|  |
| --- |
| **The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council** |
|  |
| **Held at the Great Witley Village Hall on Thursday 12th May 2022.** |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Present:**  Cllr P Trow (PT), C Dermietzel (CD), N Drew (ND), C Jones (CJ), B Dallow (BD), A Symonds (AS) and DCllr P Cumming (PC). |
|  |
|  |
| **In Attendance:** Clerk, J Evans |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **Election of chairman and signing of declaration of acceptance of office:** CD proposed PT and AS seconded. A unanimous show of hands voted PT as Chairman and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed. | | | | | |
|  |  | |  | |  | |
| **2.**  **3.**  **4.** | **Apologies:** F Chapman (FC) and D Chambers (DC).  **Election of Vice Chairman:** BD proposed CD and AS seconded. A unanimous show of hands voted CD as Vice Chairman and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed. Duncan Trow was co-opted onto the parish council and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed. ND reported that his son, Edward, had withdrawn his application and read out his withdrawal statement. ND also then resignation from the parish council. The Clerk asked for this in writing. ***IT SHOULD BE NOTED, THAT SINCE PREPARING THESE MINUTES CLLR DREW HAS WITHDRAWN HIS RESIGNATION AND REMAINS ON THE PARISH COUNCIL***  **Declarations of Interest:** | | | | | |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.  d. | Other Disclosable Interests: none.  Application for a dispensation: none. | |
|  |  | | |  |  | |
| The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes. **1: MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING**. The meeting restarted at 20:15 | | | | | | |
|  |  | | |  |  | |
| **5.**  **6.** | To consider any requests for the council to grant a dispensation: None.  The Standing Orders were reviewed by the whole parish council and no changes have been made. | | | | | |
|  |  | | |  |  | |
| **7.**  **8.**  **9.**  **10.**  **11.** | The Code of Conduct was circulated and noted.  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 Committee: CJ and BD   Financial Regulations were reviewed. The Risk Assessment was updated, and Insurance requirements are being approved. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 Part 2 was approved and signed.  **Councillors were appointed to the following roles:**   1. Lengthsman Scheme: CJ and FC 2. Village Hall Management Committee: PT 3. Maintenance of Bowen’s Field: BD 4. Online Communications Administrator: Jo Evans (Clerk). 5. Quarter Green Committee: BD 6. Neighbourhood Plan Working Party: FC, AS and DT   PT and CD are available for Worcestershire CALC Area Meetings. | | | | | |
| **12.**  **13.** | **Minutes:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 10/03/22 and 20/05/21 were approved and signed.  **Progress reports:**  DC report was circulated prior to the meeting [..\REPORTS\David Chambers Great Witley Parish Council Meeting 12th May 2022\_.docx](../REPORTS/David%20Chambers%20Great%20Witley%20Parish%20Council%20Meeting%2012th%20May%202022_.docx)  PC reported that with the resignation of the Leader of the Council, MHDC was left with 5 different political groups. They are trying to appoint a new Leader for a coalition working party. Money is being spent but is not being scrutinized by the whole Council. PC wants to change this and have all financial decisions communicated. The SWDP was set for a review by the end of this year, 2022. COVID delayed this date, and it is now delayed for another year. PC has asked for this review to be brought forward as this new delay is for an unspecified time. It opens the whole District up for additional new developments which may win appeals which would otherwise not be within the SWDP. Developments could be made anywhere. MHDC said it can demonstrate a 5-year land supply but this needs to be decided and published.   * BD and CJ are looking into changing our bank from HSBC to avoid fees. * Posters for Yellow Dogs and Badger Hole Warnings were handed out to BD to be pinned up in clear sight. * C Bunn’s quote for the hedge repairs was approved. * BD reported that the dip in the court is being fixed. * PT and CD are attending Village Hall meetings to help with the organisation for the forthcoming Jubilee Celebrations. * BD suggested that the corner meadow be put forward as a ‘designated green space’ in our NDP as there are live badger setts within the field and as there is little light pollution it is a good viewing area to be included in the Dark Skies Policy which FC is drafting. * BD reported that an application for 20 new houses has gone in for Abberley opposite the primary school. The school is full as is our surgery. There will probably be an extra 40 cars on the road. All this will affect our parish and therefore it was suggested that we comment. It is also believed that the landowner has designated the whole field for development. ND said we need more housing but the infrastructure needs sorting out first. Holt Fleet bridge is not equipped for the amount of traffic that now uses it. PC said this matter has been raised by most of the local parishes. MHDC delayed transport study concluded 2 years ago that this bridge was not capable to take on extra usage. Since then, even more houses have been built. It looks as though the Council are ignoring the point that proper infrastructure needs to be put in place before more developments are allowed. * AS reported that he met with DC on 16th March and DC advised that we should assume that the broken VAS was our responsibility. After a discussion it was decided that the Clerk ***(ACTION:)*** would ask DC to remove it and also chase the sweeping of the footpath and the 30mph limits which are to be painted on the A443 as discussed with AS on site. * PC reported that 8/16 dwellings have been occupied at the Hundred House. The application was for 18 but they are marketing 16. If they are building 16 then they have reached 50% of development and should now fit out and open the bar and its managers apartment. One of the dwellings is not listed for council tax. PC is looking into this and also what does ‘occupancy’ meant on the register? | | | | | |
|  |  | | |  |  | |
| **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 Thursday 14th July 2022. | | | | | |
|  |  | | |  |  | |
| The meeting closed at 20:56 | | | | | | |
|  |  | | |  |  | |
|  |  | | |  |  | |
|  |  | | |  |  | |
|  |  | | |  |  | |
|  |  | | |  |  | |
| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. | | | | | | |
|  |  | | |  |  | |
|  | | Chairman | | | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Public Question Time**

David Williams, an Astley resident, and ex-school pupil of Great Witley, asked how our planning decisions are made between meetings. PT said that every planning application is emailed to the whole parish council who then discuss and put a response together via email if it is felt an extra-ordinary meeting does not need to be called. Our response is then sent in by the consultation date. Mr Williams said that a significant planning application for a shooting range was published in January which was refused by MHDC. However, 8 days after the application was published the GWHHPC were happy to support it. He was concerned that the PC’s discussions were not communicated. He also pointed out that large hay bails have now been placed in the field which do not appear to have been placed for an agricultural reason. PC will look into this. It is Mr Williams’ opinion that the GWHHPC made an error to support such an application. NT said that when he first joined the GWHHPC he suggested a planning committee should be set up. He did not think that discussions via email gives an application the attention it should receive. A planning meeting would allow for a debate between the GWHHPC to be more fully operated. This would mean that the GWHHPC would have to agree to attend extra meetings. AS said that as a parish council we have a layman’s point of view. We are not trained in planning laws. The ultimate decision is made by MHDC. ND said that they do take notice of what we have to say. PC said that each application is decided upon its own merit, and that decision precedents are not set, as suggested by Mr Williams. Parish Council’s have local knowledge and have a statutory duty to comment. Only comments which relate to a planning issue carry weight. ND said he was concerned at the length of time planning applications and appeals were taking. PC has raised this with the Leader of the Council. The planning department are failing in several areas. It is also frustrating that the SWDP has been delayed for an unspecified time. However, PC wanted to clarify that appeals are outside MHDC remit and that they are the responsibility of the Inspectorate and that most appeals are supported. Enforcement is also a matter of concern. PC will continue to press for improvements in these areas.

GWHHPC would like to thank Mr Williams for taking the time to bring this matter to our attention and that his concerns have been noted.