

**At the Meeting of Grimley Parish Council held on
20th November 2017
in The Peace Hall, Sinton Green commencing at 7.30pm**

DRAFT

Present: D Stanley (Chair), A Atkinson, D Lewis, G Sweeney, R Woodhouse.

In Attendance: Mrs L Stevens – Clerk, District Cllr Dean Clarke,
County Cllr Phil Grove, Mick Simpson (West Mercia Police),
Alice Spear (St Richard's Hospice), 0 Members of the public.

Apologies: P Ayers, B Jones, E A Taft, one vacant position currently advertised.

164/17 Declarations of Interest – none.

165/17 Minutes of the previous meeting

a.	30 th Oct 2017 Grimley Parish Council Meeting. – Duly approved .
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166/17 Public question time

a.	None.
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167/17 To receive a report from West Mercia Police

a.	<p>Smart-water Initiate – “Outlining the potential to purchase Smart-water at £8.90 for each resident in the Parish”. https://www.westmercia.police.uk/we-dont-buy-crime Mr Mick Simpson of The Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police "We Don't Buy Crime Initiative" gave a presentation about the initiative. The scheme encourages residents to mark high value garden/household items with a UV marker and consider registering these items free on www.immobilise.com. Items recovered by the police are scanned with a UV torch to ascertain any markings identifying an owner and the Immobilise register searched. Residents are also encouraged to make a list of property serial numbers and take photos of valuable items. Local second-hand shops receive information concerning stolen items via the immobilise website.</p> <p>West Mercia are offering the chance for residents to buy a smartwater kit at the much reduced price of £8.90, if the majority of residents commit to purchase. Of the approx. 245 properties in Grimley parish, 60% (147) would need to commit in order for this low price to be secured. Cllrs agreed to support this in principle and instructed the Clerk to organise a leaflet asking residents if they would like to take part.</p>
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Clerk

168/17 To Receive the Report of the County Councillor – Phil Grove

a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Grove referred to his response via email to questions from Cllr Woodhouse concerning intended road works on New Road, Worcester. “Works are expected to commence after the new year (2018) for 6 weeks. New Road is to be raised by 12 -18 inches. One lane will be closed at any one time.” - Cllr Grove also informed the Parish Council of a likely future planning permission for the Martley turn junction at Hallow to be served by traffic lights – as a result of the 2000+ homes to be built at Lower Broadheath. Further clarification was sought by Parish Councillors and will form part of future minutes.
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Cllr Grove

	- Velo – ongoing economic concerns are part of urgent discussions at County Hall. A final decision on whether Velo will be permitted to run again is due at end of December.
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169/17 To Receive the Report of the District Councillor – Dean Clarke

a.	DCllr Clarke clarified a number of parish related historical points. Some discussion on local housing need. DCllr Clarke continues to oppose plans to resolve planning debate and decision at a single committee rather than one served by two separate committees. The new Raceway sign outside the entrance to the track was confirmed as containing details of the updated enforcement conditions, after the previous sign was erroneously removed by others than the District/County Council.
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170/17 To welcome Alice Spearing Engagement Officer for St Richard's Hospice, Worcester

a.	<p>Raising awareness of the extent of free care and support - care for patients with illnesses other than cancer and the support offered to loved ones, carers and the bereaved.</p> <p>Alice Spearing was welcomed by the Parish Council and gave a brief introduction on the work of the Hospice. All care & support provided is free, and is given to those aged 18 plus and their families. Service is identical to that provided by Macmillan nurses in other areas and includes home visits and hospice based day care for entire families - with meals, creative therapies and spiritual care. Referral to the services can be made by any healthcare professional, not just doctors. The hospice has 900 volunteers and 70% of income is from public donations, with the remainder coming from the NHS. £8.4 million annual cost to run.</p> <p>Cllrs considered whether they could assist with advertising the work of the Hospice. Discussion briefly touched upon setting up a Parish Council Facebook page, which could incorporate regular updates on the work of the Hospice AND other local organisations as requested. Clerk was instructed to investigate setting up a Facebook page.</p>
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Clerk

171/17 Planning - to consider, comment and resolve to respond to the following planning applications

a.	<p>General update on progress relating to previous appeals:</p> <p>Appeal A Ref: APP/J1860/C/16/3162209 & Appeal B Ref: APP/J1860/C/16/3162210, Holywards Farm, Moseley Road, Hallow, WR2 6NL.</p> <p>Grimley Parish Council's understanding is that the above appeals, which were partially successful, in that they achieved a time extension for completing the works, are due to expire on 6th January 2018. Clarification has been sought and DCllr Clarke has referred ongoing monitoring to the enforcement team at MHDC.</p>
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172/17 Monkwood Green – To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	Update on meeting with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust re future leasing agreement of Monkwood Green Common and SSSI.
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	<p>Cllr Stanley gave an update. Cllrs were pleased at the outcome of the meeting and that Worcestershire Wildlife will consider options at their own internal meetings in early 2018.</p> <p>Extract from minutes of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parish Council budget is £4k per annum to manage the site (covering management of 'green areas', mowing, purchase of sheep fencing equipment, hire of Duckworth Trust etc) (ie not including maintenance of service roads etc). This will increase in a very limited way each year (covering inflation) but cannot increase much beyond that, as Parish Council precept rises are now in theory capped at 3% per annum. - Parish Council is looking to raise funds elsewhere, mainly via Countryside Stewardship Grants, worth £4k per annum. Natural England are putting weight behind this and have drafted a Feasibility Study Brief for the Parish Council. This will go to tender shortly, with a hope to have the study completed by end of March 2018. - The Parish Council is looking to explore a leasing agreement with WWT. 'Leasing' rather than 'contracting', since the Parish Council would hand over all management aspects of the site (ie green and ecological areas only), rather than simply commissioning work over a set timescale. All other aspects of the site (service roads, noticeboards, adopted phone box, residential rights of way) would remain under the full control of the Parish Council. - Timescales for leasing agreement would be to begin agreement within next three to five years. Leasing agreement would ideally stretch ten years or more. An annual 'review'/report to the Parish Council would serve to ensure that the public are kept informed and that costs incurred by WWT are proportionate/appropriately covered. - Whilst not formally agreed by Cllrs, in theory there is in theory no reason why the current budget set aside each year by the Parish Council could not be handed over to those managing the site. This would also in theory be subject to a pre-agreed format for annual review (eg covering inflation, unforeseen costs, budget fit for purpose etc). - Parish Council feels that WWT has the expertise, experience, public support, staff/volunteers and equipment to enable it to take on the site successfully. - Any contract negotiated would be required to be put to residents for consideration (high level summary rather than specifics of contract). Once this final period of consultation is over, the Parish Council would not be seeking further input from residents as to how the site is to be managed. The 'buffer' is reiterated. - A formal consultation has already taken place in 2017 and 80% of residents responding approved the idea of leasing out the site to WWT. Of the remaining 20% no specific dissent was voiced. The Parish Council has taken this as formal public approval to proceed to lease out site management (ecology/green areas only). - Legal and ecological aspects restrict types of work on site. The Parish Council currently has to seek annual approval from NE for all types of work on the SSSI. - Quotation that the Parish Council had received for cattle grids discussed. WWT keen in theory for this to be pursued. Additional quotes need to be obtained – or at least the reasons behind the high quote (£80k) to be ascertained. - WWT perspective - the trust must manage existing commitments as a priority and generally seeks to manage land that it owns. Need to carefully consider the complexity of the site and the resources required. <p><u>Actions arising from the meeting with WWT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clerk to ensure that the feasibility study will consider water supply for grazing animals. - Clerk to check whether the Stewardship Grants would cover costs of installation of cattle grids. - Clerk to ensure that feasibility study timescales match the timescales of Stewardship Grants. - Clerk to pursue cattle grid quotations. Useful contactor details provided.
b.	<p>Service road repairs update.</p> <p>The Clerk updated Cllrs on a recent site visit with a contractor that was interrupted by a resident who denied that the service roads require repairs. Both resident and contractor left site without any issues being resolved.</p>

Clerk

Clerk

	Having previously requested assistance with clarifying the spec, the Clerk was given permission to arrange a site meeting with Roy Fullie, previously of Worcs County Council, now of Rural Highways Worcestershire for £25.00, to seek his guidance and knowledge on contractors to approach. Mr Fullie's offer to manage the process for 10% of total costs could be considered at a future meeting.
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Clerk

173/17 Sinton Green facilities- To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	Community asset discussions. To be added to future agenda.
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174/17 Parish wide facilities - To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	Application from Broadwas Sports Association, donation towards essential winter repairs. Cllr voted against providing a donation on basis that parish funds are required on more urgent items.
b.	"Wonderful Worcestershire Leisure Ride or Ramble - An Alternative option to Velo Birmingham 2018" - correspondence from Belbroughton Residents requesting support (non-financial). Cllr voted not to support this proposal, on basis that County Hall has not yet made a decision as to whether Velo 2018 will proceed.
c.	Grimley Raceway - update. Previously given by DCllr Clarke. Cllrs agreed that the results of the decision were the best that could have been hoped for in terms of controlling noise levels.
d.	Woodland Trust tree planting. Free tree planting packs are available from the Woodland Trust for planting on public property. Cllr agreed not to pursue this further due to lack of Clerk availability to manage and lack of land known to be available/appropriate for planting trees.
	General update on projects and actions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Zebra bollards approach road, Grimley. <i>Mr Simon Skeys to do asap.</i> ii. Overgrown hedges, Grimley. <i>To be done asap by Mr Harper who has liaised with Mr Hickton.</i> iii. Lakes and outflow pipes, Grimley – flood mitigation. <i>Mr Hickton has reiterated his commitment to regular inspections.</i> iv. Hedge cuttings blocking public right of way / bridleway 609C, Grimley village. <i>Local contractor has removed these after local hedge owners declined to assist. Parish Council expressed thanks to the contractor.</i> v. Hedge cuttings abandoned on verges, Grimley top crescent, opposite Grimley Smaller Charities land. <i>Letter sent and cuttings have been removed. Thank you.</i> vi. Building materials on verge adjacent to public right of way 621C, Grimley village. <i>Items have been removed, with thanks.</i> vii. Ditch (abandoned debris resulting from ditch clearance by local resident) and scrubby hawthorn tree adjacent to New Inn, Sinton Green. <i>Mr</i>

	<p><i>Simon Skeys has agreed to undertake this work for £80. Cllrs voted and agreed and gave their thanks for this solution to this complex and long outstanding piece of work.</i></p> <p>viii. Visibility bollards for Sinton Green drains (those on parish council land x3) and Monkwood Green culvert (x1). <i>Purchased by Clerk, who was instructed to get quotes for installing.</i></p> <p>ix. Trees on Sinton Green Common, maintenance by Lengthsman to overhanging branches in order to allow mower to pass under. <i>Tree surgeon will begin work over next few weeks.</i></p>	
	<p>Update on progress relating to damaged stiles/finger posts, already reported to County Hall. Members of public aware of other broken stiles etc to inform Clerk asap please. The more we have to report, the more they are likely to visit our area and fix all the issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Right of Way – Broken Stile/Gate near Tinkers Coppice. Footpath GM-629, Highways Ref 414877. Reported 09/11/17 – Awaiting inspection. – likely to be responsibility of land owner. - Public Right of Way - Missing/broken finger post. Footpath GM-621 near Priory Cottage, Grimley. Highways Ref PR-17-25440. Reported 13/3/2017 and October 2017. Status: Awaiting Inspection. - Public Right of Way – Missing style – request to install a gate to allow disabled access. Footpath GM-621 near Priory Cottage, Grimley. Highways Ref 400372 & PR-18-27097. Reported 16/10/2017. Status: Awaiting Inspection. – likely to be responsibility of land owner. - Public Right of Way - Missing/broken finger post, footpath GM-645 opposite The Pleck, Grimley. PR-18-26388. Reported 17/07/2017. Status: Awaiting Inspection. - Public Right of Way – broken style, needing a disable access gate. Footpath GM-631, opposite Retreat Farm. Highways Ref PR-16-21977. Reported 21/9/2015. Status: Awaiting Inspection. – likely to be responsibility of land owner. - Public Right of Way - Missing/broken finger post. Footpath GM-537, opposite Holywards Farm, Moseley. Highwys Ref PR-14-17576. Reported 7/1/2014 and again in 2016. Status: Awaiting Inspection. 	

Clerk

175/17 Lengthsman - To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	<p>Motion to receive and approve future items of work. Drain tops to be cleared in Grimley village.</p>	
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Lengthsman

176/17 Reports from Representatives - To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	<p>Peace Hall Management Committee. Replacement right of way signs have been ordered - one for each village. Suggestion of purchasing noticeboards for the two phone boxes, so that footpath posters can be displayed in Monkwood and Grimley are to be put on hold until the booths are repaired.</p>	
b.	<p>Tarmac Quarry Liaison Committee. The Environment Agency have finally approved the permit to allow remaining soil volumes to be imported. Dozing works will be very much weather dependent.</p>	
c.	<p>Grimley Smaller Charities. No update.</p>	

Clerk

177/17 General Finance and Administration - To receive and discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	To consider budget for 2018/19. Cllrs debated a budget of 2.5% and agreed to vote on this on 4 th December. Previous considerations for a 1% or 2% rise were not considered sufficient to allow Monkwood Green and Sinton Green common maintenance. An increase in precept of £413.44 (2.5%) results in each individual household bill increasing by £1.69. Cllrs also agreed to continue annual CPRE membership at £36.00.	Clerk
b.	To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts – Duly approved.	
c.	To receive and motion to accept the Bank Reconciliation – Duly approved.	
d.	Completion of NEW bank mandate variation form. Cllrs Stanley and Lewis to be added as signatories. Form awaited from bank. Lloyds bank, city centre branch to be closed for much of December for repairs. Clerk to chase in January 2018.	Clerk

178/17 - Items for future agenda

a.	Vacancy for one Parish Councillor, due to resignation of Cllr Marsh. Closing date for requests to fill this vacancy via election is midnight, 1st December 2017. Further details via the Clerk.	Clerk
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179/17 - Correspondence

a.	Domestic waste Christmas collections calendar.	
b.	Request for register of electors 2018 has been submitted by Clerk.	
c.	Salt orders from Highways. Deadline 30th Nov. Cllrs declined to order more salt on the basis that the existing bins are fully stocked. It was noted that Mr Paul Davies is an alternative source for salt.	

180/17 Date of next scheduled meeting 04th Dec, 7.30pm, Peace Hall.

Cllr Atkinson passed her apologies.

Appendix 1: Items for payment.

Simon Skeys	Lengthsman monthly timesheet Oct 2017	£161.00	VAT nil
Simon Skeys	Final cut Sinton Green and trees and posts strimmed. Oct 2017 Invoice: 100	£70.00	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [October]	£365.44	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Expenses. GPC201703. Includes 5x bollards (3 for Sinton Green, 2 for Monkwood Green culvert protection).	£193.88	VAT under calculation.
Lisa Stevens	Additional work (5 hours) outside contractual hours for Monkwood Green Management group. GPC201704.	£57.10	VAT nil

Chair (22 January 2017)