

KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 20th November 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. B. Phillips
Councillor Mrs. C. Gammond	Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk)
Councillor Mrs. L. Green	5 Members of the public present

2 Police Officers present.

1. **Police Report**

Clerk read out a letter of Inspector Jacob Wright who had written introducing himself as the new Safer Neighbourhood Team Inspector for Wyre Forest.

- Police incidents reported were
- Copper Cabling stolen from Golf Course.
- Suspicious vehicle in Halls Farm Lane. Electric Gates were pushed but nothing stolen. Incident happened at 2.20a.m.- CCTV footage but not clear for vehicle reg no or make.
- Cllr. Mrs Gammond gave details of one suspicious vehicle to police outside Little Gains, Trimpley Lane, Shatterford.
- Cllr. Yarranton asked questions about obstruction issues in Wribbenhall.
- Bonfire in Eymore Wood car park.
- Wing mirrors being kicked off cars in Worcester Rd, Kidderminster.

Public were encouraged to report all break ins, including sheds and garages – as this helps to maintain the level of policing.

Cllr. Grainger asked about new families who had moved into the area, and if they could obtain Smartwater Kits from the police. The officers replied that kits were still available, and that families should phone 101 to arrange for a visit for a kit to be delivered. It was noted that Mr. Walley at the former Low Habberley Golf Club should perhaps receive one, as he had experienced theft from the property.

Public Open Forum

It was queried whether the Parish Council had been informed whether the Velo event would be taking place again in 2018. Highways Manager Jon Fraser had advised at the previous meeting that a decision was due to be made by the end of October, and despite the Clerk having chased for information, no decision has yet been made.

The Lengthsman had strimmed around the Mount Pool and the Japanese Knott weed – by side of road – was still there but the other patch, nearer to Crofton Lodge seemed to have gone. Injection was considered, but Cllr. Grainger felt that this was now too late in the season.

2. **Apologies For Absence:**

County Cllr. I. Hardiman and Cllr. R. Jennings– apologies noted and accepted.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. J Gammond and Cllr. Mrs. 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. Cllr. Yarranton declared his role as a District Councillor.

4. **Approval of the Minutes** The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th October 2017 were approved and signed – with some minor amendments.

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 – No report tabled, although investigations done into trees at Low Habberley.

County Cllr. I. Hardiman –

Items to be raised – **re Trees**

- Dangerous roadside tree – just above Rosemary Cottage on right-hand side going down – (opposite viewpoint) - Cherry Tree? – Clerk to report to the Arboriculturist Officer, with copy to Councillor Hardiman.
- The matter of a tree opposite Crofton Lodge – reported as being a problem. The tree is in the grounds of Mount Cottage. One dead branch had now been removed, and the tree is safe. However, the recent party sheet stated that the ownership had to

be checked with the Land Registry. Members expressed dismay about this, as this would cost the County Council, and the matter could have been resolved locally if it had been referred to the parish.

- Dead Elms reported on Crundalls lane 5 months ago had still not been dealt with.

Diamond Bus Service – Clerk to make enquiries of the County Councillor about this bus service and its reliability. Also, it had been reported that there was to be a review in November, and yet no details had been made available to the Parish.

6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:**

a) Previous planning applications

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

Awaiting Decision – However, website shows approved. Clerk to chase for decision notice.

17/0512/CERTP Rear and side extension (Lawful Development Certificate) at WOODSIDE, CRUNDALLS LANE, BEWDLEY, DY12 1ND

See New plans 17/0666 below

17/0567/S73 Variation of Condition 1 and removal of Condition 2 of planning permission 17/0320/FULL to allow retention of car port

TRIMPLEY GREEN FARM BARN TRIMPLEY BEWDLEY DY121NR

Approved.

b) New planning Applications

17/0632 – Valda, Severn Meadow, Northwood Lane – Replacement Chalet

Comment had been deferred due to incomplete plans and information in respect of the size of the existing chalet. This had now been received.

Comment:

“The parish council feel that the increase in size, for what is described as a replacement chalet, is too great. They feel that if this is permitted, then it would set a precedent for similar percentage increases in other chalets.”

17/0647 – TREE – Fell 3 x Oak, 1 Beech, and 1 Cherry at Wassell Wood

Comment:

“No objection to the proposal and Recommend Approval

However, the parish would defer to the judgment of the District Arboricultural Officer in this respect, and would suggest that the applicant gives consideration to replacement planting further back in the wood, away from the highway.”

17/0666 Erection of single Storey Side Extension at Woodside, Crundalls Lane.

Comment :

“No objection to the proposal and Recommend Approval”

c) Compliance Issues /Appeals.

i) Easter Cottage

ii) Crundalls Cottage

iii) Sandy Lane – Barn conversion

Nothing further to report on these items.

- d) Appeal** - Clerk advised that she had received notification of this appeal to be a written appeal – Nothing further to report at the moment.

Appeal : **APP/R1845/W/17/3180731 – (Re refusal of 17/3020/PNRES) Honeybrook Farm – Change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house**

7. **Report on Visit to Low Habberley Golf Club Site and Entrance/Access issues in relation to the proposed “Crocky Trail” – with particular reference to the bridleway**

Several councillors had taken the opportunity of a guided tour of the site with Mr. Walley. He had shown them

- Some of the rides available – some councillors tried these out.
- The tree planting taking place to lessen the impact of the site on the local area, without spoiling the views – there were two blocks of trees planted of 250 each.
- A discussion had taken place in connection with the entrance – and the plans envisaged would require planning permission. With regard to the bridleway which exits close to the entrance, he was seeking to put in a separate exit further up the road via a permissive path, which he felt would get horseriders back onto the road safely. His architect was still deciding on the swing needed for coaches to get in, and how wide a space would be needed.
- Clerk was instructed to contact the District Council to request full County Highways involvement in respect of any planning application in connection with access to the

site, including infrastructure of existing roads serving the site.

Clerk to write to Mr. Walley to thank him for showing councillors around the site.

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

a) **Trees at the rear of houses, along back road – Low Habberley –**

Clerk had a copy of a letter from the Thomas White Charity trust stating that they would be sending an arboriculturist to assess the trees.

b) **Highways issues –**

Eymore Lane Lay-by – The possibility of closing the layby was discussed with three options being tabled for consideration – as sent by the County Council. These were:

- A stopping-up order, requiring a magistrate's Court process which is complex, lengthy and costly – with costs being for the Parish Council to find
- A Public space Protection under the Anti-Social Behaviour and Policing Act 2014, and this would have to be agreed by and organised by the District Council
- A Prohibition of Driving Order – which would restrict access, but still allow access to Mary Moors, and also the Severn Trent reservoir. Consultation would be required with the public and the police.

It was decided that the third option would probably achieve the desired result. Clerk to make further investigations via Cllr Hardiman and Alex Ellson, to check for costs and the way forward with this.

Horse Warning Sign – Hoarstone Lane – had been turned around. Clerk had arranged for this to be refixed correctly facing.

New Horse warning sign required at Crundalls Court – not up yet.

Grit/Salt Bins – These had all been checked – for usable content – with just the one at Crundalls Court requiring topping up.

c) **Planting of Elm Trees and Bulbs** – It was decided not to proceed with planting trees at the roadside in Low Habberley for various reasons – regarding licence to do so, liability, etc. However various sites were suggested for the tree planting, including a replacement at Eymore Lane Layby for the tree which had been broken, and also Cllr Grainger said he could find suitable sites for planting. It was reported that all the spring flowering bulbs had been planted.

d) **Velo Birmingham** – An alternative called Wonderful Worcestershire – Leisure Ride or Ramble had been sent through to the clerk by a Mr. Robinson. The document had been shared with councillors. Clerk to follow matter up in respect of what may be taking place next year. Clerk still awaiting details of the promised Velo debriefing meeting to be arranged by Worcs. CALC.

9. **Lengthsman, Footpath work & Litter collection – :**

a) **Worksheets** – None tabled for Lengthsman's work.

b) **Litter Collection** – Seemed to be working well, but Clerk to query with District why their service van was still being sent to bins in the parish – two years in to the contract. It had been observed during the past week in Eymore Lane car park, emptying the bins. This made a mockery of the aims of Localism, which was to save money by undertaking services locally.

10. **Financial Reports**

a) **Payments**

Cheques signed:

Grant Thornton – External Audit Fee - £120

Mrs C Gammond – Attendance at Archaeology Day School - £15

b) **Transparency Code Compliance and funding** – Clerk had attended the Clerk's Gathering Meeting which had been addressed by a county council officer in respect of the web pages on the County Council website, which the parish uses to post documents in order to be compliant with the Transparency Code. The County Council have recently stated that they may no longer support these pages, or develop them. They are difficult for a general member of the public to navigate to find certain documents (e.g., there is no heading for financial matters). Although the parish had received funding two years ago for a laptop and scanner, the funding available would be closing on February 10th 2018. In view of the fact that the parish may not have the facility previously provided free by the County Council, it was agreed that the Clerk should put in a further bid for funding this year, which she understood from CALC would most likely be successful. Clerk to make further investigations into this, including the costs involved in various options, including the writing, hosting and servicing a website for the parish, and to compile a bid for funding for

the next meeting. The Chairman also asked her to investigate whether the parish could use a Facebook page to publish documents. Clerk to check this.

c) Request for Grant funding for defibrillator provision in the following locations:

- i) Crundalls Lane
- ii) Trimpley Sailing Club
- iii) Village Hall

Clerk was instructed to contact the County Councillor to check if a grant could be made towards provision of these.

d) Churchyard Grant – Clerk had discovered from CALC that making a direct grant to the church for upkeep of the churchyard may have legal implications. Clerk to make further investigations into this – even though the council had the general power of competence.

11. Worcestershire CALC

Cllr. Mrs. Green gave a report from the recent CALC meeting – salient points were

Neighbourhood Plan – creation of a Neighbourhood Plan should be considered by all parishes, as it was well worth doing. The cost was around £1500 - £2000.

Training – CALC had stressed the importance of local councillors keeping abreast of currently legislation – as this would lead to councils being more accountable and professional.

Data Protection officer – from May 2018 it is expected that all local authorities will need to appoint a Data Protection Officer. Councils currently setting their budgets and precept should be aware that this may have budgetary implications.

Crowdfunding - Councils needing to raise funds for specific projects could consider crowdfunding on social media.

12. County and District and other Correspondence

a) County – De-registration of part of Trimpley Green Common –

No formal decision yet received. Matter had been followed up.

13. Road Accidents

Cyclist hurt falling off by Rosemary Cottage - came around corner and downhill too fast.

14. Other matters

Clerk asked for Items for Newsletter (due January) to be brought to December meeting please.

Mr. Bob Green (husband of Cllr. L. Green) had voluntarily cleared out the overgrowth of bulrushes in Marsh adjacent to Eymore Lane. The Council wished to record a vote of thanks to him, and also to mention this in the newsletter.

11th November 2018 – would mark the end of the Second World War. Cllr. Grainger advised that there were plans to have all church bells rung at 7p.m., and for a beacon to be organised.

15. Date of Next Meeting – confirmed as 18th December at 7.30p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.40p.m.

Chairman : _____