

**At the Meeting of Grimley Parish Council held on
21st October 2019
in The Peace Hall, Sinton Green commencing at 7.30pm**

DRAFT

CLLrs Present: D Stanley (Chair), A Atkinson, P Ayers, A Bretherton, G Green, G James, E A Taft, R Woodhouse.

In Attendance: Mrs L Stevens (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr Dean Clarke, 19 Members of the public.

Apologies: County Cllr Phil Grove, Members of the 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.

115/19 Apologies for absence – as above.

116/19 Matters of Administration.

a.	<p>Code of Conduct. Nolan principles. Statement by the Chair.</p> <p>It is with some concern and sadness that I feel it necessary to raise this with the council and the parish at large. I regret to report that over the last month or 2, there have be a number of instances of abusive, intimidating telephone calls from members and the public that not only I have received, but of more concern by our dedicated and hard working Parish Clerk. Furthermore our Clerk has now been in receipt of anonymous calls and emails.</p> <p>I would like to remind all parties that our Parish Councillors are volunteers who give their time and services free of charge. They do so, I would hope, not on the basis of pursuing their own personal interests, but because they wish to make a positive contribution to maintaining and improving our local community. For that they should be due a degree of respect and indeed gratitude for their efforts.</p> <p>There are codes of conduct for councillors and meetings and all exchanges between any parties should be conducted in a courteous, polite, respectful and mature manner. Such exchanges should also be honest and transparent with both parties knowing with whom they are communicating.</p> <p>To facilitate this, our meetings will now be conducted on a strictly formal basis. Any, and indeed all inputs will be through the Chair only. The Chair will decide whether the statement input or question meets with the above standards and if so, will be pursued. At council meetings any member of the public wishing to make a statement is to identify themselves by name and address. All correspondence to either councillors or the clerk are to be supported by the name and address, and if appropriate, telephone number of the sender. Failure to do so will result in it being simply ignored, or indeed if abusive will be considered for further action. I trust that I can look forward to the support of all members of our community in this approach.</p>
b.	<p>Outstanding Co-option paperwork & minor amendments to existing paperwork. Duly completed with one outstanding.</p>
c.	<p>Declarations of interest and points of order. None.</p>

Cllr Passey

117/19 Minutes of previous meetings.

a.	Monday 16 th September 2019 – Duly approved.
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Clerk

118/19 To Receive the Report of the County Councillor.

a.	- The Council is pleased to be supporting a campaign that has been launched to promote Worcestershire as a place to work and to set up a business. www.oneworcestershire.com
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local volunteers from Redditch helped finish the county's first Natural Networks project. The project by North Worcestershire Water Management hopes to prevent localised flooding by improving an area of marshy woodland for local people to enjoy and promote wildlife. - The Council's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions have reduced by over 35% in comparison to levels recorded nine years ago. The Council has signed up to the Government's voluntary Emissions Reduction Pledge committing us to a minimum of 30% reduction in GHG emissions from 2009/10 levels by 2020/21.
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119/19 To Receive the Report of the District Councillor.

a.	19/00492/FUL - Construction of a new storage shed on brownfield land. Location: Holt Parish, Ball Mill Bungalow, A443, WR2 6LS. No update was available.
b.	Enforcement matters at i) Moseley & ii) Monkwood Green. No update was available.
c.	Concerns raised as to 19/00704/AGR New barn at Worlds End, Sinton Green. Construction appears to have begun according to planning permission parameters. Planning Officers are aware of the lean-to building on site. Officers will conduct a site visit.

120/19 Planning - to consider, comment and resolve to respond to:

a.	Application Number: 19/01429/HP Location: Fairways, Sinton Green, Hallow, Worcester, WR2 6NW. Description of Proposal: Proposed extensions. Applicant: Mr & Mrs Taylor. <i>Cllrs had no comments to make</i>
b.	To consider whether an extra ordinary meeting is required to discuss: Application Number: 19/01550/RM. Applicant Name: EGM Homes Ltd. Proposal: Reserved matters sought under this application are for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the construction of a detached dormer bungalow. Location: Holmfield, Sinton Green, WR2 6NP. <i>Cllrs had no comments and no additional meeting was required.</i>

Clerk

Clerk

121/19 Grimley Village - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	Broadband update. Cllr Stanley reported that Mr S. Russel is chasing up interested parties. Indications are that the threshold number of signatures may possibly be reached.
b.	Annual provision of a general waste wheelie bin at Grimley church. MHDC are going to provide this facility free of charge.

T.Richards

122/19 Monkwood Green - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	Review of road repairs. Cllr Woodhouse and Green had inspected the site (vicinity of The Croft) and reported that the quality of the work is excellent and far better than it was before. The material used (Natural England requirements) naturally sheds grit/mud when wet. Residents tend to park on the service roads and not on their own drives and this exacerbates the problem. Cllr Woodhouse submitted some photos taken showing inappropriate residential parking on the Common and the service roads and mowing of the SSSI. Contractors and residents also tend to drive too fast on the newly dressed surface. Cllrs agreed that a general letter explaining the issues should be sent round to all residents. The Clerk was instructed to ask the contractor to return to look at the pot holes.
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Clerk

Clerk

b.	<p>Parking on Monkwood Green Common, Parish Council owned land. Addressed above.</p> <p>Cllrs asked that the cattle be placed back on site on Monkwood Green Common. The Clerk was instructed to write to RP and ask what his intentions are going forward and for the location of the batteries of the electric fence.</p>	Clerk
c.	<p>Defibrillator update. The Clerk confirmed that the Council is on a waiting list for equipment.</p>	Clerk
d.	<p>Ongoing reports of gas spice cannisters left at Monkwood. The Clerk was instructed to pass reports to the PCSO and Cllrs advised constant vigilance.</p>	Clerk

123/19 Play Equipment Working Party – To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice

a.	<p>Review of Working Party Terms of Reference. Including the following statement:</p> <p>With regard to the proposal for play equipment with the parish, Councillors wishes to clarify that decision-making powers remain solely with the Parish Council and also confirm the advisory role of the Working Party.</p> <p>The Working Party consists wholly of volunteers who act in a capacity to explore available play options and offer solutions that will increase the activities available to families with young children. Additional members to this Working Party are welcome.</p> <p>With regard to public input, the Parish Council desires an outcome that brings the community together, wishes for an end to personal recriminations and reminds the public that this project can be an opportunity for all residents if we pull together. Objections to formal equipment and location are welcome but almost all feedback currently received is entirely void of positive suggestions and ideas.</p> <p>If a local landowner is willing to come forward with suggestions for a suitable, convenient, accessible and safe space to rent for this purpose, the Parish Council would be pleased to hear from them.</p>
b.	<p>Review of recently received public & Working Party feedback.</p> <p>A number of residents addressed the Chair and confirmed name and address. Residents expressed thanks towards the Working party for their efforts to try to provide perspective and clarification. Objections were mostly against the location rather than the play equipment itself, and also the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speeding, the road and pond remain a danger. - The age of the equipment. Some residents hoping for a better range of equipment, whilst others objecting to equipment for older children due to the increased likelihood of nuisance behaviour. - How the Parish Council would pay for ongoing maintenance. - Parking on site. - Location: Residents located near the main triangle were in favour of equipment on the smaller triangle. Residents located near the smaller triangle were in favour of equipment on the larger triangle. Residents against asked if the Peace Hall could be considered but Cllrs explained that this location was not thought viable by the Hall Management Committee.

125/19 Reports from Representatives.

a.	Peace Hall Management Committee. The Committee was meeting the same evening.	
b.	Lengthsman. Also, motion to receive and approve future items of work. The Clerk reported that invoices for June onwards had been obtained and that the Lengthsman is taking steps to ensure better and more regular submission of invoices.	
c.	PCSO – recent property marking event report. Cllr Green reported that this event was very poorly attended, inspite of every property in the parish receiving written notice.	
d.	10th November 2019 Remembrance Service at Hallow Church. Cllr DS attending.	Cllr Stanley
e.	Report of general amount of waste/litter across the parish – Cllr Woodhouse. The Clerk confirmed that the MHDC litter picker position no longer exists. Cllr discussed the impact of litter on soils and biodiversity. Cllr RW proposed that a litter picking event being organised in each hamlet with pubs asked to be open for tea and coffee. Cllrs approved this. GJ and AB to liaise concerning Sinton Green. PA and GG ref Monkwood Green. RW ref Grimley village.	Clerk

126/19 General Finance - To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.

a.	To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts. All duly inspected and approved.	
b.	To receive and motion to accept the latest Bank Reconciliation, Sept 2019. All duly inspected and approved.	
c.	Draft 2020/21 budget. Open session accepting suggestions and requests from the public and Cllrs. <i>Standing orders were suspended.</i> Cllrs had already forwarded a number of suggestions and had been provided with a summary for consideration before the next meeting. <u>The Clerk suggested that if all projects were to proceed, then a 10% rise in the precept would be required, amounting to an additional £6.02 per annum per household (band D).</u> Cllrs acknowledged that the figure of 10% might give bad publicity for the parish council but that the actual figure of £6 was not disproportionate to the projects being proposed and the benefit to the local population. There were no comments from the public. <i>Standing Orders were reinstated.</i>	All Cllrs Clerk
d.	To note reclaim of VAT for 2018/19 financial year. Duly noted.	

127/19 Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda

a	To note and discuss as required correspondence already circulated to Cllrs, or available for inspection at the meeting. <i>Cllrs may use this opportunity to report minor matters of info not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise future items.</i> November Agenda: Climate Emergency a. Draft Declaration of Climate Emergency. b. Proposal (and if required, a Motion) to set up formal Parish Council Committees. Planning Committee (proposal for online group which could 'meet' monthly). Environment and facilities committee	Clerk
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	(proposal to meet quarterly in person and which would incorporate projects concerning the Climate Emergency). c. Review of committee representatives ref recent co-options.
b	Date of next Parish Council meeting: Venue: Peace Hall: Monday 18 th November, 7.30pm. All residents and Press very welcome to attend.

128/19 Confidential Meeting of the Staffing Committee

a	<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). Cllrs thanked the Clerk for her continued efforts over the past year. A number of professional development action points were noted.
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Clerk

Appendix 1: Items for payment.

Mr Simon Skeys Lengthsman	Lengthsman invoices June, July, Aug & Sept 2019. June - £138. July - £115. August - £138. September - £184	£575.00	VAT nil
Mr Simon Skeys Private contractor	Sinton Green mowing invoice received 04/10/2019. £75 per cut. 30th June - £150. 31st July - £75 31st August - £75. 30th Sept - £75	£300.00	VAT nil
Signomatic	Monkwood Green 5mph signs	£109.80	VAT £21.96
Hallow Parish Magazine.	Remembrance service wreath	£25.00	Vat nil
Signomatic	Monkwood and Sinton pond safety signs and Grimley village passing place hazard signs. To replace those previously approved, in existence, damaged.	£189.57	VAT £31.60
Grimley Peace Hall Foundation	Invoice 62. Peace Hall annual hire.	£250.00	VAT nil
PKF Littlejohn	Completion of annual external audit 2018/19. Invoice number: SB20192404.	£240.00	VAT £40.00
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [September 2019] As per contract of 12 hours per week, £12.01 per hour.	£576.48	VAT nil
Lisa Stevens	Expenses and overtime September 2019. GPC201903. Updated 20/10/2019. Parts had to purchased to repair the printer. Previous amount advertised: £235.50	£305.48	VAT under calculation

Chair (18th November 2019)