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| **The Minutes of Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council** |
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| **Held at the Great Witley Village Hall on Wednesday 8th November 2017** |
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| **Present: Chairman Cllr F Chapman (FC), Cllr R Perkins (RP), Cllr C Shaw (CS), Cllr G Goodman (GG), Cllr B Dallow, Cllr A Symonds and District Cllr P Cumming (PC).** |
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| **In Attendance:** Clerk, |

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** Received and approved from: Cllr C Dermietzel (CD), Cllr N Drew (ND), Cllr C Jones (CJ) and County Cllr K Pollock (KP). | | | | | |
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| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest:** | | | | | |
|  |  | | | a. | Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests. | |
|  |  | | | b. | Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: none. | |
|  |  | | | c. | Other Disclosable Interests: none. | |
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| The meeting was adjourned at 7.40pm for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes. | | | | | | |
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| **3.** | **Application for a dispensation:** RP reminded those present at the meeting that he had made an application for dispensation on a previous proposed Planning Application for 175 houses. The Appeal relating to this application appears at item 8.a. but as this is just a statutory requirement outlining that Notification of Planning Appeal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate it was agreed that RP could remain part of the discussion at this point. | | | | | |
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| **4.** | **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2017 were approved. | | | | | |
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| **5.** | **Progress reports:** | | | | | |
|  |  | | | a. | **Chairman/Clerk:**   * **VeloBirmingham**: FC reported that collated feedback after the event was sent to Jon Fraser under covering letter, which was read out, summarising the main problems. AS said that some spectators, around 20, popped out to see a few cycles go by. GG commended FC’s letter and FC commended Shelia Pain’s letter to Jon Fraser which was copied to the GWHHPC. An email was received from Brian Robinson who wrote on behalf of mostly Belbroughton residents, suggesting an alternative event, Wonderful Worcestershire Leisure Ride or Ramble. When the contents were discussed is was suggested that WCC should organise their own event. * **Footpath/Bowen’s Field**: **RP** reported that there is a problem with a slippery ‘S’ section on the footpath. ***ACTION***: FC and GG suggested that a working party is organised to maintain the path. * **CS** highlighted that the section of the Stourport Road to the logs can also be dangerous. GG confirmed he had cleaned the path after the bonfire. FC advised that a completed Risk Assessment form/written record of inspection will guard our liability. ***ACTION:*** CS agreed to copy the completed Risk Assessments to the Clerk which can then be included in the Annual Audit as required. * **Great Witley Filling Station**: FC said that daily grocery delivery lorries parking on the pavement in the middle of the garage was obstructing drivers visibility when trying to leave the forecourt. ***ACTION (in the 2nd instance):*** FC suggested that the police are contacted regarding this matter. CS has received a comment from an Abberley resident who said the lorry has also parked across their driveway. ***ACTION (in the 1st instance):*** AS will speak to Richard the garage owner to see what can be done. * **Stourport Planning Appeal**: As at the date of the meeting no update had been received. PC said that a decision will be issued when it had been made. * **Proposed 175 houses**: PC reported that the Appeal Notice had gone in but that a written hearing had been requested. As he had not seen the Notice yet it must still be going through the system. GG recommended that FC draft a response to the Appeal ready for approval. * **Holt Lengthsman**: ***ACTION***: RP will speak with our Lengthsman to see if he has any more time to take on another parish as well as ours and Abberley and will then respond to Holt Parish Council. RP also pointed out at this point that together with Abberley Parish Council an appraisal meeting for Andy Johnson, Lengthsman, would be arranged soon. * **Email received from Mr Baines**: FC read out the email which was received concerning the state of the verges and blocked drains. The Clerk advised that the blocked drains have been reported. * **Community Magazine**: CS sent the Clerk an email recommending who to redirect the email concerning this matter to. This has been carried out. * **Recycling Bins**: The Clerk is continuing to update James Noblet at MHDC the frequency that the bins are emptied.  ***ACTION***: The Clerk will also write to James Noblet to ask the contractors to replace the empty bins over 2 car spaces only as these are at a premium and sought after at busy times especially at school drop off and pick up. * **A443 Action Group**: AS had no further update at present. The Group are on a fact-finding mission and will meet again later in November. CS told AS that a group of volunteers from Fountain Court are going to take unofficial traffic speed readings as part of Speedwatch organised by the Police. * **100 House Update**: FC had discovered from their website that the developers are a London based company and that completion is due in December. GG reported that there is an invitation only show apartment event Saturday 11th November. AS said that there seemed to be no further progression where the planned pub was concerned. PC confirmed that they have to fit out a pub and this can be enforced if necessary. | |
|  |  | | | b. | **Village Hall and Quartergreen:**   * **Village Hall**: As bookings for the Hall are still in high demand it does mean that there is a shortage of venues to hire in the village. A number of the latest release films will be showing in the Hall in the coming months and Charlie’s Bar remains very popular on Thursday evenings. * **Quartergreen**: Fundraising continues to provide funds for the maintenance of the playground and sports ground. Many social events have taken place and are planned. These include a Halloween party, bonfire, Christmas party and Carol Concert and quiz. GG commended the Quartergreen Committee for all their hard work which keeps the village so social and active. | |
|  |  | | | c. | **Lengsthman and Footpaths:**   * RP wondered if he should hand over the responsibility of the Footpaths to BD who has agreed to act as Parish Warden until a permanent replacement can be appointed and also to hand the Lengsthman responsibility to the Clerk, but the following discussion decided that RP should still be responsible for Lengsthman and Footpath roles. ***ACTION***: The Clerk will report to WCC that the Stourport Road pavement needs to be weeded and cut back. CS wondered if the stile which is on Paul Owens land off the Martley road could be moved as the ground is particularly boggy. FC suggested that this would involve a detailed legal process. PC said that an Order would have to be published and a formal process followed. ***ACTION***: BD will have a look at the area as acting Parish Warden and report back at the January 2018 meeting. | |
|  |  | | | d. | **Update from previous Minutes:**   * GG reported that the residents of Glendower Way are in the process of forming a Management Committee for their un-adopted road. * PC confirmed that Glendower Way is still owned by Bloor Homes. Bloor are required to request WCC to adopt the road after which the Highways Department would take over responsibility. * BD highlighted that Fountain Court is also still un-adopted. * PC said that a Residential Management Company can be formed to maintain the un-adopted roads in the meantime. | |
| **6.** | **CALC:** none. | | | | | |
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| **7.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:** | | | | | |
|  |  | | | a. | PC had no update on the Stourport Road Planning Appeal to date and confirmed that the proposed 175 houses application Notice to Appeal was in progress. Refuse collections will be going fortnightly from April 2018 and the original 3 sacks allowance every 2 weeks is now going to be increased to 4. A letter will follow in the New Year. Around 5,000 houses will not have wheelie bins due to access issues. AS asked if the static caravans at Orchard Farm are still there within the agreed timeframe. PC will look into this and report back. | |
|  |  | | | b. | In KP’s absence, FC read out his report which is attached to these Minutes. | |
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| **8.** | **Planning:** | | | | | |
|  |  | | | a. | All planning listed in the Agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting and reported to those present. | |
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| **9.** | **Finance:** | | | | | |
|  |  | | | a. | All receipts and payments were approved and a cheque for £360.00 was written and signed as payment for the invoice received from Grant Thornton regarding the External Audit. | |
|  |  | | | b. | The Bank Reconciliation and Budget Comparison were circulated. | |
|  |  | | | c. | ***ACTION***: RP, GG, CS and FC are to attend HSBC Bank to update the signatory mandate form. | |
|  |  | | | d. | The Clerk’s appraisal was discussed, and FC said the Council were so content with the Clerk's performance that the matter required no further discussion. It should be recorded that the Council regard the clerk’s performance as excellent. Her work is prompt, courteous and accurate. The current NALC payment scales will be sent to the Staff Committee for review. | |
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| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:**   * Gill Brooks, Broadwas Sports Association – Croquet Club donation appeal. ***ACTION****:* The Clerk will email to turn down their appeal with the Parish Council’s reasoning behind their decision. | | | | | |
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| **11.** | **Urgent Decisions since the last meeting:** none. | | | | | |
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| **12.** | **Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda:** none. | | | | | |
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| **13.** | **Date of next meeting:** It was agreed by a show of hands that the next meeting will be at Great Witley Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th January 2018. | | | | | |
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| The meeting closed at 9.50pm | | | | | | |
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| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. | | | | | | |
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|  | | Chairman | | | |

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| **Notes of Public Question Time** | | | |
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| 3 Members of the public were in attendance and raised the following concerns during Public Question Time:   1. Speeding concerns along the Stourport Road; this seems to be a continuing problem area for the village and one that the GWHHPC are tirelessly working to improve. It was suggested that permanent speeding cameras may be the answer but as AS pointed out referring to previous discussions with The Safer Roads Partnership this is highly unlikely due to funding reasons and not all cameras are loaded with active film. He also pointed out that the A443 Action Group has been formed by local parish councils and together with CJ the issues over vehicles speeding through the village will be looked as and solutions suggested to the relevant bodies. FC also said that we are in the process of requesting that the 30mph limit in place at present be extended down as far as the sewer plant. CS made the point that the VAS does not seem to be influencing slower the traffic speeds down. AS has been speaking with KP regarding viewing the data collated detailing the speeds at which vehicles travel through the village. 2. Car parked with Irish registration plates outside Scout Hut for 4 weeks. PC together with pictorial evidence will be emailing the Highways Department at MHDC about this matter.   Public Question Time closed at 8pm. | | | |
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**GREAT WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**08.11.17**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

1. **County Council affairs**

While the overall picture of our finances is difficult, there are a number of very encouraging developments, some of which were enumerated at Cabinet last Thursday, and should be passed at tomorrow’s full council meeting.

The Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy was approved. This plan, based on work done by our consultants SLC Rail, outlines the priorities for rail development in the county, with great emphasis on the new Parkway station to be opened in the winter of 2018/19 and achieving two trains per hour from Worcester to Paddington. One of those should be a high speed train averaging a lot more than the current 55 mph.

We also approved the developments of Kidderminster station, the second most used station in the county, but with very poor facilities. Pershore will also see important road improvements, including a new bridge over the main railway line to linkup with the Wyre Piddle bypass. This will relieve some of the problems at the Pinvin crossroads.

Finally the revised Local Transport Plan (LTP4) was approved. This outlines all the possible transport improvements across the county to be considered between now and 2031. It does not in any way guarantee the funds to carry out these projects, but rather describes an envelope encompassing all the schemes we would like to see implemented. There are also priorities given, so that it can be seen what work might be undertaken first, as funds become available.

In all of these matters, we see a useful counter balance to the difficulties experienced in Children’s Services and with Adult Social Care, and demonstrate there are valuable developments that will affect the lives of the great mass of Worcestershire people in a positive way.

All of these transport related mattes will go before the full council meeting on Thursday for approval. It is to be hoped that they will be recognised as valuable to the whole community and be passed without dissension.

1. **Tenbury Public Realm**

As you will all be aware, the public realm work has continued at a good pace over the last month and the general response seems to be very positive. A third crew from Ringway has been deployed, in an attempt to make up for time lost, after the late arrival of the second crew.

This has resulted in some disruption to traffic, and the need for traffic management using stop go boards. While I have heard of difficult periods, in general the delays experienced seem to have been small.

The work is on schedule to finish before the end of the month, with four night closures scheduled for the 27th November onwards for the carriageway works, i.e. laying new tarmac on Teme Street, and relaying the raised tables using proper red coloured tarmac as originally specified. The closures will be from 21.00 to 06.00 and will last only as long as necessary.

It is therefore clear that the Teme Street work will be complete before the Santa Parade, scheduled for Saturday, 2nd December. It is hoped that the disruption to trade in the run-up to the night closures will be as small as possible, given the inevitable problems of access.

I trust that all parties will be satisfied with the end result of this extended work, and that Tenbury will flourish as a retail and visitor centre once the work is complete.

1. **Velo Birmingham Bike Event**

The controversial bike event took place on the 24th September and divided the communities through which it past. There were large crowds out in all the villages applauding the riders, and in several places like Bewdley and Droitwich, special arrangements were made to offer food and drink to the spectators.

In other places, there was serious opposition, some of which was regrettably expressed in oil, nails and tacks being strewn on the road and hedge clippings deliberately scattered on the route. Clearing up this material meant the cyclists were delayed and the road closures lifted late. This aggravated the situation for many who were not sympathetic to the event in the first place.

There have been reports from many parish councils, some of which, like Great Witley, have reservations about the event being staged again. All such opinions are being weighted in the balance to help inform any ultimate decision.

County officers and relevant councillors met the organisers earlier this week to hear all the evidence of positive and negative impacts, caused by Velo. There have been many positive comments about its value and one of the major charities benefitting from the event, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Charity (including three other hospital trusts) informing me that they are in receipt of £400,000 from the participants.

The Director will now decide whether to permit the event to go ahead in subsequent years and, if so, whether the route might be modified to minimise disruption and loss of business.

1. **Speeding**

I have received a request for speeding data on the A443v and A451 in Great Witley and have passed it to Cllr Symonds for your consideration. I hope it will prove helpful in getting help from the Safer Roads Partnership and lowering the speeds of traffic through the village.

**Cllr Ken Pollock**

**Cheltenham,**

**Gloucestershire,**

**GL50 2BZ**

**08.11.17**