

The Minutes of Lindridge Parish Council Annual Meeting
Wednesday 9th November 2016 at 7.00pm at Lindridge Parish Hall, Eardiston

Present: Cllr Mrs A Winwood, Cllr S Workman, Cllr N J Benbow, Cllr H Williams, Cllr Mrs Morris

In Attendance: Cllr C Dell.

PC60. Receive Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mrs T Lowe, Cllr Mrs K Pardoe, Cllr D Evans

PC61 Declarations Personal and Prejudicial Interest

The Chairman declared an interest due to her role as Public Path Warden and for having footpaths on her property.

PC62. Minutes of the 14th September 2016 Meeting

The Minutes were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

PC63. Agree, check and minute accounts

Cllr Benbow and Cllr Williams agreed, checked and signed accounts.

Accounts paid since last meeting

- Parish Clerk, Salary – September & October 2016 £559.18
- **Accounts Unpaid**
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- Parish Clerk, Expenses for Sept & October 2016
£103.94
- Parish Lengthsman – Sept & October 2016 £299.00
- Lindridge Parish Hall – Hire – 14.09.16 £
30.00
- Grant Thornton UK LLP – 2016 Annual Return
£120.00
- Worcestershire CALC – Clerks Gathering & Gill Lungley Training £ 40.00
- Mrs M Morris – Refreshments for Parish Awards Event £
35.36

PC64. Progress Reports for Information

District Councillor – Cllr Dell reported that works on Eastham Bridge had begun. The roadworks in Tenbury have begun in relation to Tesco opening in the Spring. These works will halt during the time up to Christmas but will then begin again in the New Year. Parking will be enlarged by the swimming pool and will be open before Christmas. Cllr Dell confirmed there was still money available in his budget for this year. Cllr Dell also commented on the recent notification from BT of the removal of local telephone boxes; and noted how their use is of valuable potential within communities.

The Parish Council wished to formally thank Cllr Dell for presenting the awards at the recently held Parish Award event.

County Councillor – Report attached from Cllr Pollock.

Parish Hall Representative – Cllr Williams reported that the Committee meet bi-monthly. The Parish Council asked for feedback for the next meeting, from the Committee to confirm if the Autumn Show was to go ahead next year.

Public Path Warden – The Public Path Warden reported that we had discussed in earlier meetings the need for a formal, transparent policy when taking actions towards the upkeep of our footpath network, especially when this required action by landowners. Without such a policy we are open to accusations of Arbitrariness or lack of even handedness.

As reported at earlier meetings, such a Policy has been instituted by Worcestershire County Council and is published under the heading:- Public Rights of Way: Prioritising Maintenance where a clear system of categorising paths and priorities is set out.

In addition we are cognisant of the Rights of Way Act 1990 which sets out required widths but mindful of the exemptions afforded in said Act and also of the duties of the Highway Authority and the DISCRETIONARY powers of Parish Councils as set out in the Highways Act 1980. It is important that we all act with this in mind.

The Parish Council had received a letter from a resident querying a request to remove stiles which were erected on a higher priority route B, in contravention of the published statement. I suggest that the matter is referred to Jon White at WCC, Countryside Service who is the responsible Authority and whilst sympathising with the expressed desire to protect wild plants we might explain that by replacing the designated gaps at each end of the path with challenging stiles the path is rendered unusable by older and very young users. Several earlier requests to remove these stiles have been ignored by previous owners and more recently.

Councillors

- Cllr Benbow – Attended a Broadband Champions meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. No more news of the Superfast cabinet to be installed in Frith Common between February – September 2017. Available in Eardiston. Cllr Evans had helped carry out a survey to establish the demand in Menith Wood, where at the moment no plans are in place for Superfast Broadband to be supplied.

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Clerk – The Clerk reported that she had attended a Clerks Gathering.

The Clerk reported on the recent notification received from MHDC that BT would be planning to remove a number of payphones from certain locations within the district. In the Parish this would be the one located in Eardiston and Frith Common. Pensax

Parish Council would be adopting the one located at Menith Wood. After discussions it was agreed to adopt Frith Common phone box as this one was in a lot better condition than the one in Eardiston, and that it was in a safer location to do something with it. The Clerk was to notify BT. Cllr Workman proposed and Cllr Williams seconded.

PC65 – Speed Restrictions in Eardiston – The Chairman reported together with Cllr Workman, Vice Chair they have had many meetings with various highway authority members on this matter and on wider problems with the A443 and A456. They had circulated a series of recommendations, a direct result of suggestions from these officials, that in the absence of adequate funding for more radical traffic measures, the Parish Council could improve the situation by visually emphasising the "built up" nature of the area. It was particularly commended the efficacy of "White Gates" and cosmetic grass cutting. Several Councillors had recorded their doubts about this. However, the Parish Council's position could become weakened, when continuing to lobby for effective financial action from the Highway Authority, if the advice given was to be ignored.

Also, other Parishes that the A443 goes through were written to, stating these recommendations and asking if those Parishes had any views. A few replied agreeing with us and they also would be canvassing themselves on this issue. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to Cllr Pollock and Harriet Baldwin MP.

Cllr Workman reported that no update had been received from Safer Roads Partnership of the latest data in Eardiston. The Clerk to contact and determine what would the plans be for the future. Cllr Workman had begun investigating the costs and usage possibilities of a VAS unit. This would be reported at next meeting.

Several recommendations had been presented to the Parish Council of how certain areas of Eardiston that currently looked untidy, could be enhanced for the Parishioners and to alert drivers to the fact that they are driving through a residential area. Cllr Williams proposed and Cllr Workman seconded the decision for the Lengthsman to carry out grass cutting around the Cutmill Bridge area, the triangle green by Mill Lane and where cars park by the field by the entrance of Mill Lane. The iron railings on the triangle green area to be repainted and for the footpath to be rid of overgrowth.

The Parish Council minuted the excellent work Cllr Mrs Winwood and Cllr Workman had done in collating the information and that the Council appreciates sensible practical solutions.

PC66 – Emergency Plan – The Chairman began by expressing what a fine piece of work this was. Cllr Evans prior to the meeting had asked that a practice run should happen sometime in January. Dates would be circulated of when everyone could attend.

PC67 - Draft 2017-2018 Precept – Cllr Benbow went through the year to date expenditure. Discussion regarding the cost implications of speed reduction works/items for Eardiston could possibly mean a rise in the Precept. However, it was agreed that the Clerk would meet with Cllr Benbow before the January meeting to

discuss the annual Precept. The Clerk would issue to all other Councillors the draft precept before the next meeting.

PC68 – Risk Assessments – Cllr Williams reported that no formal feedback yet, this would be carried forward to next meeting.

PC69 – Road and Drainage Issues – Current issues were:-

- Road and bank dropping below Cherry View, Frith Common – The Clerk had contacted WCC for an update on this, as white road markings had appeared from The Nags Head up to Oldfields Farm, and an indication had been made that the road would be closed in February for resurfacing works.
- Mill Lane – The Clerk to meet with the Lengthsman and Paul Danby to readdress issues.
- Follow up with MHDC, recycling bins left on roadside/verge causing visibility issue in Frith Common.

PC70 – Parish Awards – The event had gone extremely well and Cllr Williams had received a thank you letter from one of the recipients.

PC71 – Review planning matters, applications and decisions

PLANNING REFERENCE – 16/00969/CLE

Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use of caravan for holiday purposes in breach of condition 2 of planning permission 76c 178 for in excess of 10 years.

Red Lodge, Frith Common.

Mr and Mrs T & S Love

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

The Parish Council asked if MHDC could be contacted to ask if the recently reinstated decking be removed, as it was put back illegally.

PLANNING REFERENCE – 16/01772/HOU

Single storey extension to dwelling.

Upper Ridley Farm, Stockton, Worcestershire, WR15 6XB

Mr W Redman

APPROVAL

REFERENCE: APP/J1860/W/16/3150378

37 The Forge, Eardiston, Tenbury Wells – Mr M Davies

APPEAL DECISION GRANTED BY THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE

PC72 – Report of Matters Arising from Last Meeting –

Re-advertise the Councillor vacancy.

PC73 – Correspondence for information –

- Letter from the Clerk regarding Pension invitation. Decline to take up the offer.
 - Email to several local parishes that the A443 borders (Abberley/Holt/Knighton on Teme/Stockton/Hallow/Great Witley), regarding the Worcester Local Transport Plan. Sharing our current views and asking if the Parishes concerned have similar issues to ours.
 - Replies from Great Witley/Holt re: above email.
 - Email to and from G Brienza, WCC – concerned with water discharge on Highway located at Frith Common.
 - Letter received from Mrs S Mocroft – Lindridge Footpath No. 576 – revisit decision made of a request for removal of stiles on this footpath.
- **PC74 – Items for Future Agenda**
 - - Emergency Plan
 - 2017-2018 Precept
 - Road and Drainage Issues
 - Speed Restrictions in Eardiston
 - Risk Assessment
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PC75 – Items for Teme Span and Next Meeting Date

Items to be submitted:-

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th January at 7.00pm at Lindridge Parish Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.