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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 14th July 2022** |
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| **Present: Chairman**, Cllr P Trow (PT). |
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| **In Attendance:** Cllrs C Dermietzel (CD), C Jones (CJ), B Dallow (BD), A Symonds (AS) and D Trow (DT). |

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** Clerk, J Evans, F Chapman (FC), N Drew (ND), C.Cllr D Chambers (DC) and D.Cllr P Cumming (PC).  **Co-Option**: PT asked Mr Charles Hamer to leave the room while his co-option was discussed. All councillors were in favour with a show of hands and CH was co-opted onto the Parish Council. CH was then called back into the room to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. | | | | | |
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| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest:** None | | | | | |
| **3.** | **To consider any Application for a dispensation:** None. | | | | | |
| **4.** | **Minutes:** Minutes of last meeting approved. | | | | | |
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| **5.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:** District and County councillors have sent reports which have been sent to all councillors. [..\REPORTS\P Cumming 2022 July report.pdf](../REPORTS/P%20Cumming%202022%20July%20report.pdf) [..\REPORTS\D Chambers Report July 2022.docx](../REPORTS/D%20Chambers%20Report%20July%202022.docx) | | | | | |
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| **6.** | **Progress reports:** The new PC notice boards for the Post Office, The Glebe and Hillhampton are all now in place. PT to place agenda etc in Post office and Hillhampton notice boards and CD will do the Glebe. The new code of conduct was agreed by all councillors. Defibrillator for the Glebe. Dave Parsons has agreed to have it on his house, but we need to contact the housing association for their permission. ***ACTION***: JE to contact Dave Parsons to obtain the details of the housing association. ***ACTION:*** JE to also contact Charles Shaw to ask him to drop off the defibrillator at BD.  Village Hall – Ruth Goodman attended the meeting representing the VH. A member of the VH committee will be attending each meeting in the future. RG said the VH was pleased with the positive feedback received following the Jubilee party. It was nice to see so many villagers attended. Bookings are still being made but are not yet back to pre-covid levels. Sandy Dallow will be taking over the booking service. The VH electric contract finishes in the Autumn and with prices continuing to increase they may have to put the hire up.  Quartergreen – BD reported that following the unsuccessful repair of the tennis court they have been back to the supplier who have said that the damage was done since their repair. They are now receiving threatening emails and letters requesting payment and may have to ask the County Council for support. Linda Cummings is continuing to deal with this.  Lengthsman & Footpaths – Lengthsman has taken the VAS sign from by the Hundred House home and needs to know what to do with it. The VAS sign between the chapel and Witley Court drive is also now not working so will see whether it can be repaired by taking parts off the other VAS. AS to contact DC to have the VAS pole by the Hundred House removed. | | | | | |
| **7.** | **CALC:** All updates circulated prior to the meeting. | | | | | |
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| **8.** | **Planning:** Worcester Lodge application approved | | | | | |
| **9.** | **Finance:** the PC voted to use Lloyds bank. All finance was circulated prior to the meeting, and everything agreed. | | | | | |
| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:** None. | | | | | |
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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:** CJ would like the meetings more frequently, either every 6 weeks or monthly. PT to discuss with JE about her availability and trial having meetings more often.  AS – Gary Long has sent an email concerning the meeting that he and AS had with DC. He is concerned that no action has been taken. AS stated that most of the pavements and drains had been cleared. Email to be forwarded to DC for his response.  Ruth Goodman confirmed that Andrew Goodman is happy to continue mowing Bowens field this season but at some point the mower will need a service. | | | | | |
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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 TBC following discussions with JE as to her availability. Linda Cummings and Ruth Goodman to be included in the invite email. | | | | | |
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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 **TIME PLEASE?** pm | | | | | | |
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| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. | | | | | | |
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|  | | Chairman | | | |

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| **Notes of Public Question Time** | | | |
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| Members of the public were in attendance and raised the following concerns during Public Question Time: | | | |
|  |  | 1. | Jacquie Quarterman asked what was being done about the rotten fence posts on the path between the Quartergreen and Glendower Close. She mentioned it during the March meeting, but it appears nothing has happened. It was agreed to ask FC and ND as this may be the fence that they are intending to repair. Richard Quarterman volunteered to put in the new posts if this is the fence FC and ND are intending to repair. If it’s not the Quartergreen to Glendower Close that they are intending to repair, we will investigate and check who is responsible for it ***ACTION:*** (JE). JQ also asked who was responsible for the grass alongside the road in front of the village hall car park. RQ has done it until now. ***ACTION:*** JE to speak to the County Council to establish who is responsible. |
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District Councillors Report Great Witley Parish Council July2022

For a summer month , this year has seen far more activity on matters affecting the Council than usual. The Boundary Commission has produced its report on the Ward Review as promised , but has not reached a final conclusion as it wishes to consult further on major changes to its original recommendations, which received substantial objections. I am pleased that it has largely adopted the proposals of Abberley Parish Council and created a two member ward consisting of the old Woodbury and Baldwin wards as they were before the last re-organisation. The latest consultation lasts until August 8th and a further representation of support from the Parish Council would be much appreciated, as I know there are some in other wards who would like to return to the original proposals. There has been an Inspector’s decision on a Planning Appeal in Leigh Sinton which has decided that the District does not have a 5 year land supply, in the absence of sufficient progress on the SWDP review. This makes it easier for developers to succeed in speculative applications on sites not approved in the plan. This is very much an own goal by the Council in not progressing quickly enough. When an additional year’s delay (to two years) was announced last September , I expressed dissatisfaction with progress and was told by the Leader that it was hoped that improvements could be made. Instead we are now facing further delays and it seems that the Council has failed to learn from the events when the Plan was originally put in place. The revised plan is now due to be put to Council in October and will be subject to further consultation before it is presented to the Secretary of State. On more detailed planning matters, I have now found evidence that the Hundred House appears to have reached the stage when the pub area should be fitted out in accordance with the planning permission and the matter has been referred to departments at Malvern to investigate further and pursue.

**Worcestershire County Council Report**

**Meeting of Great Witley Parish Council 14th July 2022.**

1. Worcestershire County Council’s Corporate Plan 2022-2027 has been approved by the Council. The document provides a blueprint for the organisation, setting out the Council’s core priorities and guiding how the organisation will operate, both internally, with partners across Worcestershire and beyond. In brief, it has focused its work on four key priority areas:

* Open for Business
* Children and Families
* The Environment
* Health and Wellbeing
  1. Open for Business: It is proposed to expand key strategic sites to deliver more highly skilled jobs and support further business expansion. Alongside this, the Council will continue to invest in unlocking growth at key transport sites including Shrub Hill and Redditch railway stations, support its partners and deliver further digital connectivity through the provision of gigabit broadband. The Council will also support its partners around plans for Future High Street Fund, Towns Fund and Levelling Up proposals.
  2. Children and Families: There will be continued investment into Children and Families and the Council will aim to see its children’s services rated as “Good”, recognising the significant journey of improvement that has been made. The Council will continue to invest in its school estate, including the delivery of a new secondary school and extra places to keep pace with development.
  3. Environment: The Council will continue in its role to help preserve and protect the Environment for future generations. The Council has now agreed a Net Zero plan which will focus efforts to reduce our environmental impact even further, whilst still enabling us to deliver sustainable growth alongside maintaining top-quartile condition for our roads and pavements. The Council will continue to invest in environmental measures that protect our natural environment, enhance our biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.
  4. Health and Wellbeing: This remains a key priority for our residents. The Council will work even more closely with residents and communities to encourage active lifestyles, enabling people to live longer, healthier and happier lives. The Council’s work with the NHS and other partners through the Integrated Care System will help co-ordinate our services and ensure residents receive the right care at the right time to meet their needs.

The County Council is committed to working even closer with our communities. We will expand our “Here2Help” programme to provide a single front door of advice and guidance for people, whilst working with voluntary and community groups to strengthen local support. All of this work sits within our “One Worcestershire” approach to co-ordinating work, investment and priorities across the county. The Council intends to seek to adopt new ways of working, including co-location and shared services, to embrace a joined-up approach to service delivery that best meets local needs and removes barriers between organisations.

1. Foster Care Fortnight is the UK’s biggest foster care awareness raising campaign, delivered by leading fostering charities, and took place in May. The campaign showcases the commitment, passion and dedication of foster carers. It also supports fostering services to highlight the need for more foster carers. Nationally, thousands of new foster carers are needed every year to care for children, with the greatest need being for foster carers for older children, sibling groups, disabled children and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

The County Council is urging residents in Worcestershire, to give consideration to becoming a foster carer, because quite simply, fostering is better than Care.

1. Worcestershire County Council continue to work closely with the six Worcestershire District Councils to help provide accommodation with families throughout the county. Over two thousand families have offered their homes to Ukrainian families, with the number of guests arriving increasing all the time.
2. Following the unsuccessful Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) submission to the government and the disappointing news that First Bus have announced they intend to significantly cut services in Worcestershire, the County Council is now conducting a complete review of its policy regarding bus services in Worcestershire.
3. Ambulance waiting times remain a major concern in the county. Ambulances often continue to wait for several hours to discharge their patients at the Worcester Royal Hospital, due to patient delays from progressing from the Emergency Department onto wards. The County Council’s Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), will continue to seek positive improvements and outcomes, as part of its scrutiny with all the health sectors involved.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division.