of fly tipping was not in his remit as lengthsman and that a report to MHDC online by anyone noticing fly tipping does result in speedy removal.

He is currently working on the cutting out in Quay Lane.

14) DEFIBRILLATOR

It was noted that during a recently required software update to the defibrillator it had necessitated new batteries. These and other maintenance had been agreed to be funded by the Parish Council when the defibrillator had been purchased. Mark thanked Charlotte for arranging the update and purchasing the batteries on behalf of the PC. It was noted that refresher courses on the defibrillator use was due. Charlotte would arrange some dates and advertise these via the Facebook noticeboards.

15) COMMONS

a) Smithmoor –

LEGAL MATTERS:

Mark advised that the PC were awaiting the final bill from the solicitor. It was thought to be £330 plus VAT with potentially an additional charge for the solicitor's recent advice.

MAINTAINANCE: There was no further update this meeting.

Dunstall – there had been some unusual fly tipping during the month, this had been removed by MHDC

Marsh – Ash die back as discussed.

16) PLANNING

MHDC Update regarding housing supply – Martin advised that this was still under review as Worcester City and Wychavon housing numbers would affect the land supply and despite communication saying there was a 5 year land supply it was being recalculated.

20/01827/FUL Baughton Stud, Smithmoor Common. Enforcement notices served. The Clerk advised that the applicant remained in breach of the notices and that another enforcement visit was due soon.

Bluebell Farm vision statement – Mark advised there had been no further correspondence received or reply to the PC query about other consultees.

21/01970/FUL Elgar Inn, Worcester Road. Creation of new agricultural access –still NO OUTCOME

17) FINANCE

The monthly reconciliation of cash and other monies was undertaken for July & August by Charlotte & Penny.

Payments made since the last meeting were noted as follows:

Mr A Milward – Lengthsman payment – July	£156.00
Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk Salary- August (S/O)	£213.36
Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk working from home allowance August (S/O)	£20.00

It was proposed by Penny and seconded by Tom and agreed by all to authorize the following payments:

a) Mr A Milward – lengthsman payment – September	£156.00
b) Ms C Bloomfield – reimburse defibrillator batteries	£192.00
c) Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk salary – September (S/O)	£213.36
d) Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk Working from home allowance September (S/O)	£20.00

e) Mr A Milward – lengthsman services – October

£TBC

Remittance:

WCC Lengthsman re-imburse June

£156.00

VAT reclaim 21-22

£205.54

18. CORRESPONDANCE

- Resident regarding cars gathering & racing at Dunstall Castle – as discussed under agenda item 10.
- WCC Notification of roundabout night closures – Martin advised the dates may have changed.

19. INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting Tuesday 15th November 2022 at Earls Croome Village Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm.