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| **The Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council**  |
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| **Held at the Great Witley Village Hall on 10th March 2022** |
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| **Present: Chairman**, Cllr P Trow (PT). |
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| **In Attendance:** Clerk, J Evans, Cllrs C Dermietzel (CD), F Chapman (FC), N Drew (ND), C Jones (CJ), B Dallow (BD), A Symonds (AS), and C.Cllr D Chambers (DC) and D.Cllr P Cumming (PC). |

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** None. |
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| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest:** None. |
| **3.** | **To consider any Application for a dispensation:** None.**AN INFORMAL PRESENTATION WAS THEN MADE BY PLANNING CONSULTANT, DAVID NICHOLSON REGARDING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Notes from which are appended to these minutes.** |
| **4.** | **Minutes:** The Minutes from the meeting held on 13.01.22 were approved and signed.* ***ACTION:*** PT will provide laminated signs on the Hillhampton bus shelter to remind people to take their litter home.
* ***ACTION:*** FC to finalise our Dark Skies Policy.
* ***ACTION:*** BD to provide costs for a new flagpole to be erected on Woodbury Hill to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and to check if the landowners are still happy with this proposal. DC said he has some funding which could go towards this project.
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| **5.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:**1. PC has some funding we can apply for to help with costs towards the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. He also confirmed that MHDC said that the bright lights at the petrol station must come out, however, they have been turned off during the night. 5 Stourport Road is still being pursued through the Planning Enforcement and Regulatory Services etc. PC has put more pressure on them to get this matter resolved. The absence of the mile post for the 100 House is with enforcement as any promises made by the developers to reinstate it have not come to fruition. The question of the 100 House bar fit-out was raised. Before 50% of the development is occupied, they must inform the council and then once 50% is occupied the pub has to be fitted out. The original plans for 18 houses now differ to what is being marketed. They are marketing 16 houses which would mean that 50% has been reached. PC is looking into this. The new boundary wards are causing some issues. It was suggested that the Commission should have visited the area to understand the boundaries better. The proposed new ward for Abberley was unacceptable. Abberley are going to put forward the areas they are closely associated with which would make more sense to be placed in their ward. FC proposed his support for the changes suggested by PC and AS and PT seconded this. ***ACTION:*** Clerk to support through the Boundary Commission website.
2. [**..\REPORTS\D Chambers Great Witley Parish Council Report 10th March 2022\_.docx**](../REPORTS/D%20Chambers%20Great%20Witley%20Parish%20Council%20Report%2010th%20March%202022_.docx)DC also reported that £12 million budget allocation for Highways is going to be reduced by £4 million. DC is opposed to this. Although WCC roads are in a good state when compared with Shropshire and Herefordshire, he does not want the current standards to fall.
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| **6.** | **Progress reports:** * PT and CD attended the recent Village Hall Committee Meeting. A letter from Linda Cumming was circulated and read out at the meeting [..\GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE\Letter to PC re patio and court (1).docx](../GENERAL%20CORRESPONDENCE/Letter%20to%20PC%20re%20patio%20and%20court%20%281%29.docx) DB asked if there was a warranty on the court**?** We have just over £250 in the Community Levy which can be used and ***ACTION:***  PT will write to Linda Cumming to ask for more quotes for the court repairs.
* Steve Woodhouse attended and asked if the parish council are happy for the Village Hall Committee to apply for us to be one of 5 parishes to receive a free car electric charging point as part of a research project. It would be for a 7kw charging point which the Village Hall Committee would take all responsibility for. Full support was given.
* It was decided that this year’s Spring Clean would be held on 2/4/22 to meet at the Village Hall at 10am. ***ACTION:*** Clerk will apply for the Spring Clean packs.
* It was decided to replace the two rotten notice board at the Post Office and Hillhampton with metal ones and the quotation received from Whitehill Direct Ltd was accepted and an order placed. These are to be in brown, lockable and in a similar style to the new ones purchased by Lindridge Parish Council [..\FINANCE\Notice Board enquiry - Carl Jones 220223.msg.docx](../FINANCE/Notice%20Board%20enquiry%20-%20Carl%20Jones%20220223.msg.docx)
* Confirmation was given to the Lengthsman to purchase and replace the dog waste dispensers with biodegradable bags.
* One quote has been received for replacing failed fencing and cordoning off the badger sett holes. ***ACTION:***  CD will ask for a quotation from Richard Coleman and ND will request one from Richard Whiteman. FC will arrange site visits. [..\FINANCE\Gold Star fencing quote 220410.pdf](../FINANCE/Gold%20Star%20fencing%20quote%20220410.pdf)

**b.Village Hall and Quartergreen:** PT and DC attended a recent meeting with the Village Hall and have agreed how they should work together on the organisation of the Jubilee Celebrations this summer. The parish council will contribute to the joint celebrations by providing a Jazz Band, Pig Roast, extra toilet facilities and possibly an ice cream provider.**c. Lengthsman and Footpaths:** The Lengthsman continues to do a very good job. FC reported that recent visitors had also commented to him what an excellent facility Bowen's field provided. FC reported that a tree was taken down in Bowen’s Field as it posed a danger. This has now made room for some 3 or 4 new saplings to commemorate the Jubilee and for us to take part in the Green Canopy project. He recommended an Acer variety which would be very attractive. There is also an area of hedge which needs filling in where there is some stock fence. ***ACTION:***  FC to obtain quotes for trees and hedging. **d.** **NDP:** Please see appendage to these minutes. |
| **7.** | **CALC:** All events were circulated prior to this meeting. |
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| **8.** | **Planning:** Garden House – discussed and supported. As was Coach House M/22/00351/HP Associated Ref:M/22/00352/LB (not on the agenda but circulated prior to the meeting)  |
| **9.** | **Finance:** All finances, budget comparison and bank reconciliation were circulated prior to the meeting. It was decided to move our accounts from HSBC to another Bank who do not charge fees. ***ACTION:***  DB, FC to organise this as soon as possible. |
| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:** An email was received requesting a notice be published politely requesting people to keep their dogs on leads in public spaces to protect Yellow Dogs as well as other users of green spaces. It was agreed that subject to approval a notice would be published.An email was received regarding the faded information panels on Woodbury Hill. ***ACTION:*** AS will provide the details of the historic society and a request for updated panels will be made. |
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| **11.** | **Clerk’s report on Urgent Decisions made under delegation since the last meeting:** None. |
| **12.** | **Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda:** None but CJ wished to have it minuted that he was disappointed that AG had stepped down from the parish council. We have 3 people who have put their names forward to be co-opted onto the parish council and this will be actioned at the next meeting. |
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| **13.** | **Date of next meeting:** It was agreed by a show of hands that the next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting at Great Witley Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th May 2022.  |
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| The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes. |
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| The meeting closed at 9.45pm |
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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. | Gary Long, of Robins Croft, raised concerns over speeding traffic through the village and the state of the road surfaces and blocked drains. DC has arranged to do a ‘walk around the village’ so he can look at the issues raised. He asked for a couple of residents to walk with him so he could photograph the areas in question to accompany his report to Highways. AS, PC and Mr Long agreed to attend the ‘walk’. DC was able to confirm that the footpath to the Glebe is scheduled to be resurfaced later this year. |
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David Nicholson- Planning Consultant

Our neighbourhood development plan (NDP) has got ‘stuck’ due to the delay of the SWDP Review. The area which has brought out draft to a halt is around the question of the proposed building on the Quarterman’s field. FC is not optimistic that we won’t be able to stop the development of an additional 44 houses in the village.

DN pointed out that the NDP is not a vehicle to oppose a development. He suggested that we leave the SWDP Review to sort out revisions to the village settlement boundaries and the future of Quarterman’s Field. We can oppose any proposals for new development on this site in the SWDP consultation process. We should hear by mid-2023 if this site has been allocated for housing in the SWDP.

In the meantime, we could progress the NDP by developing local policies looking at community services, house mixes - (e.g., smaller houses rather than large ones), to protect open green spaces, protecting landscape views and heritage assets. Then, if the site was to be allocated in the SWDP we could add a design policy for the site to the NDP, giving us some influence over how it was developed.

We would then have a draft NDP ready for submission to MHDC at the earliest opportunity and around the time when the SWDP was being finalised. Having our NDP will give us a stronger voice.

FC asked if Local Green Spaces could be designated without the owner’s permission? DN said it could but there would need to be a strong case. This could prove to be a powerful tool. Things to consider would be how close the land is to the community, if it is special land – what community value does it have, and that it is not an extensive tract of land.

FC said that we do not want to see building being allowed along the top of the ‘horseshoe’ hill line of the village. DN said this could be included in the landscape views policy.

PC said that the SWDP has been delayed due to COVID. Nothing has really happened for 2 years and that the Review could go on until 2024.

DN strongly recommended that we finalise our NDP. Although it cannot overrule the SWDP, it can add important local details. A good example has been Abberley who in recent developments have found their NDP extremely useful.

DN highlighted that there is a Grant Scheme for up to £10,000 towards the development of a NDP, by locality, but applications close at the end of March. ***ACTION:*** the Clerk has asked FC to apply for this Grant Scheme as a matter of urgency.

It was decided that if we should be interested in appointing DN to draw up our NDP, he would provide a fee proposal.

**Worcestershire County Council Report**

**Meeting of Great Witley Parish Council 10th March 2022.**

1. Covid Figures as at 8th March 2022 are:
2. Worcestershire is showing an infection rate of 363 cases per 100,000.
3. The infection rate in the Malvern Hills District is 409 cases per 100,000.
4. The direction of travel is down in all Worcestershire Districts.
5. Worcester City District has the highest infection rate in Worcestershire with 460 cases per 100,000. Wyre Forest has the lowest infection rate with 247 cases per 100,000.
6. The rate of infection in England as a whole is 313 cases per 100,000.
7. Worcestershire County Council’s Budget for 2022/23 was approved on Thursday 17th February.
	1. There will be the following increase in Council Tax: the Precept will increase by 0.94%; in addition, there will be a 1% Adult Social Care Levy; in addition, there will be a 2% Adult Social Care Levy that was carried forward from 2021/22.
	2. This additional funding for Adult Social Care will ensure the most vulnerable in society are protected.
	3. The above increases in Council Tax will give an additional £11.3million in Council Tax revenue for 2022/23.
	4. This will result in an increase of £52.95 per annum on a Band D property.
8. It has been agreed that Local Members’ Highway Fund of £22,000 and Councillor’s Divisional Fund of £10,000 will be extended to the next financial year. If there are any community projects that you believe would benefit from financial support, then please let me know from April onwards.
9. WCC has agreed that grants to Town and Parish Councils will be increased by 15%, with regards to the Lengthsman Scheme.
10. The Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing strategy consultation 2022 – 2032, has been launched. Formal consultation will run until 2nd May 2022. Good mental health and wellbeing may mean different things to different people. Your thoughts and feelings are welcomed, to help WCC shape the future of health and wellbeing over the next ten years. The consultation survey is open to everyone and will help build up a picture of what Wellbeing means to people of all ages across the county. More details can be found at: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/HWBStrategy2022](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/HWBStrategy2022)
11. For those aged 15 to 24 and would like advice on careers, apprenticeships, 6th Forms, full-time college courses, university and more, a number of Careers events are being held throughout Worcestershire between 2nd March and 7th April, each between 4pm and 8pm. There is no need to book, just drop into any of the events at any time to suit you. Further details can be obtained from: careersworcs@worcestershire.gov.uk

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division.