

CASTLEMORTON PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of a Meeting of Castlemorton Parish Council held on
Thursday 10 September 2015 at the Parish Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs: Don Lupton (Chair), Barbara Wilkes, Hilary Flanders, Jeremy Hubbard, Simon Watts and Jerry Fryman, Ben Wiggins and David Smallwood

In Attendance: C.Cllr Tom Wells, D.Cllr.Mick Davies, & Mrs C Leake (Clerk)

Members of the Public: 1

Before the Parish Council meeting, there was a public meeting for the purpose of learning more about the forthcoming broadband rollout in the village with over 50 residents in attendance.

The delegated PC broadband committee had invited representatives from Worcestershire County Council (WCC), Fastershire and BT to explain about the project progress and plans and answer questions. This was supported by a survey completed by 23% of the residents recording their present broadband speeds, usage and comments.

Unfortunately WCC were unable to attend, Fastershire sent apologies the day before. This left Rob Shakespeare, BT Contracts Manager for Midlands Delivery Team as the only representative of the partnership. He took responsibility for answering questions. Document attached indicates areas of questions asked and discussed.

The introductory presentation covered the government requirements for a faster broadband service, alternatives and funding. It is the latter that is of advantage to Castlemorton and hopefully will extend the proposed rollout to as many properties as possible. Without doubt it became frustrating when a detailed project programme could not be acknowledged or the site of the one cabinet in the parish identified. Therefore it was not possible to identify exactly which properties were to be serviced when and how, other than using the nominated WCC website with postcode for general information.

In addition to the supporting Q/A document the following were discussed:

Extra BDUK (DEFRA) funding and WCC are supporting with funds of 6m. WCC have plans in action to identify the properties that will benefit and fill the gaps in service with the Superfast Extension Programme (SEP). The cheapest method is Fibre to the cabinet (FTTC), wherever possible this has to be used as a cost effective solution. Castlemorton with only one cabinet serving 59 properties will be largely serviced by a more advanced solution Fibre to the Property (FTTP). Fibre is installed on poles. These cannot be with shared services, hence some new poles will be required or fibre is installed in underground ducting. Residents then make own arrangements with an internet service provider (ISP) to supply the faster service from the pole to the property, updating the present copper wiring connection. This will be a variable cost to each resident depending upon their own negotiations with ISP. Much concern was expressed at the rate presently paid by many for a 10 mbps service that was not at all available. What guarantee for this super fast service with an increased cost? For those signing up there would be a clawback by BT to WCC so reinvestment of funds to reach as many properties as possible. For the gaps other alternatives include the use of satellite which at present is still an expensive option and a contract commitment. As a resident commented shame a village representative was not on committee to support planning group.

Councillors had lobbied district and county councillors as well as BT executives to try to find answers that were not forthcoming from either of the county partners. Faster Broadband for

Worcestershire and Fastershire were criticised for their secrecy and in the case of Fastershire their obstruction and general unhelpfulness. In particular answers were needed over service for properties on the overlapping exchanges in places such as Hancocks Lane and Hollybush. Rob Shakespeare confirmed that a “cross border policy” would be used to support properties in Hollybush who would be able to access FTTP.

County Councillor Tom Wells in conclusion acknowledged his support for the BDUK bid, appreciating sparsely populated areas can be difficult to service but this improving form of communication is becoming increasingly important for business. He proposed to work with the Parish Council to seek further clarity on the forthcoming superfast broadband scheme and arrange a meeting with WCC Project Manager, Robert Stepniewski (Strategic Change Team Commercial and Change Directorate).

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting.

Parish Council Meeting Commenced at 8.20pm

60/15. Apologies: Cllrs Cotterell - received and accepted and Footpath Warden - Angus Golightly.

61/15. Declarations of interest

1. ***Register of Interests.*** All Cllrs updated Registers following recent elections.
2. ***To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and/or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) in items on the agenda and their nature.*** None
3. ***To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)*** None

62/15. Broadband

Following on from public meeting CCllr. Wells confirmed his support in setting up a meeting between Parish Council (PC) and Worcestershire County Council (WCC), in particular with project manager and members were advised of the forthcoming BDUK Development meeting in Worcester on 24 Sept, 5pm. Hope to send a representative.

An acknowledgement was made to the PC broadband team in their documentation and preparations for the public meeting.

63/15 District Councillor Report included:

- Welland largely covered with superfast broadband now with a few properties in the gaps still to be considered.
- SWDP – for the proposed Main Modifications -Briefing for parish/town councils, then considered by the 3 councils and if approved 6 week public consultation, ending 20 Nov 15. Inspector will consider public response, determine if further changes or clarifications are required and recommend proposed main modifications to proceed to adoption process.
- Waste management- An 18 month consultation process underway involving external consultants evaluating the outsourcing of waste management for Malvern Hills, present system to remain in meantime.
- District Council officer voluntary redundancies- continue to be sought as previously reported.
- Devolution – The devolution of powers to councils in Worcestershire.

*CCllr Wells left the meeting

64/15. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the meeting of 16 July 2015 were a true record of the meeting and signed.

65/15 Newsletter follow up

The chairman reported that the newsletter had been well received and thanked cllrs. for their contributions to the articles and time taken in hand delivery. Cllrs agreed the black/white format

was adequate. Consideration would be given to the issue of a bulletin with the benefit of email addresses provided from the broadband survey.

66/15 Standing Orders, Financial Regulations

RESOLVED that the draft Standing Orders and Financial Regulation be adopted as prepared and any further minor adjustments to be considered at next meeting.

67/15 Footpath/Highway/Lengthsman Reports

Footpath- The appointment of an officer for the SW Worcestershire area is expected by October. Any concerns re footpath issues, identify exact site and problem and advise footpath warden. The onus to repair equipment largely falls to landowners with less WCC funding available now.

Highways – as per report.

- Parish Council considered seeking a quote to improve the passing place along Hollybed Street by improving the drainage particularly during the icy weather.

Lengthsman - Preparing a grip plan to assist the lengthsman in this regular task with the support of a documented map including culverts and highway property. Various tasks continue to be completed. Looking to retain ½ year budget for winter work.

Drainage issue recently resolved along A438 at Hollybush left hand side heading west

68/15. Finance Report

RESOLVED that Cllrs Smallwood, Wiggins, Wilkes, Cotterell be additional cheque signatories to Lupton and Fryman

Income and Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the following income be noted & payments agreed:

	£	£	Description
Balance: 16 July 2015		10,514.13	
Add Income			
Total		0.00	
Less Expenditure pre-meeting			
Grant Thornton		240.00	Audit Fee
Total		240.00	
Less Expenditure at meeting			
MHDC		26.49	Uncontested election
Brimmel		360.00	Laying of water pipe
Lengthsman		350.00	
Cllr Smallwood		6.72	Marker posts/ drain mesh
Total		743.21	
Balance at close of meeting		9,530.92	

69/15.Planning

Report of planning applications **received/decided** since last meeting was noted

15/00502/HOU	Yew Tree House Castlemorton Common Castlemorton WR13 6LE (Mr J Jauncey)	First Floor rear extension	MHDC Approve
15/00719/FUL	Walnut Tree Cottage Castlemorton WR13 6BS (Mr & Mrs J Heywood)	Proposed conversion and extension of two outbuildings to form new dwelling.	MHDC Refuse
15/00903/PDU	Pewtrice Farm, Castlemorton, Worcestershire, WR13 6LT	Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwelling house (Class 3) and for Associated Operational Development	MHDC Refusal of prior approval notification

15/01008/PDU	Barn at The Farthings Castlemorton WR13 6JB Mr P Wilkes	Conversion of barn to residential dwelling	MHDC Refusal of prior approval notification
15/01095/HOU	The Stores New Road Castlemorton WR13 6BT (Mr & Mrs M Smithson)	Side extension to form ancillary living accommodation	PC Recommend Approve
15/01092/HOU	Mulberry House, Castlemorton, Worcestershire, WR13 6BL	Construction of first floor extension to rear and two storey extension to side (resubmission after refusal of 15/00409/HOU)	PC Recommend approve with comment
15/01081/FUL	Midsummer Farm Castlemorton WR13 6DA	Provision of four stable building with loft storage and change of use of agricultural land to equestrian use	PC Recommend Approve

70/15. Parish Hall Trust

Reported west end of internal roof raised to assist cinema club with film presentation and flooring in gents replaced.

71/15 Telephone Boxes

RESOLVED that the Parish Council will not take up the initiative to seek alternative uses for the 2 K6 type telephone boxes.

72/15 New Initiatives

Cllrs. considered the first 3 proposals.

- i) The idea of discount contracts for logs and coal similar to oil discount to be investigated.
- ii) & iii) Fund raising is rewarding with a project/purpose rather than for contingency.
Consideration given to potential projects of which members were aware and agreed to await further progress in any proposals coming forward first. Reminder about the section 137 grant and any potential applicants for this support funding?

73/15

A list of the Correspondence received, was advised by the clerk to councillors and hardcopies were available for Councillors to view. Particular reference to:

Forthcoming meetings:

- Thursday 24 September BDUK Meeting County Hall 5 – 6.30pm
- Monday 5 October MHDC Parish Conference Council Chamber
- Monday 12th October Clerk Gathering Transparency Code. County Hall 7pm
- Tuesday 13 October CALC Area Meeting with MHDC Planning Officers as speakers, 7pm County Hall

74/15. Next Meetings

RESOLVED that the next meeting will be Thursday 5 November 2015 with the following meetings provisionally

7th January 2016, 3rd March 2016, 12th May 2016

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed Date.....