|  |
| --- |
| **The Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council**  |
|  |
| **Held at the Great Witley Village Hall on Wednesday 08th January 2020** |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Present: Chairman**, Cllr F Chapman (FC). |
|  |
|  |
| **In Attendance:** Clerk, J Evans, Cllrs C Shaw (CS), C Dermietzel (CD), N Drew (ND), C Jones (CJ), A Symonds (AS),P Trow (PT) and D.Cllr P Cumming (PC). |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.** | **Apologies:** B Dallow (BD), C.Cllr K Pollock (KP).**Absent:** A Goodman (AG) |
|  |  |  |  |
| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest:** ND regarding Planning Application : 19/01861/FUL |
| **3.** | **To consider any Application for a dispensation:** None. |
| **4.** | **Minutes:** The Minutes for meeting held on 13th November 2019 were approved and signed. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **5.** | **Progress reports:** 1. Flooding on A443: KP is aware of this issue and has alerted the highways officers to the problems and hope a solution will be found before the next crisis. The Clerk had reported this problem on 14th November with a photo of the flooding and informed Jon Fraser of the report number, 792391, as requested. ***ACTION:*** CJ will contract Hereford and Worcester Radio to highlight the problem.
2. CS proposed that we ask MHDC to contact the contractors responsible for the cardboard recycling bins and ask them to be removed as they are not carrying out their contract satisfactorily. A notice should then be placed advising parishioners that until MHDC appoints a new contractor they should make alternative arrangements for disposing of their cardboard, for example the recycling plant at Stourport. A vote was cast, and the majority agreed with this proposal. At the same time a notice could also advise parishioners that they should dispose of their glass in the correct manor in the recycling bins provided and not left boxed at the foot of the bins, otherwise this facility will be removed also. ***ACTION:*** The Clerk will write to MHDC asking for the cardboard recycling bins to be removed and to perhaps consider Hills Waste who may be happy to travel to this area.
3. The Quartergreen committee reported that a tree had come down and this was dealt with by Steve Butler, Tree Work, costing £250.00. Another tree is leaning, and he has been asked to also deal with it. The Village Hall will soon be fitted with new curtains and the Walking Football club is on Thursdays from 5.30-7pm for the over 45’s, male and female. Downton Abbey will be the next film to be shown.
4. The Safeguarding Policy was accepted and signed off. FC said it is to protect the groups operating under the Parish Council’s umbrella.
5. Lengthsman and Footpaths: CJ reported that Chris Bunn, our Lengthsman, is continuing to do a good job and communicates well with the Clerk. The rights of Way are still in a bad state. ***ACTION:*** BD is asking Paul Owen if a new style can be put in to avoid the boggy patch which is making the path unusable at present.
6. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Party: FC will call a further meeting to discuss this plan and proposes to ask Matthew Walters and Charles Haymer to join the committee. A question which needs to be asked is whether we accept or support any development next to The Glebe? Do we include this in the draft or not? AS said that we should use the SWDP as a guideline on how to phrase it. PC said that if it is in the SWDP Review then we will not need to include it, only any additional sites. There are still 12 months to complete the plan so events may dictate how we proceed with it, i.e. after the SWDP Review has taken place.
 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **6.** | **CALC:** A timetable of training events has been circulated. |
| **7.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:** 1. PC had very little to report. The 5-year plan is to be presented as well as the Climate Change Plan. The 5-year Financial Plan is going to be looked at. Wards in urban areas are over-represented whereas rural areas are under-represented. PC reported that councillors will be reduced where they are over-represented. Single member wards will be better represented. The development at Broadheath will provide 6 sports pitches to be completed in 3 years’ time, with changing facilities. These will be available for surrounding villages to use.

[**..\REPORTS\P Cumming 200108.docx**](../REPORTS/P%20Cumming%20200108.docx)1. KP had nothing to report.
 |
|  |  |  |
| **8.** | **Planning:**1. 19/01524/LB Associated Ref: 19/01517/HP – Robins Croft was supported.
2. 19/01861/FUL – Holiday Accommodation : Before leaving the meeting, ND said he has relocated the access to the site and reduced the number of holiday homes to 9. Regarding the allegations that his lakes were not used for irrigation purposes he said that 50 cubic meters of water, 11 million gallons, were used for irrigating the strawberries. He hopes that discussions will be based on facts. He had commissioned a Highways Survey and a Visual Impact Survey. He asked that these were looked at before any comments were made to MHDC. ND then left the meeting while the Parish Council discussed the application as was invited back into the room at the end of these discussions.
 |
| **9.** | **Finance:**1. Paid invoices and remittances were circulated.
2. The Bank Reconciliation was circulated.
3. The Budget Comparison was circulated.
 |
| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:*** The request to support the Local Electricity Bill was discussed and not supported.
* MORSE, making our roads safer. This was passed onto AS to look over as he reported that the Action A443 Group were in a ‘catch 22’ situation with the SRP.
* Arthur and Liz, Bramley Cottage – please see the public comments section attached to these Minutes.
 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **11.** | **Clerk’s report on Urgent Decisions made under delegation since the last meeting:** None.**AS left the meeting at 9.20pm and ND left at 9.30** |
| **12.** | **Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda:*** CJ asked if a further letter could be sent to Mr Newings to cut his hedge before the birds nest to avoid it overgrowing in the coming growing season. ***ACTION:*** the Clerk will send a letter.
* CJ advised that the tree which also needs to be cut down may cost more than £250 as this tree is standing.
* The Clerk advised that looking ahead to the Annual Parish Meeting in May, TV’s Bargain Hunt’s Ben Cooper will present at what will be a very entertaining event, not to be missed!
 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **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 11th March 2020. |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes. |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |
| The meeting closed at 9.40pm |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | Chairman |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Notes of Public Question Time**  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 12 Members of the public were in attendance and raised the following concerns during Public Question Time: |
|  |  | 1. | Christine Clarke, Lay Minister, introduced herself from 4Rivers Churches saying she was available for the Village, Congregation and Community. |
|  |  | 2. | Relating to point 8.b.One member of the public said they can see the irrigation lakes at Hillhampton Farm from their property. For the last 3 years they have suffered noise nuisance and muddy mess and are worried that if this plan goes ahead, they will be subject to more nuisance. They feel they will be forced to move if this is the case. It was questioned whether the lakes were actually used for the irrigation they were built for or were they just made with this future application in mind. PC confirmed that MHDC said the lakes could be made under a condition for an agricultural purpose. This blocked the Parish Council from stopping the lakes being built but we were successful in our request to have the mud on the main road cleared. However, it was noted that the path was never cleared. PT made the point that this new application was a ‘rehash’ of the previous one, decreasing the development by 20% but due to its purpose being for holiday activities this will increase tourist traffic, something which the infrastructure of Hillhampton is not able to cope with. The supporting Reports were deemed ‘wishy washy’. The danger to school children and their parents who walk along the lane to get to the bus stop will be increased by this development as the new proposed access is en route to the bus stop and on an already dangerous blind bend and junction. It was suggested that it would be best to carry out a survey of traffic on the lane during harvest time. This is not a quiet lane. It is a one-track lane with busy traffic and agriculture vehicles. Also, the village would not benefit from a holiday park. As there are no tourist attractions within walking distance from the proposed holiday park, any attractions would have to be visited using vehicles. The holiday homes will not be ‘wooden lodges’ but static homes covered with wooden cladding. CJ said unfortunately there is a ‘trust’ issue here and if 9 caravans are allowed, he is in no doubt that this number will increase in time. The public thought the plans as they stand do look like expansion will be inevitable. PC said that the planning department cannot take this assumption into account when they are making their decision. PT asked who would make sure the holiday accommodation continue to look good and be maintained to a high standard? Also, who would police the use of them? PC said that a condition for its use can be put on the plan, but this will be difficult to police and accepted that this is a problem here and at other similar sites. FC said that ND intends to sell the lodges to holiday makers. But the general mood was that they could then be sub-let and who would make sure this does not happen? FC asked PC what the maximum time was someone can stay in a static caravan. PC said around 11 months but again this was very difficult to police. CD wanted to be clear that ND would own the land but would sell the lodges. Members of the public said that after 3 years of work causing noise and mud nuisance, anymore would be unacceptable. FC asked individuals to write to MHDC with their comments and arguments. PT said that his changes do not change the previous objections and they still stand. FC didn’t think that it would be easy to expand given the lie of the land. Parishioners said his former works (installing the lakes) created the slop that now exists and that it did look like expansion would be possible from the plan. PT said that even on a slope, lodges could be built on stilts. FC was worried that they may expand onto a field that could be useful for other uses. FC asked each councillor to supply their comments to him before he responds on the MHDC site. PT said that no notice of planning was displayed. ***ACTION:*** PC confirmed that he would investigate the placement of the notice(s) and any parishioners overlooking the site would be contacted where their land connects or adjoins the site. ***ACTION:*** AS agreed, he would publicise the planning application on Nextdoor. ***ACTION:*** FC said that a leaflet informing of the revised planning application would be produced again and PT agreed to deliver it on the lane to those properties affected.  |
|  |  | 3. | Members of the public spoke regarding correspondence received from Bramley Cottage, point 10.The state of the lane here at Structons Heath is a matter of great concern. Even though it is a **no through road** SatNav errors cause traffic to use it by mistake, as well as the more concerning issue of heavy farm vehicles using it as a cut through to fields beyond at Shrawley. There was an agreement that any such vehicles should enter the lane empty and leave full on the main road side. This however, no longer happens. Fully loaded farm vehicles, combine harvesters and wide loads use the lane as a quick cut through instead of using the main road as required. These large vehicles are driving over culverts and eroding the lane and braking up existing tarmac causing flooding and possible damage to residents cars. Structons Heath is a bridal way and not for traffic. CD said it states on Deeds that it is not a cut through road to Wulstans Lodge but there is no other access to Donkey Lane. Residents of Structons Heath had a meeting around 3 years ago with the farmers concerned and they agreed to come through empty. However, this agreement is now being ignored. FC said that as it is a private bridle path the Parish Council are not able to report this matter to Highways. The residents asked the Parish Council to come and see the state of the path themselves. Their complaint refers to ‘unreasonable’ vehicle use. These large vehicles have damaged the public road. FC said we have 2 issues here: firstly, the damage to the public highway and secondly, the damage caused to the private road which the farmers who have caused it to have only repaired it once in 12 years. Rather than the landowner being blamed for this misuse it is the people who rent the land who are at fault. FC suggested that a gate be installed that is wide enough for a horse to pass through and keep it locked. He asked the residents to provide a photograph of the damaged culvert with the tyre tracks showing. ***ACTION:*** Once FC has received this evidence a letter will be sent to Highways Department. ND confirmed that the property owners and farmers understood the vehicles were meant to use the path unloaded and leave the other end loaded. ND appreciates what the residents are saying. ***ACTION:*** ND agreed to speak to Alan Pain regarding reinstating this agreement and using a Code of Conduct. He queried whether a weight restriction could be assigned to the path and perhaps Highways could be approached regarding this. At the same time access to fields needs to be sensible. When ND farmed iceberg lettuces there he was embarrassed of the mess the farm vehicles made. He confirmed that Chris Evans is the landowner and that the Pains rented it. The residents confirmed the have spoken to the farmers who rent the land, but no solution has been found. ND acknowledged that the tractors which use the path are too large and too fast. He also suggested that a speed restriction may be imposed on the path. CD pointed out that the Pains have already refused to help. The residents were refused help. ***ACTION:*** FC to compose a letter to the Pains regarding this problem and copying it to Arthur and Liz at Bramley Cottage. FC confirmed that a ‘no through road’ sign cannot be enforced. PT said that without improving the surrounding infrastructure how can you stop farm traffic from cutting through to get to their fields? Also, ***ACTION:*** FC will contact Highways to ask if a 25-yard double white line extension at the bend from Worcester by the notice board could be painted to prevent dangerous overtaking. |
|  |  | 4. | Members of the public asked why the wall at the 100 House had been taken down? Also, FC questioned what had happed to the missing Way Marker which is supposed to be in safe keeping? |