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| **The Minutes of Annual Meeting of Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council** |
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| **Held at the Great Witley Village Hall on Wednesday 9th May 2018 at 7.30pm** |
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| **Present: Cllrs: R Perkins (RP) *arrived late*, C Shaw (CS), C Dermietzel (CD), G Goodman (GG), N Drew (ND) *left meeting just before close of meeting*, C Jones (CJ), B Dallow (BD), A Symonds (AS), and F Chapman (FC). District Cllr P Cumming (PC).** |
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| **In Attendance:** J Evans Clerk, |

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| **1.** | **Election of chairman and signing of declaration of acceptance of office:** FC was elected as chairman. FC accepted and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. | | | | | |
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| **2.** | **Apologies:** Received and approved from County Cllr K Pollock (KP). | | | | | |
| **3.** | **Election of vice chairman:** BD and CD nominated CS. All approved and CS accepted and was elected as vice chairman. | | | | | |
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| **4.** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **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. | | d. | Application for a dispensation**:** none. | | | | | | |
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| The meeting was adjourned at 7.35pm for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes. | | | | | | |
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| **5.** | **To consider any requests for the council to grant a dispensation:** None. | | | | | |
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| **6.** | The Standing Orders were noted and will be considered for review at the next meeting. | | | | | |
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| **7.** | The Code of Conduct was circulated and noted. | | | | | |
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| **8.** | The Scheme of Delegation was noted, and members were appointed to the following committees:   1. Staffing Committee: CD and AS 2. Planning Committee: Whole Parish Council 3. Clerk’s Finance Support Group: FC, RP and CS | | | | | |
| **9.** | Financial Regulations were reviewed. The Risk Assessment is being updated and Insurance requirements are approved. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18 Part 2 was approved and signed. | | | | | |
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| **10.** | **Councillors were appointed to the following roles**:   1. Footpath Officer Liaison: RP 2. Village Hall Management Committee: CS 3. Maintenance of Bowen’s Field: GG **At this point, GG thanked Fraser Evans, who is volunteering under the Duke of Edinburgh’s Silver Scheme Award to mow and strim Bowen’s Field for 6 months.** 4. Online Communications Administrator: JE, Clerk 5. Quarter Green Committee: CS 6. Neighbourhood Plan Working Party: AS 7. Lengthsman Scheme: CJ | | | | | |
| **11.** | The whole Parish Council are available for Worcestershire CALC Area Meetings. | | | | | |
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| **12.** | **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2018 were approved. | | | | | |
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| **13.** | 1. A website comment has been received with concerns over the state of some trees around Bowen’s Field. These are looked at as part of our Risk Assessment and will be look at again in light of this comment with a specialist in the field. ***ACTION*** 2. PC has asked for clarification regarding the caravans in the orchard but has had no reply. He is writing again asking for a reply within 7 days. Should nothing be heard then action can be taken. 3. 100 House: The Conservation Department are not happy with some of the work carried out so far and are therefore in discussion with the developers. Work has therefore been stopped at present until further satisfactory arrangements have been made. One of the issues seems to be with the pointing of the brickwork. 4. AS reported on communications matters: Regarding future leaflet drops, could the parishioners be asked at the Annual Parish Meeting for volunteers to put their names forward to help with this. Another idea raised was the Parish Council using Twitter as a means to communicate to parishioners that documents are available via the website as an immediate prompt. 5. ND congratulated FC on his conduct as chairman in meetings. However, he was not happy with the letter which was sent out to Pencroft contractors, who are in his employment, asking them to clear mud from the road and pavements. This letter was mooted and drafted in his absence from the last meeting due to a family bereavement and it was thought best not to worry Cllr ND with this issue as it was a matter for the Parish Council. ND disputed the facts that the residents had made complaints against the works ND was having carried out. FC said that he had addressed the mud on the road in the letter. CD asked if the footpath could also be cleaned as this was covered in mud and is not only treacherous underfoot in wet and the recent icy conditions but also encourages weeds and grass to grow and cover the footpath. ND agreed to this as it was a reasonable request. ND disputed that the work had not been ongoing for 12 months as the complainants had stated. 6. GG said that the Parish Magazine is a good way of informing the parishioners and that we need a regular report to go in before the 20th of each month to make the next issue. FC will report the Parish Council meetings content. 7. FC thanked the Clerk and RP for producing and distributing the upcoming dates leaflets but noted that the maps of the village houses requires updating. 8. The Clerk dealt with all new correspondence received. 9. GG thanked FC for his work as chairman and also Jo Evans for her work as Clerk which he deemed to be a very important part of running a smooth Parish Council. | | | | | |
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| **14.** | **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 July 2018. | | | | | |
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| The meeting closed at 9.30pm | | | | | | |
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| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. | | | | | | |
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|  | | Chairman | | | |

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| **Notes of Public Question Time** | | | |
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| Approximately 20 Members of the public were in attendance and raised the following concerns during Public Question Time: | | | |
|  |  | 1. | Andy Barker: The issued was raised regarding speeding cars through the village along the B4197, particularly at weekends and also coinciding with events held at the Shelsley Hill Climb. FC acknowledged these concerns but said as a Parish Council we really have no power but to report to the relevant bodies, which we have been doing for some years with more success than other local parishes. AS said that the Safer Roads Partnership which is funded by the Police. WCC Highways Department manage the roads but as with the Police funds are very limited. AS reported that he along with CJ are part of a group, A443 Action Group, whose aim is to try to implement traffic calming measure throughout the area. ***ACTION***: A letter will be written to Safer Neighbourhood Team Tenbury, to ask to enforce speed limits, focussing which events are scheduled at Shelsley. BD confirmed that broadcasts are made at events to remind the public leaving Shelsley events the drive carefully and be respectful to the local residents when using the village roads. In short, the agencies involved have too much work and too little resources. One member of the public said that if locals drive at 30mph it will force traffic to slow down. A question was asked if local residents could be trained to use speed guns to alert traffic that their speeds are being monitored. Any traffic caught speeding this way would only receive a notification letter and no action could be enforced. It was reported that when locals indicate to lorries that they are driving too fast through the village the drivers then abuse the residents which is upsetting especially when children are present. It was queried whether a ‘dummy’ camera box could be erected but planning permission would be required for this. PC had an update from a meeting he attended with KP regarding work to calm traffic in Eardiston. Street furniture which had been put in place had had no effect and so painting 30mph limit on the road was being considered to try and get the message across. Another possibility would be to paint double white lines through Eardiston. Until an accident occurs it is unlikely any action will be taken. ***ACTION***: Clerk to send an invitation to Rod Reynolds of the SRP to attend our next meeting in July when he can field questions on this issue by members of the public. |
|  |  | 2. | The footpaths from The Glebe are in a bad state and have been eroded away. It is difficult for wheelchairs and prams to gain access as it is very narrow and overgrown in places. There is no footpath to the Post Office and residents have to cross over the very busy and fast main road and then cross back again to gain access to the Post Office by foot. ***ACTION***: A letter will be sent to KP pointing out that a footpath from The Glebe to the Parish Hall is required. |
|  |  | 3. | The Appeal for 175 houses is **not** on the Agenda. FC said that comments have been made. Any further representations or concerns should be made to the Inspectorate. It was asked what weight this Parish Council has behind the Appeal. In FC’s opinion he does not think that we have much influence. PC said that MHDC will oppose the Appeal as it goes against the SWDP. The final decision will be made by the Inspectorate and it will be down to the quality of the planning documents. When asked if the developers might consider dropping the number of houses down from 175, PC said the decision will be made from “what’s on the table”. It is still thought by the local residents that the number of social housing in this Parish, should this development go ahead, to be too high for the size of the village. MHDC are against the proposal but the Inspectorate could overturn any decision, PC reiterated. There will be a different decision at the appeal. Nick Broughton joined the discussion. The infrastructure is still a huge problem with this proposal. There is no work here and the public transport system is not sufficient to cope. This needs to be addressed before any development is given the go ahead.  The public question time was closed at 8.30pm. |

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County Councillor Ken Pollock’s report:

**GREAT WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**09.05.18**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

# County Council affairs

We now have a new team running the County Councillor, led by the Chief Executive, Paul Robinson, fresh from running Derby City Council. He is joined by Michael Hudson, the new Chief Finance Officer, Andrew Spice, the new Director of Commissioning, and Avril Wilson, the interim Director of Adult Services.

All four are replacing officers who have gone on to bigger and better jobs elsewhere, and we wish the new team well as they seek to lead the Council and the county on to greater prosperity, stability and improvement.

Despite the financial difficulties that all councils are facing, Worcestershire has set a budget for the coming year, based on a 1.94% increase in council tax, supplemented by a 3% increase to be devoted to Adult Social Care.

Roughly 70% of all our income is dedicated to Children’s Services and Adult Social Care, work that is concentrated on about 7,000 of the County’s 560,000 residents. Essential work, but it means that most spending makes little impact on the majority of residents.

Of the rest, we are keen to reach the upper quartile in the quality of our roads and we are close to achieving that. Pavements also come in for special attention at present.

We have a number of major infrastructure projects in progress or planned. The new Battenhall rail bridge will be installed later in the month allowing dualling of the Southern Link Road from the M5 to the Ketch roundabout. Then the new project to dual the Carrington Bridge and the causeway to Powick has been approved and will be starting soon.

The new railway station, Worcestershire Parkway at Norton, is under construction and will be open by this time next year. In addition there are plans for a new station at Kidderminster and improvements to the A38 through Bromsgrove.

# Public Realm in Tenbury

We are approaching the end of the long and drawn out process of improving the Public Realm in Tenbury. There is no need to rehearse here the detail of this project. Suffice to say that virtually all of the work to be conducted by the County council is now complete, with the new red tarmac in place on the raised tables.

There has been general approval for the new paving slabs on the footways, and the 20 mph limit on the central shopping area. What remains is some work that was to be paid for by Tesco’s under a section 278 agreement. That is the reason for the raised table outside their entrance not having been completed yet, and also for the absence of a couple of items of street furniture in their section.

While the overall development has been very satisfactory, it is disappointing that this last commitment has been shirked, leading to the need for legal action, to recover the cost from the Tesco bond lodged at the start of the process.

I can only hope that trade will pick up over the coming months, particularly attracting holiday visitors to what is now even more a very attractive rural town, with great retailers, services and public spaces.

# Local matters

There is a continual concern about road safety in Great Witley and indeed along the A443 in general. A meeting with County highways officers is scheduled for earlier in the day of your meeting, and I cannot report on it at this time.

The main concern will be speeding that is perceived to continue, despite the VAS deployed in the village. I hope other remedies will improve the lot of villagers over the coming months, and these should include deployment of the Safer Roads Partnership camera vans as appropriate.

# Housing developments

You are all aware of the appeal that has been entered by the developer wishing to build on the two open spaces in the village’s central triangle. I will be entering a written objection to this development, as before, and will mention the principles enunciated by Sajid Javid before his elevation to Home Secretary.

In particular, he maintained that “plans for new housing developments need to give much more consideration to the character of the local area, so that what is being proposed complements what is already there and meets the needs and expectations of that community”.

It is my estimation that the plans for the 175 houses, including three storey terraces, as we heard proposed at an earlier parish council meeting, could not be taken to meet these principles, enunciated by the then housing minister.

# Cllr Ken Pollock Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ 09.05.18