

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 7th August 2017 at 7.30pm at Trimpley Village Hall

<u>Present</u>	Councillor Mr. J. Gammond (Chair)	Councillor Mr. C. Grainger
	Councillor Mr. G. Yarranton	Councillor Mr. R. Jennings
	Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond	Councillor Mr. B. Phillips
	Dist. Cllr. Becky Vale	Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)
		25 members of the public

1. Public Open Forum

The owner at Honeybrook Cottage was of the understanding that the Parish Council had requested a blanket TPO of the whole area, including his property. Alvan Kingston, District Arboricultural Officer had advised that the parish had requested this, as being an SSSI. Parish Councillors assured the owner that they had not requested this, but were concerned about some trees in Easthams Coppice, which extends down to the cottage, and is a Wildlife Protection area, not an SSSI. It was explained that when there was such a blanket order placed by the District Council, it was usual to then filter this down to individual specific trees at a later date. Clerk to ascertain why Alvan Kingston had advised the owner that he had quoted the Parish Council as having requested this.

Talk by Mr. James Walley on his proposed plans for Low Habberley Golf Club

Mr. Walley, the new owner of the Golf Club site gave a talk on his plans for the new Crocky Trail park that he intended to create. A resume of some of the points made is below:

- The trail would incorporate swings, natural rides, and countryside activities suitable for families with young children – in keeping with the rural nature of the site. Their site in Cheshire has around 70 different activities, including a variety of slides, swings, a maze, skipping machine, trapdoor slide, “blackhole”, and football game.
- The topography of the Golf Club would be used to full effect to create swings and rides, to minimise impact on the countryside. Largely non-mechanical rides – no large dippers etc. Rides will make use of natural dips in the landscape so that shouting from children using the park will not travel too far.
- Staffing – around 40 student jobs created (mainly university students employed over the summer break) + 5 full-time members of staff.
- Owners very interested to enhance the wildlife of the area, creating habitats, and planting in the region of 2000 mainly native trees. It is known that there are five existing TPOs on the site.
- Entry tickets given away free to local charities.
- Free entry tickets given to local community – with a request for a donation to a charity – e.g. Save the Children.
- Strong policies in relation to first aid, catering standards and a very keen, strong recycling policy. The aim is to ask groups to bring a packed lunch without plastic bottles, for example.
- The tickets are sold mainly for child entrance (as many rides are not suitable for adults) but there is a different priced rate for an accompanying adult.
- Hours of business likely to be 10a.m. – 5p.m. from Easter – November, + possible limited opening during Christmas.
- Projected opening date for Low Habberley to be Easter 2018. Bookings are restricted to being made on-line, but there are no timed/staged entrances.

Questions

How many visitors do you expect?

- There is a maximum number of 500 people per day (as a safe target). This could generate up around 200 cars per day. Currently there is parking for around 60 – so the parking area will need to be considerably enlarged. This is a family run business, and there are no targets to be met for minimum admission numbers.

What about access for coaches etc?

- For coaches, the entrance will need to be significantly widened. Parking may be on grass initially. There may be a one way entrance, and a further exit access created – plans for this are not yet finalised. Coaches will be accessing the trail, as a number of children’s groups and schools like to use the trail and we do have a lot of coaches at the end of the school year.

What about traffic to the site – either through Low Habberley or via Trimpley?

- We understand that the main local concern will be about traffic access to the site. Banners with description of routes to the site will be produced. It would be expected that most of the accessing traffic would be via Low Habberley.

Traffic problems to the West Midland Safari Park are already difficult through Kidderminster. Will we be experiencing similar traffic problems to the park at Low Habberley?

- It is anticipated that at the most there will be a maximum of 50 cars per hour and a maximum of 4 coaches. It will not be comparable to traffic to the Safari Park.

Will there be a restaurant on site?

- Yes for snack food for families during opening hours, although self-packed picnics are encouraged, with a minimum of packaging and an emphasis on recycling. It is hoped to perhaps eventually open the Restaurant for evening dining up to 10p.m. as a licensed family restaurant outside of trail opening times.

What sort of signage is planned at the entrance?

- Something in keeping with the rural nature of the area – perhaps in planks etc. with possible minimal unobtrusive lighting.

What about security of the site?

- There are no ROWs crossing the main park, but a bridleway to the side, which will be discussed with users and officers to ensure that adequate arrangements are made for its continued use. There will be a CCTV room overseeing every activity on site, including night-time. Two people will be living on site.

Are there any planning applications required?

- The site is already designated for leisure activities. However, any enlargements and alterations to the car park and access will need planning approval, as will any large extension to the dwelling house.

Mr Walley and his two members of staff left the meeting at this point.

2. Apologies For Absence:

Cllr. Yarranton, Cllr. Jennings, Dist. Cllr. B. Vale and County Cllr. Ian Hardiman – apologies noted and accepted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr. Mrs. Gammond and Cllr. J Gammond declared an interest in being members of the Village Hall committee. Cllr. Mr. Grainger declared an interest in any item in connection with Riddings Brook. Cllr. Phillips declared a pecuniary interest in respect of the Churchyard grant.

4. Approval of the Minutes The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th July 2017 were approved and signed with an amendment in respect of Dist. Cllr. Becky Vale's report.

**5. District and County Councillor Reports - inc. progress reports on other matters
Items reported for attention by District & County Councillor and other items of matters arising.**

District Cllr. Becky Vale – had submitted the report below, which was tabled by the Clerk:-

1. Queen Elizabeth II Gardens in Bewdley has received the prestigious Green Flag Award- the mark of a quality park or green space- from the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy.
2. Students from the Bewdley School and Sixth Form Centre have been helping to prevent youth homelessness in the West Midlands under the Community Ambassador Scheme. The students organised a collection for St Basil's Kidderminster Foyer Project.
3. The Wyre Forest District Council (off street parking places) order 2017- Notice of Proposals, has been published. The order shall be effective from 2nd October 2017. Any objections to the order should be made in writing to the Solicitor of the Council not later than 10th August 2017.
4. There will be free car parking for up to 78 cars available at Bewdley School throughout the summer holidays, from 8 AM to 8 PM from 24th July to Thursday 31st August. Dial-A-Ride will operate a 16 seat minibus shuttle service each Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm between Bewdley High School and the standard bus stops on Load Street on the following Saturday's: 12th, 19th and 26th August.
5. This year, I intend to distribute my community leadership fund between 'The Together Group', 'Knit and Natter', 'The Stroke Association', based in Wribbenhall and 'Friends of Riverside North'.
6. The consultation for the local plan review ends on Monday 14th August 2017 at 5 pm.

County Councillor Ian Hardiman had submitted the following report, which was tabled by the clerk:-

Ref.1. I refer to the minutes of your last meeting on 17th July in which following my submitted report a comment was added that "There was no mention of previously related highways problems in relation to Crundalls, Hoarstone and Shatterford Lanes".

I apologise for the oversight and report that:

Alex Clarke-Ellson's response was that:

A. Crundalls Lane: He was unable to find anything relating to programmed carriageway works.

B. Hoarstone Lane & Shatterford Lane: He was unable to find anything relating to drainage issues.

However, I have communicated to Highways office, as Alex is away on extended absence owing to ill health; I have requested a site visit meeting with an engineer.

Ref. 2. Regarding a request from the Parish Clerk that I consider making an annual payment of £1,300 from my locally determined fund towards the Lengthsman's budget, I have now received W.C.C. clarification AND comparison with the funding uses by County Councillors generally and have learnt that former County Councillor Gordon Yarranton was the only councillor (of 57) to grant funding for the lengthsman of a parish council; i.e. he has granted £1,300 each year to Kidderminster Foreign PC and £1,500 to Wolverley and Cookley PC. No other councillors employ the same practice!

I intend therefore to engage in a more general dispersal of my Locally Determined Allocation throughout the Cookley, Wolverley, Wribbenhall Division, rather than an annual individual commitment to specific parish councils.

6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) Previous planning applications

17/0377 Replacement Chalet at HERGEST CROFT, NORTHWOOD LANE BEWDLEY DY121AS

Approved

**17/3034 Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse
BRICK BARN TRIMPLEY FARM TRIMPLEY BEWDLEY DY121NS**

Refused as not falling within GPDO parameters.

17/0407 Change of use and extension of an agricultural building to office/commercial use at property/land adjacent Highfield, Crundalls Lane, Bewdley

Awaiting Decision

b) New Applications

17/0460/FULL Proposed replacement garage and new access at 36 Habberley Lane, LOW HABBERLEY, KIDDERMINSTER, DY115RA

Comment: *No objection to the proposal and Recommend Approval*

17/0475/CER Certificate of Lawfulness - Use of property for permanent residence for more than 4 years "Sunkist", Hill Farm

Comment: *"We have no evidence to either support or refute the claimed 4-year permanent residency."*

c) Compliance Issues /Appeals.

i) Easter Cottage

ii) Crundalls Cottage

iii) Sandy Lane – Barn conversion

Nothing further received on any of these issues.

d) Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review

Clerk would submit comment from the parish, broadly supporting Option A, giving the ability to provide an Eastern Relief Road for Kidderminster. In addition, comment was made to offer support for Policy 28B in respect of chalets, and Policy 26 in respect of the Historic Environment. In respect of the latter, Clerk was requested to investigate mention of a Local Heritage List, and to obtain a copy.

e) General Permitted Development – Clerk had received a draft "rough guide" from John Baggott, which she tabled, and had circulated to all parish councillors.

7. **Progress Reports / Correspondence, and other Outstanding Items**

a) Discussion on suggested closure of Layby at Mary Moors, Eymore Lane

Clerk had tried to contact Alex Ellson in the County Highways department, for a site meeting to discuss this matter, but he was signed off sick for a month. Clerk to try to make an appointment in September.

b) SVR – risk of embankment fires

Clerk read out the official response letter from the County Fire Department. Contact to be made again next spring.

c) State of Parish Noticeboards

Clerk had arranged with "Definitive Furniture" (supplier) to repair and improve the noticeboards. This would be done very shortly.

d) Display Stand for the Parish Council – returned to Clerk following display at Heavy Horse, and Trimpey Vintage Rally annual shows. The display had attracted interest.

8. Lengthsman, Footpath work & Litter collection – :

a) Worksheets

Clerk tabled two worksheets covering work undertaken between April and end July. She also tabled a worksheet on the footpath work undertaken so far in the P3 agreement by the Archer Brothers.

b) Lengthsman Visible ID methods

Clerk had ordered and received a magnetic personalised sign for the lengthsman's vehicle, and 3 HiViz jackets, also personalised, due to be delivered shortly.

9. Financial Reports

a) Payments

Cheques signed:

Lengthsman's work - £610

P3 Work done by S. Archer - £421

Clerk's Expenses inc. Personalised items for the Lengthsman - £134.29.

Friends of Riverside North Park - £200

Kidderminster Citizens Advice Bureau - £150

b) Grant Consideration re Social Club Restoration

Clerk tabled details concerning the provision of a defibrillator for installation at the hall. Matter to be discussed at a future meeting.

10. Worcestershire CALC

Velo Birmingham – Besides information received from CALC, the Clerk had circulated by e-mail and post details of the road closures local to this parish for Sunday 24th September. Clerk also advised that she had previously put an article in the Parish Magazine April edition about the road closures in connection with this event.

11. County and District and other Correspondence

a) Alterations to parking times and charges in Wyre Forest towns

Clerk had received details, and gave a brief resume.

b) Future Development plans for Brinton's Park

Details tabled by Clerk.

c) Stourport on Severn Country and Western Festival

Details tabled by Clerk

d) Letter from Mrs Stevenson re trees adjoining rear road, Low Habberley

The letter expressed concern about these trees, which were in some cases in a dangerous condition. Clerk to refer the matter to Alvan Kingston, Tree Officer at the District Council.

12. Road Accidents

1) Car hit tree in Hoarstone Lane, and BT pole, bringing down the phone line.

2) Collision between car and milk tanker on A442 at Upper Birch Lane junction.

13. Other Matters

Damage to Telephone Lines in Hoarstone Lane due to RTA – Clerk to complain to Open Reach about the length of time people were without phone or internet, as it was Open Reach who had actually cut the lines – as a safety measure, as they were hanging and causing an impediment to traffic.

Vehicles using Private Lane to Easthams – a complaint had been received about fast-driving vehicles using this lane. The Right of Way department at County had been notified, and they have requested that people living locally keep a log of such activity.

Flooding Damage, Low Habberley - Cllr. Mrs Green advised that the first house in Fountain Court complex had been flooded in recent heavy rains. Clerk to arrange a site meeting with the highways engineer to discuss.

14. Date of Next Meeting – confirmed as 18th September at 7.30p.m.

Cllr. Mrs. Green tendered apologies in advance.

Chairman : _____