|  |
| --- |
| **The Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council**  |
|  |
| **Held at the Great Witley Village Hall on Thursday 9th March 2023 at 7.30pm** |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Present: Chairman**, Cllr P Trow (PT). |
|  |
|  |
| **In Attendance:** Clerk, J Evans, Cllrs C Dermietzel (CD), F Chapman (FC), B Dallow (BD), D Trow (DT), C Hamer (CH) and D.Cllr P Cumming (PC). |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.** | **Apologies:** N Drew (ND), C Jones (CJ), A Symonds (AS) and C.Cllr D Chambers (DC)  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest:** None |
| **3.** | **To consider any Application for a dispensation:** None |
| **4.** | **Minutes:** Minutes of last meeting approved |
|  |  |  |  |
| **5.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:** County Councillor, David Chambers emailed his report as he was unable to attend and is attached to these Minutes.District Councillor, Paul Cummings advised that there was 1.1 million in the council budget that usually goes on infrastructure, he is going to push that this happens. He is also looking into why town councils can have money towards celebrating the Kings coronation but not parish councils. FC asked if there was any news on the timetable for the SWDP review. PC said there was no further news and that it was already late. FC also asked if there was a timescale for the boundary review. PC advised it was to take place with the elections in May. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **6.** | **Progress reports:** Village Hall – Ruth Goodman (RG) attended the meeting representing the VH. The village hall has received a £10000 grant towards air source heating which is being installed over Easter. They have not started on the Kings coronation plans yet but are still going with the idea of live streaming the event from the village hall and supplying refreshments.Quartergreen – BD reported that the planned patio had now been completed. At the last meeting of the Quartergreen two members had resigned which led to the resignation of all committee members. We therefore need to look at ways to continue their work and get new people from the village involved. RG advised that the accounts would have to be transferred and that the implications of the Post Office being sold also has to be considered. Bowens Field - BD said we still need to get quotes for grass cutting this season. He is getting more quotes and CD said she would also ask a few people she knows. We also have to consider whether the PC are going to replace the stolen lawn mower or use someone that has their own equipment.Lengthsman & Footpaths – FC advised that most of the hedge in Bowens field had been replaced along the Stourport Road with stock fencing and hawthorn whips. Three trees had also been planted along the bottom boundary to replace trees that we’ve lost. At some point we need to organise a working party to tidy up the path there.Neighbourhood Plan – FC said it was proceeding well. About 670 questionnaires were delivered to about 340 houses. We’ve had a good response with about 67 written replies and 120 online. The paper replies have now also been put online and a spreadsheet of the responses will be going to our consultant. Once he has done his work there will be a further steering group meeting followed by a public meeting. We need a date for that by the time of our meeting with Bloor Homes so that we can tell people then. |
| **7.** | **CALC:** Nothing discussed |
| **8.** | **Planning:** The application for a new access to Lesotho was agreed by all councillors |
| **9.** | **Finance:** Nothing discussed |
| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:** None discussed |
|  |  |  |  |
| **11.** | **Clerk’s report on Urgent Decisions made under delegation since the last meeting:** No urgent decisions made |
| **12.** | 1. **Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda:** PT advised that our clerk had sent pictures to the CC of where we wish to position the benches on the Glebe. ***(Just for clarification – a map of the area of grass by the notice board at The Glebe has been sent to MHDC for identification purposes)***

BD asked if there were any thoughts on where to place a book exchange in the village following Sam Sebasta’s suggestion at our last meeting. RG suggested that if we don’t replace our lawnmower the shed it was in could be used.BD reported that 2 residents from the Hundred House had been out litter picking. PT said that unfortunately due to having to get a risk assessment and special insurance the PC was unable to organise an official litter pick.BD is still trying to make contact regarding the tree survey.DT suggested that at the public meeting with Bloor homes we allowed a 20 minute pitch followed by a Q & A. After that we should ask for the parishioners’ views. IT WAS THEN AGREED BY ALL COUNCILLORS THAT AT NO POINT WILL PC MEMBERS GIVE THEIR VIEWS, IT WILL DOWN TO THE PUBLIC TO GUIDE US. The PC will meet 15 minutes before the meeting starts to set up and confirm how the meeting will be run. |
|  |  |  |  |
| **13.** | 1. **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 11th May 2023, 7.30pm. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.
 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes. |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |
| The meeting closed at 9 pm |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | Chairman |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Notes of Public Question Time**  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2 Members of the public were in attendance and raised the following concerns during Public Question Time: |
|  |  | 1. | Jacqueline Quarterman asked that the field that Bloor homes are wanting to develop is referred to as the Glebe field and not the Quartermans field. She also asked then when using their name, it is spelt correctly. |
|  |  |  |  |

**Worcestershire County Council Report**

**Meeting of Great Witley Parish Council 9th March 2023**

New Special School for Children with Autism

A new special school that caters for the needs of pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is to be built in Malvern. The successful bid from Worcestershire County Council was announced this week by the Department for Education.

The new special free school will provide 120 full time places for pupils aged 5-19 with autism, who are able to engage with mainstream curriculum with extra support and who would also benefit from a specific environment and staff dedicated to a holistic approach. The capital funding for the new school will be provided from the Government’s Free School Programme.

County Council Budget 2023/24

At the Budget meeting of the Council, Council approved the following recommendations:

1. A budget of £400.813 million be set (as detailed in the report before Councillors).
2. A Capital programme of £432.720 million be set (as detailed in the report before Councillors).
3. An increase in Council Tax Precept of 4.94%, broken into two parts:
4. 2.94% to provide financial support for the delivery of outcomes in line with the Corporate Plan.
5. 2.00% Adult Social Care Precept, ring-fenced for Adult Social Care services, in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to Worcestershire’s ageing population.

At the Budget meeting there was a proposal by the Opposition to reduce the Highways Capital programme by £2million. I spoke against this amendment (which was similar to an amendment submitted one year ago), because it is my view that if you were do this, then over a relatively short period of time, Worcestershire roads would become similar to those we experience in Herefordshire. Whilst Worcestershire roads are not perfect, they are considerably better than those in neighbouring counties. I am please that the amendment was defeated.

Herefordshire & Worcestershire Fire & Rescue Service

I attended a meeting of the Fire Authority (Monday 13th February). The Chief Fire Officer reported that a pay offer of 7% for this year and 5% for next year had been offered to the unions. He is hopeful that the pay offer will be accepted, following consultations ending in early March, which will hopefully mean that there will be no further strikes within our area.

Local Issue

I have again chased the “siding out” of the pavement from the Doctors Surgery to the next junction heading toward Worcester.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division.