

DRAFT Minutes of the monthly meeting of Grimley Parish Council

Monday 28th November 2022, 7.30pm
Peace Hall, Sinton Green

126/22	<p>Present: Parish Cllrs D Stanley (Chair), A Bretherton (Deputy), P Ayers, J Izamis, G Moore, G Probert, S Wilson,</p> <p>Attending: CCllr S Richardson Brown, DCllr Dean Clarke, Parish Clerk Lisa Stevens, 12 members of the parish, 1 visitor from outside the parish.</p> <p>Apologies: Parish Cllrs A Atkinson, Chairs Hallow and Holt parish councils.</p>
127/22	Welcome and information provided at the beginning of each parish council meeting.
128/22	<p>Public open forum. Open forum does not form a legal part of the meeting.</p> <p>a. Climate emergency</p> <p>i. Introduction by Chair Dave Stanley</p> <p>A copy of the presentation is available on Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/@DaveStanley3</p> <p>Residents agreed that opportunities to positively influence climate change seem limited but that the parish can encourage residents to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce personal consumption.• Prevent waste from entering the soils and oceans.• Demand action and hold local leaders accountable – May 2023 elections.• Spread the word to other parishes.• Set up a climate crisis group.• Individual actions have a positive cumulative effect. <p>Topics of discussion arising:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discussion about lifecycle analysis of electric cars and the process of manufacture of power cells being more harmful to the environment than traditional fuel vehicles. Focus should more ideally be on fossil fuel reduction.2. Impact of aviation on climate change. Aeroplanes pump out water vapour which is also a greenhouse gas that contributes to atmospheric heating. The single biggest impact that residents can do is not to fly at all. 5% of planet is responsible for 50% of greenhouse gas emissions through commercial and private flying.3. Agriculture: nitrate fertilisers are a critical culprit in the cumulative impacts on our planet. 40% of food produced in the UK is wasted and nitrate fertilisers are used in producing this food. 60% of black bin content is wasted food. Residents can help by cutting out waste, buy wonky vegetables and fruits (not rejecting non-perfect food) and supporting local farmers.

Point 3 continued

Additionally, residents can better understand the oft negative impact that food 'use by dates' have and learn to assess food using common sense, smell and visual inspection, rather than assuming that it cannot be eaten safely beyond a certain date. Residents can also consider the seasonal nature of food and focus meal planning on local produce that is in season. The parish council can publish a list of seasonal food to help residents with this. Reducing purchases of 'out-of-season' food will discourage supermarkets from ordering and flying food from around the world in order to meet demand.

4. Keeping to speed limits and reducing unnecessary acceleration will reduce fuel consumption and assist personal finances as well.
5. Economic growth is not the same as personal 'wants'. Economic prosperity should focus on social 'needs' and NHS/police etc and not on personal lifestyles. This will require a shift in personal goals and aspirations.
6. Problem that politicians will not tell people the truth because of the existent, enormous public sense of entitlement. This is exacerbated by the media that sensationalises and undermines anyone that tells the truth about the severity of the situation. MP/County Cllrs and local councils should be held accountable and residents should vote with climate change in mind in May 2023. But it is not always the councils at fault. For example, attempts to reduce street lighting between 1am and 5am are met with angry media responses that play to residents' fears and perceptions about risk.
7. Purchases via companies such as Amazon which bring products from abroad have a big impact. One way to help is to have a list of local or British manufacturers and local products. Facebook group: Buy British Made: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1580344648802291/>
8. Existing sewerage systems do not prevent plastic pollution from entering the ocean. Parish can raise awareness of the importance of the oceans to the health of the planet and that preventing non flushable items from entering the water system will have a big impact.

ii. Review of Parish Climate Emergency Declaration.

Cllr G. Moore to simplify and provide a focuses version for Climate Emergency Working Party. Prps: SW. Scnd: PA. **Approved.**

iii. Climate Emergency Working Party and ideas for parish mini projects.

Suggestions received by the parish council in **Appendix 1.**

- Group should select five items/projects to focus on. – **agreed.**
- Parish Council to set date for first meeting in January 2023.

Cllrs and all present warmly thanked Cllr Stanley for his presentation. A sheet was made available for residents to leave their contact details for further information, to join the working party and to receive a copy of the presentation slides.

At this point in the meeting, at the general invite of all present and out of courtesy of the sore throat and deteriorating voice of Councillor Stanley, Deputy Chair Allan Bretherton took formal Chair of the meeting. Prps: DS. Scnd: JP. Duly carried. Cllr Stanley remained at the council table.

Cont. 128/22	<p>b. Allotment provision in Grimley parish.</p> <p>i. To consider a way forward, with appropriate budget for exploratory work.</p> <p>Cllrs agreed (no vote formally occurred) to explore further although it noted that no parish council owned land is suitable – being SSSI, designated common land or village green. The parish council could ask residents to step forward offering suitable land on terms that could be afforded, ideally a peppercorn rate or a gift of land. Cllrs noted the Smaller Charity land at Grimley village. Before the parish council takes any further action County Cllr to make enquiries about the County Council land at Tinkers Coppice and whether this would be an option.</p> <p>c. Memorial benches at Sinton Green and Monkwood Green.</p> <p>Cllrs agreed (no vote formally occurred) that this project sounds like a good idea, with the potential to bring much enhancement to both Monkwood Green and Sinton Green. The Clerk was instructed to consider insurance matters and possible maintenance budget. Cllr Bretherton to liaise with L. Bass as to location and type of bench and Cllr Wilson to liaise with residents about placing a bench at Monkwood Green large pond. Natural England had only commented in passing that no concrete should be used on the SSSI.</p>
129/22	<p>Points of order, apologies for absence and declarations.</p> <p>Noted one vacancy available for immediate co-option.</p> <p>Nil declarations. The Clerk noted the forthcoming elections in May 2023 and noted the importance of proper completion of the application/nomination paperwork.</p>
130/22	<p>To receive the report of the County Councillor – Scott Richardson Brown.</p> <p>Including updates on WCC Highways projects:</p> <p>a. Bus services through Sinton Green. One-off issues had been experienced causing the bus to not arrive.</p> <p>b. Overgrown hedges and pathways, top triangle Grimley village. Clerk to provide all details again to the CCllr.</p> <p>c. No parking sign, lower triangle Grimley village. Re-report to new Highways Officer Tanya.</p> <p>d. Overgrown hedges along highway through Monk Wood. Worcs Wildlife Trust have taken the leading in addressing this issue.</p> <p>e. Eroded grass verge Oak Hall Green (Oak Hall Farm Barn). Bollard to be installed. Clerk to provide details to CCllr.</p> <p>f. Flooding road outside Church Farm, Grimley. Soakaway and new drain to be installed. Clerk to contact Highways and ask for a map of drainage in area and then provide map to CCllr and to cope Cllr Bretherton in also.</p> <p>g. Quality of resurfacing Sinton Green. Patching has been conducted and Highways will go on to fully resurface in due course.</p>
131/22	<p>To receive the report of the District Councillor – Dean Clarke.</p>
	<p>21/01846/FUL Solar farm will be determined shortly. Christmas coffee morning at Peace Hall with raffle for Age Concern UK.</p>

132/22	Planning - to consider, comment and resolve to respond to the following applications. No items needing discussion.	
133/22	Commons and Village Greens To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.	
a. i. b. i.	<u>Sinton Green.</u> Village Green noticeboard inspected by Clerk and still sound. No repairs required. Issues with buses already covered. Clerk continues to chase regarding speed monitoring through the village and through Moseley. <u>Monkwood Green.</u> i. Management update draft five-year plan. Further thoughts received from cllrs and first draft proposals awaiting consideration by Natural England. Clerk to chase Natural England. ii. Update on option to pollard willows adjacent to farm buildings. Contractor 1 (JB) is due to respond asap with a quote. Contractor 2 & 3 have both declined work on a SSSI. Motion: Cllrs agreed that this work must include the willow on the outskirts of B.Allen property, as this falls under PC jurisdiction. Prps: PA. Scnd: JP. Duly approved. iii. Update on latest strimming project to tackle brambles on petty whin section. Work will happen after Christmas 2022 in vicinity of Betts' approach drive. Two contractors have experienced recent illness, hence the minor delay. The contractors had been made aware of old partially in-filled pond under the brambles.	
134/22	Reports from other Projects and Representatives To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.	
i. ii.	Christmas tree projects. MWGreen tree going up shortly near well. MWGreen get together 23 rd dec 6pm start. Grimley tree up in next week. Volunteer A.R. has come forward with regards to Sinton Xmas tree project. Peace Hall, including Queen's Oak and replacement noticeboard. Cllr Ayers to ask B.Allen ref project to plant a Queen's oak tree on MWGreen ref advice and history of previous planting projects. Cllr Stanley has obtained a number of rough quotes and Cllrs agreed that all similar quotations received online appear acceptable. Motion for Cllr Stanley to proceed with purchase of young trees (nb not saplings) including tree guards and stakes up to max of £450 plus VAT for whole project. Prps: AB. Scnd: PA. Duly approved. Cllr Bretherton to chase Peace Hall committee about replacement noticeboard at the hall. <i>It was noted that all members of the public left the hall at this point in the meeting, to the disappointment of cllrs who had hoped for input into the precept and budget discussions.</i>	

135/22	<p>Finance and Administration To formulate Motions not requiring written notice</p>	
a.	<p><i>Cllrs to consider suspending standing orders if residents request to provide input. No such request was received.</i></p> <p>Budget for 2023/24. Cllr and resident input/ideas for future projects. The clerk had previously provided in October a number of scenarios and options for future budget and precept. The Clerk had fielded a number of questions and queries from Cllrs in between meetings and Cllr Bretherton congratulated the cllrs on the thorough level of consideration and sensitivity that they had applied to the matter given the financial circumstances that a lot of residents are experiencing. The Clerk had attended two CALC meetings, where it was apparent that many councils are considering a 5% rise of precept in order to simply cover costs and not to cover new projects.</p> <p>The final budget presented by the Clerk as RFO was based on a scenario of increasing the precept by 2.5% (£1.70) per households (Approx Band D) p.a. giving an overall parish precept of £20,080 (previously was £19,590). The Clerk noted that this level of proposed increase does not guarantee that the parish council would avoid using financial 'reserves' (nb. amount held in the Business Bank Instant account – not those finances held in emergency reserve). The Clerk also noted that since the amount currently held in savings (Business Bank Instant) by the PC was £19,592, then a certain amount of use of those saving was appropriate, as the PC should (as best practice) not hold in savings more than it brings in annually.</p> <p>Therefore, Cllrs agreed that the proposed budget should include sufficient flexibility that a spend of up to £5,000 of saved/reserve money was entirely acceptable and appropriate, particularly in the work to bring Monkwood Green SSSI up to a spec that meets the proposed draft annual maintenance plan. <i>(The Clerk later notes for clarity in those minutes that this would bring the amount in the Business Bank Instant account down to approx. £14,500).</i> Prps: GM. Scnd: JI. Unanimous and duly approved.</p> <p>A motion to keep the precept at status quo received no nominations. A motion to increase precept by 5% to bring this parish in line with other parish councils received no nominations. A motion to increase precept by 2.5% (£1.70 per household per annum Band D approx.) was proposed by GM and Seconded by SW. Unanimous vote. Duly carried. The Clerk was instructed to notify WCALC as a courtesy, liaise with Auditor as required closer to the time ref the motions above and to write to MHDC to request precept as is the usual procedure.</p> <p>b. Motion to approve minutes of previous meeting 31st October 2022. <i>Prps: DS. Scnd: GP. Duly carried.</i></p> <p>c. To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts. Appendix 1. <i>Prps: PA. Scnd: SW. Duly carried.</i></p> <p>d. To consider and motion to retrospectively approve payment of urgent accounts, as per emergency Clerk procedures (Delegation to Clerk policy). Appendix 2. <i>Prps: DS. Scnd: GM. Duly carried.</i></p>	

e.	To receive and motion to accept October Bank Reconciliation 2022 and quarterly update. <i>Prps: PA. Scnd: DS. Duly carried.</i> The Clerk noted that VAT is in the process of being reclaimed for the previous financial year.	
136/22	Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda and AOB a. Cllrs debated option for provision of child electrode pads for the three defibrillators and deferred a decision until after the planning training on 5 th December. b. School organised Xmas lunch at Peace Hall 13 th December. Elderly residents of parish are invited. c. Present to Lengthsman out of Chairs' allowance up to £15 as already agreed in existing budget, nonetheless re-proposed by Cllr Bretherton and Seconded by Councillor Stanley. Duly approved . Clerk to arrange purchase. The Clerk to explore what other councils do in this matter and will ask at the next CALC meeting 20 th December.	
137/22	Date of next scheduled meeting AGREED: Monday 30th January 2023 at the Peace Hall, Sinton Green, 7.30pm. The press/public are cordially invited to attend this meeting. ROOM YET TO BE BOOKED for 30th January. Motion: Prps: DS and Scnd AB. Cllr agreed to reschedule the planned meeting of 12 th December for 30 th January, in order to allow progress to be made with all current projects.	

Appendix 1 - Payments to be made this month (or date paid if contracted monthly)

Mrs Simon Skeys	Lengthsman October 2022	£238.00
Mr Simon Skeys	Mowing Sinton Green October 2022. 1x cut of grass on Sinton Green including strimming around trees/posts-£80. Long grass/flower areas cut, raked up and debris taken away- £120. Invoice GPC 1022	£200
Defib training session	Peace Hall 5 th December. Invoice dated 27/10/22	£36.00
Mrs Sue Wilson	Xmas tree project Monkwood Green	50 to be paid
Mr Allan Bretherton	Xmas tree project Sinton Green.	£50.00
Mr Dave Stanley	Xmas tree project Grimley village.	£50.00
Grimley and Holt Primary School	Section137 application 2023 Western Front Association talk and coffee event	£100.00
Citizen's Advice Bureau	Donation	£100.00
Nest Pensions	November payment for Oct wage	£40.35
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Overtime planning matters solar farm £12.01 per hour as per existing contract.	£96.08
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly Expenses Nov2022. Printing ink.	£35.25
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly wage Oct 2022	£553.42

Appendix 2 - Payments made in previous month under delegation to Clerk policy and in line with annual budget previously approved by Cllrs.

Mr Simon Skeys	Lengthsman worksheet September received 2nd Oct 2022. Claimed from WCC 25/10/2022	31/10/2022	£127.50
Mr Simon Skeys	Mowing invoice dated 30th September received 2nd Oct 2022.	31/10/2022	80.00

Appendix 3 - Summary of input/ideas received from parishioners and councillors

1. Align achievable mini parish projects with district aims.
2. **Parish assistance in the challenge of reducing the amount of household waste put in wrong wheelie bins.**
3. Parish assistance in the challenge of reducing food waste and prepping the way to mandatory food waste collections by MHDC by 2025.
4. **Parish council site visit to 3Gs Hallow Meadow owned by MHDC.**
5. Tie in with recent MHDC destination zero carbon emissions report.
6. **Encourage home composting.**
7. Publication by parish council highlighting new parish broadband services and suggestions benefits to local businesses of home working. (Residents can provide to their employers and gain support for review of contracts permitting home working).
8. **Phone boxes to form local collection point for pill blister packs, batteries and ink cartridges.**
9. Replace stolen (public use) litter picking equipment in phone boxes.
10. **More tree planting. Emphasis on fruit trees. Forestry commission has suggested that each parish should aim for 20% tree cover. What would that look like for Grimley parish / balance with food production.**
11. Encourage fitness and wellbeing – survey and repair of right of way furniture, including along Severn Way, provision of public seats and benches.
12. **Preservation of existing parish facilities in order to future proof the parish against reliance on vehicles in order to access services. Including project to bring St. Bartholomew’s church in to wider public use and option to list remaining public houses as community assets.**
13. Local resident flood action plan for Grimley village (liaise with Environment agency)
14. **Encourage sign up to local farmer cluster groups, which encourage farmer-led delivery nature-based solutions and land management changes that benefit the natural environment, reduce flood risk, and improve the farm business.**
15. Encourage Worcestershire Wildlife Trust ‘Green Farm’ project and tie in with parish council tree planting options.
16. **Lighting in Peace Hall. Solar panels Peace Hall.**
17. Assist residents to choose energy efficient lighting in their homes. Some sources suggest that energy efficient light bulbs last 12 times longer (up to eight years!) and each can save up to £30 a year on electricity bills. Community pledge to eliminate all incandescent bulbs.
18. **Bring residents together for bulk buying of home solar panels.**

end