

Stoke Bliss, Kyre and Bockleton Group Parish Council.

Minutes.

Clerk: Carole Hirst – 07903 377066 – stokeblissgroupclerk@gmail.com

Monday 13th November 2017 at 7.30pm at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Present: Cllr's J.B.Adams (Chair) ; J. Middleton; B. Farmer; O. Turner; A Yarnold, M. Bowdler; T.Powell; J. Williams; P.Basford; D.Phillips.

Absent: Cllr C. Rea.

1/11/17 Apologies for Absence: District Cllr's P. Grove and T. Penn.

2/11/17 Declarations of Interest – None

3/11/17 To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) - None

4/11/17 Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of the 14th August 2017 were duly approved and signed as a true record.

5/11/17 Matters arising from the minutes - None

6/11/17 (a) Report received from Cllr Ken Pollock – Worcestershire County Council

Tenbury Public Realm – This work is on schedule to be completed by the end of November

County Council Affairs - The Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy has been approved- with great emphasis on Parkway Station Worcester and Kidderminster Station. The revised Local Transport Plan (LTP4) was approved. This outlines all the possible transport improvements across the county to be considered between now and 2031.

Velo Cycle Event - The controversial bike event took place on the 24th September and divided the communities through which it past. There were large crowds out in all the villages applauding the riders, and in several places like Bewdley and Droitwich, special arrangements were made to offer food and drink to the spectators. In other places, there was serious opposition, some of which was regrettably expressed in oil, nails and tacks being strewn on the road and hedge clippings deliberately scattered on the route. Clearing up this material meant the cyclists were delayed and the road closures lifted late. This aggravated the situation for many who were not sympathetic to the event in the first place. The Director will now decide whether to permit the event to go ahead in subsequent years and, if so, whether the route might be modified to minimise disruption and loss of business.

Road Repairs - I am aware that inspections have been carried out on some of the difficult roads in the parishes and am hopeful that appropriate remedial works will be put in place in the New Year. Some operations are affected by the winter weather and hence need to be scheduled away from some months.

Resolution: **Cllr Adams thanked Cllr Pollock for his report and the report was approved.**

(b) District Councillor Report from Cllr T. Penn and Cllr P. Grove.

Local Planning Matters - A High Court judge had dismissed a challenge to the council's decision to grant planning permission for 4 broiler rearing buildings at Sallings Farm, Bockleton, near Tenbury Wells. The claimant gave notice of renewal of their claim for permission to apply for Judicial Review and requested an oral hearing which took place in the Planning Court in Birmingham last Friday. (27th October 2017).

The challenge focussed mainly on the adequacy of the applicant's Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and whether it met the requirements of Statute, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations and Policy SWDP25 (Landscape Character).

2018 Boundary Review – Revised Proposals for new constituency boundaries- On 17 October 2017, the Boundary Commission for England published its Revised Proposals for new constituency boundaries. There will be an eight week consultation period during which time the proposals and maps will be available to view online at www.bce2018.org.uk. This website can also be used for making comments on the proposals.

100% business rates- Further to the Council decision on 21 September to be part of a Worcestershire-wide submission seeking 100% business rates retention pilot status in 2018/19, I can confirm that the application was made by last Friday's deadline. The application sets out the case for 100% business rates retention in Worcestershire in terms of economic benefits and financial sustainability for the councils. The proposed tier split is effectively 50:50 between the County Council and the district councils, although the County Council would actually get 49% as 1% needs to go to the fire authority.

Warning over Council Tax cold calling- Concerns have been raised about companies urging residents to pay out significant sums of money to challenge their Council Tax banding, when it can be done online for free.

Malvern Hills District, Wychavon and Worcester City councils have all received calls from residents who have been contacted by companies claiming their property is in the wrong Council Tax band. They then say they can investigate this for them for an upfront fee of £150.

All three councils are reminding residents that they do not need to pay anything if they believe their property is in the wrong Council Tax band. Instead a check can be made online for free and in minutes or by writing to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) which is responsible for allocating Council Tax bands.

Primary school visits- As part of the action in the community engagement plan MHDC aim to approach all primary schools in the district to offer a visit from a local councillor to discuss topics such as – democracy, the effects of littering, and the importance of recycling to support the move to alternative weekly collections in 2018.

7/11/17 Stoke Bliss Group Parish Council Risk Management Policy- A policy has been prepared by the Clerk to the Council for adoption to mitigate all risks facing the Council in line with the Transparency Code requirements. This has now been uploaded to the Council’s website. The Policy was unanimously approved and adopted.

8/11/17 Finance: -

(a) Approval of the payment of Accounts- The following accounts were approved for payment:

Payment Schedule 13th November 2017

Payee	Description	TOTAL	Cheque
		£	Number
Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall	Hall Hire	£ 20.00	431
Zurich Municipal	Insurance	£ 316.88	432
J.P.Moore	Lengthsman Aug Worksheet	£ 177.00	433
J.P.Moore	Lengthsman Sept Worksheet	£ 236.00	434
J.P.Moore	Lengthsman Oct Worksheet	£ 118.00	435
Carole Hirst	Clerk Salary Aug, Sept, Oct 2017	£ 388.35	436
Carole Hirst	Clerk Expenses Aug-End Oct 2017	£ 91.90	437
HMRC	HMRC Payment to nov 6th 2017	£ 20.80	438
Parish Council Websites - Payable to James Lungley	final payment for website and hosting	£ 461.73	439

TOTALS

£
1,830.66

(b) Bank reconciliation as at 13th November 2017 – The Bank Reconciliation below was approved by the parish council and was reconciled to the Bank Statement.

<u>END OF YEAR STATEMENT AT 13TH NOVEMBER 2017</u>			
opening balances at 01/04/2017	1,523.96	bank bal at 29/03/2018	
add receipts	6,521.00		
<i>sub total</i>	8,044.96		
less payments to date	4,225.74		
	3,819.22	bank bal at y/e	-
		balance	3,819.22
		u/p cheques	£ 118.00
		Bank Balance 29/9/2017	£ 3,937.22

(c) Review of the 2016/17 External Audit Report by Grant Thornton was distributed and discussed. The Clerk assured the Council that all matters possible relating to the Audit Report had been noted and rectified and policies and procedures put in place where recommended. The Council's policies have now been checked by Worcestershire CALC who provided an afternoon of mentoring to ensure we understood the report and its implications and they are satisfied that we now comply with the Transparency Code and that everything should be fine for 2017/18 audit.

(d) Precept for 2018/19-

A paper was prepared in advance of the Parish Council meeting for Members to study with a detailed budget for 2018/19 income and expenditure. The precept for 2017/18 was set at £2,900 with revised expenditure for 2017/18 predicted at £6,717. With additional costs incurred during 2017/18 a precept increase to £ 3,449 was set representing an increase of £20% on the 2017/18 Precept.

Members approved the increase in precept to £3,449 and advised the Clerk to complete the necessary paperwork to Malvern Hills District Council.

9/11/17 Planning Matters: None

10/11/17: Correspondence –

- a Malvern Hills District Council Domestic Waste and Recycling date changes were noted for 2017 Christmas collections.
- b Wonderful Worcestershire Leisure Ride Ramble proposal was circulated and discussed as an alternative proposal to Velo Birmingham.

11/11/17: Items of business for future consideration - None

12/11/17: Date of next meeting: Monday February 12th 2017 at 7.30pm at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.25pm

Signed.....

Dated.....