

**At the Meeting of Grimley Parish Council held on
16th September 2019
in The Peace Hall, Sinton Green commencing at 7.30pm**

Cllrs Present: D Stanley (Chair), A Atkinson, P Ayers, G James, E A Taft, R Woodhouse. [Co-opted at meeting: A Bretherton; G Green]
In Attendance: Mrs L Stevens (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr Dean Clarke, County Cllr Phil Grove. 23 Members of the public.
Apologies: A Passey [Co-opted at meeting]. Play Area Working Party.

Notices in place and visible upon entry: 1) Notice informing residents that their name might be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. 2) Noticeboard displaying following information: GDPR; contact details for P.C. Data Protection Officer; Consent forms; rules for recording public meetings; procedure for speaking at the meeting; how to access parish council documents; details of when the precept is set each year; list of future meeting dates.

Due to the nature of this meeting, standing orders were relaxed. The public were permitted to request to speak at any time.

101/19 Apologies for absence. – as above.

102/19 Declarations of interest and points of order.

a.	None.
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103/19 Minutes of previous meetings.

a.	Tuesday 20 th August 2019 – Duly approved.
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104/19 To Receive the Report of the County Councillor.

a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation on minerals extraction deadline 30 Sept 2019. Minerals Local Plan will outline where quarries might be developed over the next 15 yrs. Grimley parish is not an area being considered. www.worcestershire.gov.uk/minerals. - The congestion improvement scheme in Sidbury is nearing completion. Scheme to replace 50-year old traffic light system and road layout enhancements. Night-time road closures until 5th Sept. - Last month, Worcestershire resettled its 100th Syrian refugee under the Government's Syrian Resettlement Programme. 26 families have been resettled since 2016, previously living in refugee camps or homes close to the border after fleeing the war in Syria. - Worcestershire Children First (WCF) to be launched on 1 October. An Interim Business Plan sets out how WCF will deliver services for children, young people and families on behalf of WCC. <p>A Parish Cllr asked a question relating to the duelling of the A4440 and how the Powick roundabout would cope with the additional flow.</p>
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Clerk

105/19 To Receive the Report of the District Councillor.

a.	<p>a. 19/00914/FUL - Application for variation of condition 8 on planning permission 11/01514/FUL Elm Hill. This application was refused by the District Council. It is not known whether an appeal will be launched.</p> <p>b. 19/00492/FUL - Construction of a new storage shed on brownfield land. Location: Holt Parish, Ball Mill Bungalow, A443, WR2 6LS. Enforcement may occur in due course once the planning application process has been worked through. The Clerk noted that residents continue to report tree and turf removal on site, a large number of vehicles, trailers, machinery, static caravans, associated plant equipment and the apparently unauthorised large workshop building all in-situ.</p> <p>c. Malvern Hills District Council Residents Survey. Annual survey running until 6 Oct. Opportunity to influence the District Council Five Year Plan. https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/public-notice-consultations</p>
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Clerk

Clerk

106/19 Co-option – filling three vacancies for Parish Councillor

a.	<p>Candidates were welcomed – Mr Gary Green [Monkwood Green], Mr Allan Bretherton [Sinton Green], Mr Alan Passey [Grimley Parish] [absent due to work commitments]. Candidates were invited to speak/put questions to the Council and vice versa.</p> <p>Motion to accept three candidates and to co-opt with immediate effect. Motion duly presented and Cllrs voted unanimously to co-opt all three onto Grimley Parish Council. Proposed RW, seconded GJ.</p> <p>There followed a formal welcome from Chair. Paperwork associated with new Parish Cllrs, Declaration of Interests, Acceptance of Office, copies of Policy documents and Privacy Notice. Cllrs Bretherton and Green took part in debate from this point.</p>
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Clerk

107/19 “Our Future in a Changing World” – Parish Briefing and Discussion “Climate Crisis”. This was an open session and public debate is permitted.

a.	<p>Cllr Dave Stanley gave a presentation containing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecosystem degradation and loss. The link between our closed climate system, the economy and climate change. How reducing energy consumption is the best way to positively impact on the current downward trend (detrimental to life on Earth) in climate change. - Carbon cycle and how soil is the biggest and most effective carbon sink (storage facility as an analogy). - Climate change not caused by greenhouse gases as these must exist in right balance for the “Greenhouse Effect” and Earth biosphere to function. The natural greenhouse effect warms the planet sufficiently for life to exist. Human discharge of additional gases arising primarily from fossil fuel burning above and beyond ‘normal’ quantities causes an unstable atmosphere and global warming. - Main collective priority must still be to; end use of fossil fuels; promote a zero-carbon, climate-resilient, people-centered economic transition. - Energy reduction belongs at the heart of a low carbon economy. By reducing energy use and cutting down on waste, we can reduce energy bills, make our energy system more sustainable and drive down greenhouse gas emissions. - Making technology more efficient will not on its own remove our difficulties, as improvements are a driver of increase demand & consumption. - Also needed is a complete dedication to reducing air travel, an acceptance that we can no longer go galivanting around the Earth for frivolous purposes and a corresponding increase in uses of alternatives to motor cars – trains, bus, bike, walking. - Individuals can also help by reducing home thermostats by 2oC, adjusting individual room radiator theomostats so that unused rooms are not heated, timing heating to be on only when the house is occupied and off/reduced at night. - Need to tackle problems in our food production system. Soils are being degraded, wildlife is also declining, food is being transported needlessly, changing systems of food production mean that more fossil fuels are being used to produce food of ever declining nutrient value. Every section of food production produces further climate changing emissions. - Farming methods that assist with regeneration of soil fertility/ biodiversity/carbon capture: Market Gardens; Allotments; Agroforestry; Sylviculture; grasslands; Inter or Multicropping; Covercropping; Mixed or Rotational Farming. - As a citizen/consumer we can prompt further improvements in the sustainability in our food system by ensuring that we buy – local, fresh, seasonal, synthetic fertiliser/pesticide free (organic), and if meat and dairy – Pasture-Fed only and grain free. <p>Clerk gave an over view of Roles, responsibilities and possibilities of a</p>
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	<p>Parish Council, including those powers that can be utilised to effect local projects aimed at tackling the problem of climate change.</p> <p>Points from the audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District council is constrained by similar legal parameters as the parish council but has declared a climate emergency and a working party has been tasked with create an action plan for the district to become carbon neutral. <p>https://malvernobserver.co.uk/news/malvern-hills-district-council-declares-climate-emergency/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National policy does not allow local decisions on enviro friendly housing. Neighbourhood plans are unable to help tackle this. - Emission in the southern hemisphere are a problem that only global cooperation can help – difficult to see how this can be tackled at parish level. - Cost of local produce is was stated to be too high, though the percentage of income spent on food today is the lowest it has ever been and indeed the lowest in Europe. <p>Residents and Cllrs agreed the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That education was the best short term action, with CClllr Grove offering to fund production of leaflets to send round to parishioners highlighting the issues raised in todays meeting. This will generate ideas and provoke thinking and a putting forward of projects that the parish council could consider. 2. A working party would be created to help this process and consider responses. 3. To declare a climate emergency. The Clerk was instructed to draft a declaration.
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108/19 Broadband – To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice. This section included public questions and open debate.

<p>a.</p>	<p>Cllrs and residents received a recap from Cllr Stanley. Cllr Bretherton requested clarification as to the areas chosen by Worcestershire County Council for this project.</p> <p>Cllrs noted the forthcoming public meeting to assess the level of interest amongst Grimley residents. Grimley Church – 7.30PM, Tuesday 24th September. All residents welcome.</p>
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109/19 Play Equipment Working Party – To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

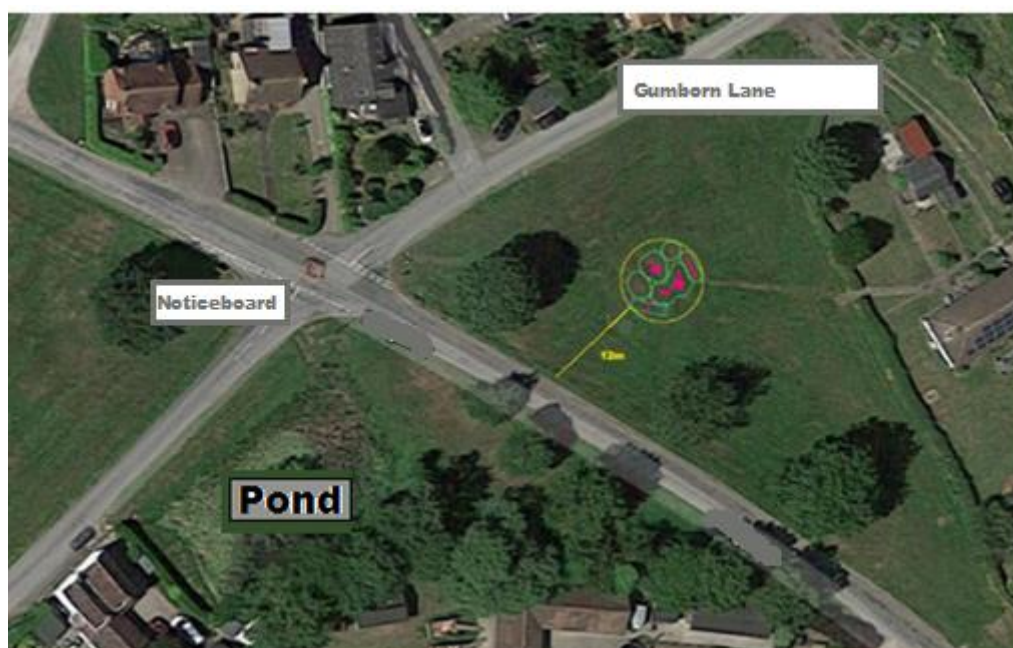
<p>a.</p>	<p>Clerk to briefly recap Working Party recommendations. Councillor debate and decision as to preferred equipment / locations, if any.</p> <p>The Clerk gave a brief introduction for the benefit of newly co-opted Cllrs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Parish Council has carried out consultations to obtain views on play facilities in the parish and this project is ongoing. At the full Parish Council Meeting 22/10/18, Grimley Parish Council created a working party to discuss the future provision of play equipment for young children in the parish. Comprising almost entirely of volunteers, the Working Party continues to be open to anyone in the Parish to join. Parish Councillors hope that the ‘local resident emphasis’ allows fuller consideration of practical options and will encourage appropriate community participation. <p>Responses received against play equipment are largely based on understandable concerns about ‘un-knowns’ and the nature of change, rather than specific objections. Consequently, the Working Party volunteers have obtained professional graphics illustrating some of the feedback suggestions by parishioners.</p>
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- The Parish Council supports provision of play equipment in the parish for a number of reasons, but primarily because “*there are many young families in the parish who would benefit from play equipment which is both safe for the children and that provide parents and families with a local place to meet and mix – providing mutual support and reducing rural loneliness and isolation.*” (Committee resolution within Play Equipment Working Party Terms of Reference).


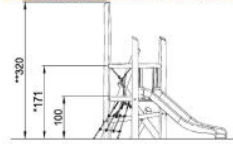





Cllr Taft spoke of the need to move the project forward as there is a risk of loss of momentum. Cllrs also spoke of the need to provide facilities for young families and that opposition to the project seemed to centre on an assumption that current children in the area would grow up, that new families would not move in to the parish and that equipment would not be used beyond an initial 5 to 6 years from point of completion.

Cllr Woodhouse asked for clarification of how many children currently live in the parish and particularly within Sinton Green. Debate as to the age range of the proposed equipment and whether it was appropriate and useful to the parish to limit the age range – the Clerk restated the project emphasis which is on families with pre-school and early primary school children, for whom there are limited facilities within the parish. The proposed equipment manufacturer recommendation (Kompan) is up to age 7. Questions from the public included clarification on child age statistics. Three members of the public left the room, after expressing dissatisfaction with the conduct of some of the Cllrs.

Debate as to preferred location centred on the smaller of the two triangles on Sinton Green. The Clerk notes for information that this location was originally suggested as an alternative by a number of Parish Councillors, partly because of consultation feedback (which gave the Main Green itself a mixed range of support and objections), but also because Cllrs have suggested in previous meetings that this is perhaps the least intrusive within the wider context and to local residents. Some additional sub soil gravel drainage would be required at this location.



Approximate cost of proposed equipment: £6,000. (£2,500 of which the Parish Council already has as a grant). The material is a product called Natural Robinia Hardwood and has a 'life' of 30 years, guaranteed by the manufacturer. This material is in keeping with the surroundings. The play surfacing can be mowed/strimmed with ease.

	<p>Fencing (options) are still being considered. The 'manufacturer' age range of much of the equipment is pre-school up to age 7.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>A. NRO1004 Tower with Net</p>  <p>£3720</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>B. NRO820 Water Lilies</p>  <p>£410</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>C. NRO105 Seesaw</p>  <p>£720</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Open to cheaper alternatives, but remember that this 'official' equipment is guaranteed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open to all suggestions.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>E. Single Seat Swing</p>  <p>£520</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>D. NRO110 Spinner Plate</p>  <p>£530</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">with Natural Robinia hardwood</p> <p style="text-align: right;">KOMPAN!</p> <p>Grass mat surfacing for a natural appearance</p> 
<p>b.</p>	<p>If applicable, Motion to commit and proceed with project.</p> <p>Cllrs agreed the need to select and present to the public a single favoured site.</p> <p>Motion to proceed with the project: Carried. 5 for and 3 against.</p> <p>Selection of a preferred location. Motion to focus on the smaller triangle on Sinton Green: Carried. 4 for, 3 against and 1 abstention.</p> <p>Motion to accept the range of equipment recommended by the Working Party as a result of public feedback. Carried. 4 for, 3 against and 1 abstention.</p> <p>The Clerk was instructed to begin process for distribution of a leaflet to residents wide informing them of this decision, allowing for a period of public comment until Monday 21st October 2019. Leaflet to be distributed asap and ideally by the end of the week. Cllrs all agreed to assist with leaflet distribution.</p> <p>The Clerk noted that the Working Party original remit has come to an end and that the Working Party Terms of Reference should be redrafted to encompass the next stage of the project. The Clerk was instructed to draft and extend the terms of reference in consultation with the Working Party.</p>

110/19 Hallow Neighbourhood Development Plan – To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

<p>a.</p>	<p>Cllr Stanley provided a recap on the briefing previously provided by Hazel Kemshall, Hallow Parish Council concerning the draft Hallow Neighbourhood Development Plan, within which will be designated two 'green spaces' – Tinkers Coppice and the Gravel Pits.</p>
<p>b.</p>	<p>Motion to support Hallow Parish Council's designation of these two green spaces of demonstrably special quality, of local importance for recreation, of cultural and historical significance and of vital importance to wildlife and wildlife conservation. Carried unanimously.</p>

111/19 Monkwood Green - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	<p>Review of mowing. Cllrs agreed general satisfaction with the quality of the mowing and care of the Common by the contractor but also agreed that the price paid should be carefully looked into and that grazing the entire site must be the focus of future work. It was also noted that the contractor quoted on the basis of being entirely unable to sell or dispose of the arisings in any way <u>other than burning</u>. Cllrs were concerned that this was not ultimately as happened and that there are unsubstantiated reports that some of the arisings were sold to third parties. Review of presence of cattle on Common and report that the Commoner is not allowing overgrazing. Cllr Woodhouse to speak about how regular the cattle are placed on site.</p>
b.	<p>Review of road repairs (Croft etc private service road and additional work on pot holes on other roads on the Common) Cllrs agreed that the quality of the work was satisfactory and ask the Clerk to pass on thanks to the contractor. Delivery van speeding is inevitably causing some of the potholes to return. The Clerk advised that the solicitors send out a letter to those with Rights of Access advising them of the work undertaken at full cost by the Parish Council and this does not prejudice future rights of the parish council to claim repair/maintenance costs of the roads in the future – as per the Rights of Access documents for each property. This was agreed by the Cllrs with a payment limit of £250 by the solicitor.</p>
c.	<p>Defibrillator update. The Clerk confirmed that the Council is on a waiting list for equipment.</p>

Cllr Woodhouse left at this point in the meeting.

112/19 Reports from Representatives.

a.	<p>Peace Hall Management Committee. Cllr James attended the previous meeting and gave an update. A barn dance is planned for 16th November 2019.</p>
b.	<p>Lengthsman. Also, motion to receive and approve future items of work. Cllrs noted that the hedge care in Grimley by resident Adrian was an excellent job well done. Jobs for Lengthsman: - Around Grimley village notice board needs tidying up, lots of nettles, brambles etc., & generally looks a mess. - Footpath along the main road opposite to the Raceway is impassable in places due to hedge overgrowth. - Gutters in Grimley village could do with a clean, ie spade to clear grasses etc., that are growing in the gutter.</p>

113/19 General Finance - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	<p>To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts. All duly inspected and approved.</p>
b.	<p>To receive and motion to accept the latest Bank Reconciliation, August 2019. All duly inspected and approved.</p>
c.	<p>Clerk is beginning to draft 2020/21 budget. Suggestions and requests from the public and Cllrs. No comments received.</p>
d.	<p>Remembrance Sunday Service (November 10th) 'suggested donation' is £25 per wreath. Duly accepted and carried.</p>

114/19 Dates for diary, any other business, items for future agenda

a	<p>i) T. Ashley - Worcestershire Highways Worcestershire County Council utilises local contractors to assist us with snow clearing across the County. Contractors are assigned to specific zones, based on where they live. This allows us to deploy them at very short notice to augment the gritters. If you are aware of any local farmer, or contractor, with a JCB, or tractor and plough/blade who would be willing to assist us when it snows, please ask them to make contact. We will then discuss further. Payment is based on hourly rate for plant and labour.</p> <p>ii) Malvern Hills District Council: Our new Environment Policy Development Panel is currently looking at ways we can better support the district's native wildlife - Scheme to develop the number of pollinator friendly spaces, such as wildflower meadows, flower rich hedgerows and formal planted areas. Asking residents to put forward any pieces of land you may either own or be aware of, which might be suitable as a pollinator site – size isn't important. We'll then identify potential sites and develop a programme. Deadline: 5pm 9 Oct 2019.</p> <p>October meeting also to include:</p> <p>a. Clerk briefing on draft budget and parish council precept. Proposal to set up formal parish council committees. EG. Planning Committee (to meet as and when). Environment and facilities committee (to meet quarterly).</p> <p>b. Confidential Meeting of the Staffing Committee. <i>Confidential - In view of the confidential nature of the business the public were excluded pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.</i> NB purpose of this item is to: Conduct Clerk's annual appraisal. Review weekly contracted hours. (The Clerk is currently contracted for 12 hours a week).</p>
b	Date of next Parish Council meeting date: Venue: Peace Hall: Monday 21st October, 7.30pm. All residents and Press very welcome to attend.

Appendix 1: Items for payment.

Mr Simon Skeys	Lengthsman invoice June 2019. May be double if July invoice is received in time.	£95.00	VAT nil
Mr Simon Skeys	Sinton Green mowing invoice due 14/07/2019. £75 per cut. June cut/s. May be double if July invoice is received in time.	£75.00	VAT nil
Mr R J Poole	Mowing of Monkwood Common. transport and disposal. Invoice 31/08/2019. Ref: GPC201919.	£1620.00	£270.00
Worcestershire County Council	Grit and salt bin, Grimley top triangle. Replacement after vehicle demolished previous equipment without leaving details. Information still sought. £102.00 claimed from insurance. Invoice number: IN00128969. Order ref: GPC201831.	£272.30	£45.38
JHF Contracting	Monkwood Road repairs. Vicinity of the Croft, Approach road to Ivy Cottage, Fox Inn entrance way. This matches quotation. Invoice number: 105. Order ref: GPC201926	£2970.00	£495.00
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [August 2019] As per contract of <u>12 hours</u> per week, £12.01 per hour.	£576.48	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Expenses and overtime Aug/Sept 2019. GPC201903. Previously estimated as £198.24.	£226.87	VAT £42.00