

DRAFT Minutes of the monthly meeting of **Grimley Parish Council**

Monday 30th January 2023, 7.30pm
Peace Hall, Sinton Green

01/23	<p>Present: Parish Cllrs D Stanley (Chair), A Bretherton (Deputy), J Izamis, G Moore, G Probert, S Wilson,</p> <p>Attending: CCllr S Richardson Brown, DCllr Dean Clarke, Parish Clerk Lisa Stevens,</p> <p>Apologies: AD member of the parish, 1 visitor from outside the parish. Parish Cllrs A Atkinson and P Ayers.</p>	
02/23	Welcome and information provided at the beginning of each parish council meeting. District and County Cllr input and guidance on planning/legal/best practice procedures is welcome as a standard during any point in this meeting. Standing orders remain in place unless otherwise stated.	
03/23	Public open forum. Open forum does not form a legal part of the meeting. No questions.	
04/23	Points of order, apologies for absence and declarations. Nil declarations. County Cllr not present and likely delayed at other PC meetings.	
05/23	Minutes of previous meetings – Motion to approve previous minutes. 28 th November 2022. Prps: SW. Scnd: AB. Duly approved .	
06/23	To receive the report of the County Councillor – Scott Richardson Brown Not present. Clerk to send out reminder of all parish council dates. Acknowledged that many PCs meet on the same day each month.	Clerk
07/23	To receive the report of the District Councillor – Dean Clarke. Planning matters updates. Malvern Hills has applied for and received £20 million levelling up funds to develop Malvern Theatres into a world-class cultural facility. Thank you to all sections of community for making the Christmas celebrations so successful. Happily, the Camp Inn will be open again for business very soon, with a thank you to all volunteers who helped them get sorted both during and after the floods and a well done to the family for struggling through. Parish Cllrs had asked about any grants available to assist, but unfortunately MHDC have not allocated any funds this year on the basis that the impact was so low across the whole district.	
08/23	Planning - to consider, comment and resolve to respond to the following applications.	
a.	21/01846/FUL BRL Solar UK limited - Development of a solar farm with ancillary infrastructure, security fence, access, landscaping and continued agriculture, to generate power to feed into local network. Birchall Green Farm, WR2 6NT. Refused by MHDC.	
i.	DCllr noted that it is expected that the MDHC refusal will be appealed within 3 months and then any subsequent hearing will be held within 3 months after that. The hearing can be written representations only or can be formal in person – specifics will not be known until an appeal is called. Important to note that the restricted number of reasons given for refusal are deliberately limited (reduced in number) by MHDC, as the law requires only one strong reason to be presented. However, any planning inspector must and will consider all reasons for refusal. Residents noted that the applicant has previously filed appeals to similar applications within the last few days possible for those applications – and so something similar is to be expected here. Ie mid July.	

ii.	Clerk advised Cllrs on the basic appeals process and suggested that Cllrs could debate on delegated powers in reference to Rule 6 of the appeals process. Cllrs instructed the Clerk to add to the next agenda and to email cllrs with brief outlines before the next meeting.	Clerk Clerk
iii	Anonymous correspondence had been received which supported the decision for refusal but with additional comments. Cllrs declined to receive on the basis that the origin could not be proven.	
b.	M/22/01644/HP Ivy Cottage, Sinton Green, WR2 6NP. Single storey rear extension; garage enlarged, first floor bedroom extension above. Cllrs had received no correspondence on the matter and vote to 'support'. Prps: AB. Scnd: JI. Duly approved . Cllrs requested standard reference to aspire to renewable energies. Clerk to submit.	Clerk
c.	M/22/01773/FUL Ball Mill Bungalow, Main Road, Hallow, Worcester, WR2 6LS. To note parish cllrs' 'comment' response 10th Jan ref lack of renewable energy generation expectations by applicant. Prps: DS. Scnd: AB. Duly reaffirmed.	
d.	M/22/01519/FUL Sandpit Forge At Sandpit Cottage, Walton Lane, GrimleyWR2 6LR. To note previous 'no comment' from cllrs. Cllrs looked again at this application and agreed that applications that they support should be given as such in the response to MHDC. Proposal to provide new response to MHDC. Prps: AB. Scnd: DS. Duly approved. Proposal to 'support' on account that this is a business providing local jobs for local people and that the application does not appear to present any new difficulties or nuisance for neighbouring properties. Prs: DS. Scnd: AB. Duly approved. Cllrs requested standard reference to aspire to renewable energies. Clerk to resubmit.	Clerk
e.	Standing Item: To consider and as required arrange an extra ordinary parish council meeting for planning applications received after date of publication of this agenda. NIL items.	
09/23	Climate emergency. To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice	
a.	Working party next steps. Councillor consideration of key projects to take forward and budgets. The group are looking to set their first meet shortly after Parish Council meet on Monday. Cllr Stanley has put together a briefing of key issues to focus on. Cllr Moore still looking at the existing PC declaration of climate emergency ref simplification. Clerk, Cllr Stanley and Cllr Bretherton are to attend the action group at this time.	
b.	Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy consultation. Clerk instructed to formulate a response based on emailed responses.	Clerk
10/23	Commons and Village Greens. Updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.	
a. i.	Sinton Green To consider recommencement of mowing/wildflower projects on the village green. Cllrs agreed that previous year's projects had been a ecological success (numbers of butterflies and insects). Prps: AB. Scnd: JI. Duly carried . Some doubts had been received from residents related to the appearance of the green towards the end of the season, but Cllrs felt that this was a necessary concession to the ecological benefits. Cllr Bretherton to draft an item for the next newsletter to encourage residents' support.	Clerk Cllr Bretherton

10/23 con.	<p>The clerk noted the need to go out to contract for 2023 mowing of the common. Current contractor charges £80 per mow, with one mow per month except at height of summer where two mows are conducted. The Clerk had approached the current contractor for a quote, which was still awaited. For past five years no other contractor has responded to request for quotation. Cllrs noted and proposed that the Clerk approach the current contractor with a threshold of £85 per cut, based on increased fuel prices. Prps: SW. Scnd: GM. Duly carried. Same spec as last year.</p>	Clerk
a ii.	<p>The Clerk noted that the Lengthsman specification had been sent out to a resident of Worcester upon receipt of a general enquiry, but that that person had subsequently declined further pursual on the basis that the amount of equipment required by a Lengthsman was very specialist and prohibitively expensive as a one of purchase. Cllrs agreed that the current Lengthsman, after his review with Cllr Bretherton in 2022, is responding to and actioning all requests satisfactorily, with timesheets being submitted on time. The Clerk was instructed to approach existing Lengthsman with the 2023 contract. Prps: AB. Scnd: GP. Duly carried.</p>	Clerk
b.	<p>Monkwood Green.</p>	
i.	<p>Management update, draft five-year plan and update on strimming project tackling bramble thickets adjacent to The Woodland access drive (agreed budget £500).</p> <p>Contractors have worked extraordinarily hard and cleared the area sensitively and without damage to the endangered species on site. Cllrs were very pleased with the progress made and considered the work excellent value for money. Residents are reported to be pleased also. Cllrs discussed these contractors undertaking the work on Sinton Green but it was noted that their time and expertise was best spent on Monkwood Green SSSI rather than the village green which is not SSSI.</p>	
ii.	<p>Cllrs discussed taking advantage of progress and appointing current strimmer contractors (AB and LR, Sinton Green) to continue tackling brush and scrub in absence of grazing as part of an annual repeating contract. This would support the emerging 5 year rolling maintenance plan and would ensure that current level of progress on the Common is not wasted. Areas for focus would be along Betts' drive, behind and adjacent Fox and brambles around features such as telegraph poles and fallen willows. Initial Motion was for £500. Cllrs debated hourly rate and agreed £16 per hour plus 50p per hour for fuel up to max of £500 per person initially with a review for further work each year. Prps: SW. Scnd: GP. Duly carried. Clerk to speak to C.Betts about current equipment loan.</p>	Clerk
iii.	<p>Cllr Wilson to talk to volunteer locals about finishing clearing round the pond by Betts' drive. This work is covered by the existing NE permissions. This would be undertaken at volunteer/s' own risk.</p>	
iv.	<p>Cllrs noted thanks to residents and in particular A.Collett for assisting with urgent drainage issues during recent wet weather. Clerk to include in parish newsletter. Cllrs discussed options for drainage moving forward but noted that Severn Trent are examining the reed beds servicing the properties along the Well/phone box service road and that any new project should wait for this work to be completed. Cllrs JI and SW to liaise with Severn Trent in this respect and about drainage in general vicinity of home of Mr Heamus.</p>	Clerk
		Cllr Izamis Cllr Wilson

10/23 con	To consider quotation received for pollarding of willows, two locations on Common. £1020.00 plus VAT. Contractor at Sinton Green. Cllr Stanley had examined project parameters and found the quotation to be competitive. Cllrs noted importance of achieving value for money. Clerk had approached a number of other companies and not received any response. Proposal for acceptance Prp: AB. Scnd GP. 4 in favour and 2 abstentions. Duly approved .	Clerk
v.		
vi.	Clerk is chasing pond dredging invoice outstanding from Oliver Pencroft invoice £1000 plus VAT. Noted. Cllr Stanley to assist with chasing.	Clerk Cllr Stanley
vii.	CBetts continuing the tree survey of Monkwood Green. Noted with thanks.	
11/23	Highways and infrastructure - updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.	
a.	Thank you to volunteers who helped Camp Inn during recent flood event. No other properties flooded and no others are in need of assistance.	
b.	Bank erosion River Severn near Camp Inn. Cllr Stanley noted that since the fish pass was constructed the river flow has eroded the bank and footpath. to liaise with Camp Inn and then as appropriate with other relevant bodies: Canal and Riverside Trust and Environment Agency. Publicans have photo evidence of towpath collapse and bank erosion. Clerk to write to footpaths officer at County Hall	Cllr Stanley Clerk
c.	Ref latest road accident in Moseley. Option for additional signage previous turned down by Highways. Option for exploration of PC funded Vehicle Activated Sign. Appearances are that most of those speeding are locals who know the road but chose to ignore the conditions. Residents are encouraged to report accidents in order to demonstrate problem to Highways and the police. Clerk to issue statement to this effect to local residents of Moseley and to wider parish via social media and parish magazine. The parish council can then review.	Clerk
d.	"Shared space" signs Camp Lane, Grimley. County Cllr has fully supported and has asked Highways to provide. Clerk had provided map of location to County Cllr. Parish Cllrs fully supported the instalment of these signs. Prps: GM. Scnd: AB.	Cllr
e.	Overgrown hedges and pathways in vicinity of top triangle Grimley village, old vicarage and along A443 as far as the layby. County Council has agreed to attend to hedges along A443. Hedges on Grimley village approach road remain outstanding. County Cllr to be reminded of urgent need for hedge to be cut back to restore visibility and safety, particularly when passing buses. Thanks given to J.Harper for cutting hedges in the section that he is responsible for. <i>Cllr Wilson gave apologies and left the meeting at this point due to illness. Chair suspended standing orders to allow residents to address the council.</i>	Clerk Cllr
f.	Public rights of way at risk of being lost due to vegetation obstruction in vicinity of Grimley village. Creation of a definitive list and volunteers to walk areas in question. Martley parish has a footpath officer and a very well-functioning group of volunteers who look after the public rights of way and Cllrs agreed that	

11/23 f. con.	<p>something similar is needed in Grimley parish. Cllr Izamis agreed to meet with A.Darby and look at the problem. Clerk to regularly include in parish magazine to ask for volunteers. Clerk to email County Hall and double check spec for formal footpaths officer before advertising for this role. Cllr Izamis willing to walk all routes once a year and check if no other volunteers come forward. L& A Darby also willing to help once a new footpaths officer is appointed, for which Cllrs were very grateful. <i>Standing orders reinstated.</i></p>	Cllr Izamis Clerk
g.	<p>Yellow lines/No parking sign Grimley village. "2022-1130: Grimley village - Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time TRO". Cllrs fully support these proposals Prps: DS. Scnd: AB. Duly approved. Clerk to write in support to Dave Jew, Worcs County Council.</p>	Clerk
h.	<p>Overgrown hedges along highway through Monk Wood – ongoing. In hands of Worcestershire Wildlife, but update if any. Clerk to email Worcs Wildlife and remind them of the regular damage to vehicles passing this way and to request that the verge is attended to more regularly. Clerk to provide resident P.Davies with an update.</p>	Clerk Clerk
i.	<p>Bollards to protect home, Oakhall Green. Bollards correctly installed by Highways. Resident expressed satisfaction.</p>	
j.	<p>Oakhall green resident request that the existing Silver Birches (obstructing over-head cables) be removed and that the green is replanted with oak trees in appropriate locations. (Not PC land). Cllrs did not feel able to support removal of healthy trees on the basis of species alone. The resident should liaise with Western Power if there are concerns about overhead cables. Clerk can assist with this if required.</p>	
k.	<p>Flooding in road outside Church Farm, Grimley. No update available on intended soakaway and new drain. Clerk to chase. Cllr Stanley to check with J.Harper if he knew of any progress.</p>	Clerk Cllr Stanley.
l.	<p>To note broken knee rail Grimley approach road. Duly noted. Highways has agreed to repair. No timescales.</p>	
12/23	<p>Reports from other Projects and Representatives To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p>	
a.	<p>Allotment provision exploration, update on progress from County Councillor ref Tinkers Coppice. CCllr not present. Clerk to chase and provide K.Coe with an update.</p>	Clerk
b.	<p>Memorial seats at Sinton and Monkwood, update on progress. Consultation with Sinton residents had taken place and a mutually satisfactory location agreed. Cllrs expressed thanks to Cllr Bretherton for this work. Seat at Sinton Green is therefore due to be installed shortly by resident L.Bass. Cllr Wilson had consulted with residents of MWGreen and no dissenting voices had been noted. Clerk noted that Natural England had been informed and that no response had been received other than to note that concrete, tarmac or pebble/stone surfaces of any kind must not be used. Memorial bench to be installed in due course.</p>	Cllr Bretherton Cllr Wilson
c.	<p>Defibrillator training spring date to be confirmed. Clerk still chasing. Cllrs approved expenditure. Prps: GP. Scnd: JI.</p>	Clerk

12/23	PCSO priorities 2023 The Priorities raised previously were Speeding, Wildlife Crime and Thefts. Cllrs instructed the Clerk to raise the issue of drug taking at Monk Wood car park.	Clerk
d.		
e.	Peace Hall Management Committee update. a. Queen's Oak project update. Cllr Bretherton had liaised and agreed with the Hall Committee that the oak at the Peace Hall will go in the far corner. Cllr Stanley has the trees on order. b. Replacement noticeboard at Peace Hall. To examine quotations received and consider a way forward. Existing agreed budget is £750.	Cllr Stanley
	Quotations received: Signs Express: A0 size lockable poster cases. 1. Aluminium style: £1190.76 to create and install 2. Green wood style £1418.40 to create and install City Signs: Green coated metal 1240mm x 960mm: £1,060.00 plus VAT. Installation not included. Graphics Arts Group: A1 Aluminium Sign Blank 1350mm x 960mm £856.80 plus VAT, Installation not included. Cllrs expressed concern that the quotes were so consistently high. Cllr Bretherton to report back to hall committee and ask them to seek cheaper quotes or consider option for a noticeboard on the wall of the building.	Cllr Bretherton
f.	Lifebuoy annual checks due. MWGreen and Sinton ponds. Buoys appear in order. Replacement signage required. Clerk to order.	Clerk
13/23	Finance and Administration To formulate Motions not requiring written notice	
a.	To note that precept for 2023/2024 has been requested from MHDC for £20,080. This will be paid to the parish council in two instalments across 2023. Duly noted.	
b.	To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts. Appendix 1. Prps: Gm. Scnd: JI. Duly approved .	
c.	To consider and retrospectively approve payment of urgent accounts, as per emergency Clerk procedures (Delegation to Clerk policy). Appendix 2. Prps: AB. Scnd: JI. Duly approved .	
d.	To receive and motion to accept December 2022 Bank Reconciliation. Prps: AB. Scnd: JI. Duly approved .	
e.	To approve Clerk attendance at election training by WCALC on Wed 8 Feb 2023 10am via Zoom £12.99 and, attendance at an election briefing event by MHDC on Tue 7 Feb 6pm – 8pm at Assembly Hall, The Guildhall, Worcester WR1 2EY (no charge). Approved .	Clerk
f.	To approve setting up a direct debit to Water Plus ref Trough on Monkwood Green. Waterplus intends to move to monthly billing and a zero tolerance approach to late payment. Prps: JI. Scnd: AB. Approved .	Clerk

14/23	Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda and AOB	
a. b.	To note recent distribution of Rural Cost of Living Survey via social media. Clerk to attend. Worcestershire County Council Budget Briefing 31 January 2023 5pm - Online	Clerk
15/23	Dates of next scheduled meeting. Peace Hall booked. Monday 27th February, 7.30pm. Monday 27nd March, 7.30pm. Monday 24th April, 7.30pm. Monday 15th May, 7.30pm - Annual Meeting of Grimley Parish Council Monday 22nd May, 7.30pm – Annual Parish Meeting.	

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

Strimming Lee Roberts	Monkwood Green. Invoice 30 th Jan 2023	£246.50	n/a
Strimming Ashley	Monkwood Green. C/o M Leary. Invoice 30 th Jan 2023	£246.50	n/a
CPRE	Annual donation	£100.00	n/a
Trough Water plus invoice	This will be a guess from Water plus as no meter reading has been taken. 03 Jan 2023.	£60.83	
Mr Simon Skeys	Lengthsman worksheet Dec/Jan received 12 Jan 2023. Claimed from WCC 19 th Jan.	£204.00	VAT nil
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly Expenses Jan 2023.	£12.30	VAT various individual
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly wage Jan 2023	£553.42	VAT nil
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Pension payment. Includes Clerk contribution as part payment.	£40.35	n/a
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Reimbursement Stinky inks purchase. Made 30 th January 2023 30/01/2023 Ref: STHP950PACK	£24.96 plus VAT.	£4.16

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

Mrs Lisa Stevens	Pension payment. Includes Clerk contribution as part payment.	£40.35	n/a
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly wage Dec 2022	£553.42	n/a

