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| **The Minutes of Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council** |
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| **Held at the Great Witley Village Hall on Wednesday 25th July 2018 at 7.30pm** |
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| **Present: Chairman** Cllr F Chapman (FC) |
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| **In Attendance:** Clerk J Evans, Cllrs C Shaw (CS), R Perkins (RP), C Dermietzel (CD), N Drew (ND), C Jones (CJ), B Dallow (BD), and D.Cllr P Cumming (PC) |

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** We were and approved for Cllrs A Symonds (AS) and G Goodman (GG) and C.Cllr K Pollock. | | | |
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| **2.** | **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: BD registered his interest in planning item 8.i. |
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| The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes. **There were no members of the public present**. | | | | |
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| **3.** | **Application for a dispensation:** none. | | | |
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| **4.** | **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2018 were approved. | | | |
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| **5.** | **Progress reports:** | | | |
|  |  | | a. | **Clerk:**   * A correction was made in the Parish Magazine correctly naming Cllr Charles Shaw as the appointed Vice Chairman. * Grit bin 358 was reported as tipped over to WCC. * The blocked drains from Camp Lane to filling station were reported and WCC were continuing to monitor the matter. * Home Farm Lane ditches are being monitored by the Lengthsman and Cllr CJ. * The blocked drain at 11 The Glebe has been reported to WCC. |
|  |  | | b. | **Village Hall and Quartergreen:**   * CS has included the trees highlighted in a website comment in his quarterly inspection. Some are leaning. ***ACTION***  CJ has asked the Clerk to contact Mr Bowditch who commented through the website to quote for any necessary tree surgeon work. * The Quartergreen is holding a Fun Day on 15th September 2018 in the School grounds. * Charlies Bar will re-open on 6th September after the summer break and film nights will restart with The Darkest Hour on the second Friday in September. |
|  |  | | c. | **Lengsthman and Footpaths:** Nothing to report. |
|  |  | | d. | **Neighbourhood Plan Working Party:** Nothing to report. |
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| **6.** | **CALC:**   * ***ACTION*** The clerk will ask CALC is there is a template for a privacy notice and privacy agreement for councillors to sign before drafting their own. * SWDP – FC responded by 2nd July pointing out that the current infrastructure cannot cope, and any further large housing developments will have great impact on not only this but the carbon footprint. It is more sensible for developments to be placed nearer the Worcester Link Road, where the Worcestershire Parkway rail station is to be sited and new factories will offer jobs. The motorway is also better accessed here. * Housing Needs Consultation – FC will look at the survey and respond by the extended deadline of Friday 27th July 2018. ND commented here that he thinks sensible development should be allowed and that engagement with the Developers should be encouraged when reducing the numbers of houses in a development could be discussed as well as any benefits to the village. | | | |
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| **7.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:** | | | |
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|  |  | | a. | PC reported that MHDC 5-year housing supply figures currently equate to 6.5 years, therefore 1.5 over the target which is good. River crossing still remain difficult at peak times. Planning laws have recently changed so that as from 1st June 2018 there are 2 types of applications. The first is an ‘in principle’ application. This requires fewer surveys and a decision is made within 5 weeks. Members can call them into Committee. They are relevant for builds of 10 houses or less. The second is a more detailed application which will follow if the in principal one is approved. There will be a SWDP briefing in November for Parish Councils. Local design should be borne in mind for any new developments. Land owners will not be able to demand too much money for land for developments.  PC said that regarding work being carried out at The Old Bakery, the owners have been advised to wait for permission to be granted before carrying on with any work.  5 Stourport Road has been referred to Regulatory Services who are taking the matter seriously.  Universal Credit is being introduced to this area instead of the current benefits, except for pensioners. |
|  |  | | b. | KP report is attached to these Minutes. |
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| **8.** | **Planning:** | | | |
|  |  | | a. | 18/00579/RM – 12 affordable dwellings: the parish council, after discussion, are in support of this application and made the comment that any works vehicles should be parked off road. |
|  |  | | b. | 18/00852/FUL – Red Marley Orchard: the parish council, after discussion, are in support of this application |
|  |  | | c. | 18/00594/HP – Allonby Cottage: Approval of this application was circulated. |
|  |  | | d. | 18/00653/LB – Worcester Lodge: the parish council, after discussion, are in support of this application |
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|  |  | | e. | 18/00556/HP – The Old Bakery: the parish council, after discussion, are in support of this application but made comments relating to keeping the design in character with the existing property and the proposed siting of the orangery. The full response can be seen online at MHDC planning, search application 18/00556/HP. |
|  |  | | f. | 18/00483/HP – Wulstans Lodge: the parish council, after discussion, are in support of this application. |
|  |  | | g. | 18/00936//FUL – 100 House: the parish council, after discussion, are in support of this application. |
|  |  | | h. | 18/00937/LB – 100 House: the parish council, after discussion, are in support of this application. |
|  |  | | i. | 18/00855/HP – The Aitches (BD left the room) the parish council, after discussion, are in support of this application (BD re-entered the room). |
|  |  | | j. | 18/00852/FUL – Red Marley Orchard (not on Agenda) Amendment to red line on location plan was circulated. |
|  |  | | k. | 18/00901/HP – 2 Stanford Road (not on Agenda) the parish council, after discussion, are in support of this application. |
|  |  | | k. | 18/01017/HP – The Sheiling, 73 Structons Heath (not on Agenda) the parish council, after discussion, are in support of this application.  ND had a question for KP asking why the Ring Road around Worcester hadn’t been built even though land had been purchased at a considerable cost? Also, that a new bridge is required. FC pointed out that in KP report the Ring Road has not been built due to insufficient funds and not want it to be used as an alternative to the M5 at busy times. |
| **9.** | **Finance:** | | | |
|  |  | | a. | Invoices paid were circulated and 2 received were approved:   * J Evans: Knowhow Cloud Storage renewal £40.00 * Great Witley Village Hall: Charlie’s Bar APM 17/5/18 £63.70 |
|  |  | | b. | Bank reconciliation was circulated. |
|  |  | | c. | Budget comparison was circulated. |
|  |  | | d. | 2 Remittances were received for the Lengthsman Scheme:   * 12/6/18 £204.00 * 12/7/18 £348.00   **CS left the meeting at 9.35pm** |
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| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:**   * 5 Stourport Road – See above item 7.a. * The war memorial – further cleaning is planned but a caged platform is required. GG is going to be approached to see if the necessary equipment can be borrowed. It has been noticed that the names of the fallen in WWII are not inscribed on the memorial. ***ACTION*** BD and the Clerk are going to investigate getting quotes for either a plaque for a stone mason to provide the names. FC informed the Parish Council that a gift had been made to the Parish Council of £275 cash from the sale of postcards at the Tea Rooms and ND suggested that this might go towards the inscriptions. All agreed that this was indeed a good idea and a very good use of such a gift. ***ACTION*** the Clerk will write to Mr David Spurrier to thank him for his generous gift. * Elgar Archives Petition – after discussion it was decided that it might be more appropriate for the archives to be kept at the British Museum where they are more likely to be researched. The Parish Council will not support this petition. * 100 House – PC reported that there are still some concerns regarding quality of the works and therefore some have come to a halt and that is why opening dates have passed but they are working with planning to remedy the matter. * Karen Banford – An invitation will be sent to the school and the parents to attend the meeting in September when David Perridge from Safer Road Partnership will be attending, and their traffic calming concerns can be discussed. It was also suggested that better speed camera warning signs could be used in the village rather than the plastic ones with cable ties currently used. * SWDP consultation methodology – responses were sent in within the timescale required by FC on behalf of the Parish Council. * DMMO application – it was reported that a request for any further footpath will be denied. * A451/A443 overgrown trees – the owners of the trees will be approached and asked if they could cut them back to help clear the view for road users. * Website complaint from Nigel Gardner – ND works are within the planning application permissions. An inspector visited the site and is going to diarise the removal of the static caravans. ND is happy to talk to anyone concerned over the work to explain the details. | | | |
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| **11.** | **Urgent Decisions since the last meeting:** none. | | | |
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| **12.** | **Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda:** | | | |
|  |  | | a. | CS reported that at Fountain Court the water run off collects gravel and the curb is displaced which caused a pool of water which as traffic passes through splashes anyone walking by. Also, in winter any water there, freezes. ***ACTION*** the Clerk asked CS to provide the exact location and any photo evidence to accompany a report to the Highways Department at WCC. |
|  |  | | b. | BD highlighted the problem with traffic and lorries dangerously parking at the filling station. He suggested that could tankers and delivery lorries park before 8am on the road but this was deemed not possible as the filling station must refuel when required and deliveries are dictated by the suppliers. ***ACTION*** FC will write to Euro Garage and highlight the problem and ask if anything can indeed be done to help. |
|  |  | | c. | CS asked if a footpath from The Glebe to Glendower Way could be put in? A survey would be required. However, it was suggested that before any approach was made to the landowner it would be best to wait for the outcome of the appeal over the 175 houses. |
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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 Wednesday 12th September 2018. | | | |
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| The meeting closed at 22:10 | | | | |
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| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. | | | | |
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**Chairman**

**GREAT WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**11.07.18**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

1. **Road Developments**

On Monday at a Midlands Connect meeting in Birmingham, I heard of various plans for coordinated improvements to the transport infrastructure for the Midlands Region. Chris Grayling the transport minister, who effectively decides on the allocation of funds to our road and rail systems, was scheduled to speak but did not appear, due to the political situation.

Highways England should be removing the throttle at Junction 4A in the autumn, which should relieve the congestion at that point and the dispersal of through traffic to local roads in the vicinity. They are also planning on improving the A46 trunk road, which will relieve some of the pressure on the Birmingham motorway box.

During the smart motorway road works, Bromsgrove has suffered from displaced traffic on to the A38.

At Cabinet tomorrow, I will be presenting an interim report on the planned developments along that section of the A38 through Bromsgrove. This is partially funded from various nationally determined sources, and is intended to relieve the long term congestion through the town.

We have rejected the idea, popular with some local District Councillors, to plan for a western distributor route, running through the housing developments between the town and the M5, partly on cost grounds and also as it might be used as an alternative to the M5 at busy times.

Some of you will have noticed that the works to raise New Road passed the cricket ground in Worcester are now complete. We all appreciate that funds are tight and there may need to be reduction in services like school crossing patrols. I would like to make clear that these two projects have different sources of funding, the New Road work being paid for by central government through the Environment Agency. As such it is not using money that could be used for school crossing patrols and other such services that we may need to review

1. **Rail Developments**

One of the important matters we have taken to Midlands Connect is the Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy, which seeks to improve rail services in the county. The priorities are the dualling of the Cotswold Line to London, so that we can carry two trains per hour on that line. One of those should take no more than two hours, bringing London a lot closer for business people.

A second important development is the Worcestershire Parkway station now under construction at Norton. Yesterday we held a press conference there, to highlight the rapid progress the station is making. Trains should be stopping there within 12 months.

The station will not only allow passengers wanting to go to London to bypass the city and park next to the station, but also there will be trains stopping on the cross country line between Birmingham and Bristol. This will mean that people wishing to travel by train to the north east and the south west will not have to leave the county to catch the right train.

On a more parochial level, work on a new station at Kidderminster will start later this year. This station is already the second busiest in the county, and the new buildings will reflect its importance for travel to Birmingham and London.

1. **The Financial Position**

We cannot disguise the fact that the county’s finances are very tight and we will be under pressure to make savings for some years. This is never a popular matter with residents but I hope we all appreciate that we need to balance the books.

Our finances are not helped by the increasing demands for Children’s Services and Adult Social Care. These are areas where we have statutory obligations and the demand for our services is increasing. At Cabinet on Thursday we will be bringing forward plans for a wholly owned company to run our children’s services, which are improving swiftly, but still under an Ofsted judgement of being inadequate.

Given that some 70% of our income is devoted to meeting these two needs affecting only 12,000 people, you can appreciate why we may be short of money for crossing patrols, repairing potholes and the like. We certainly do not want to be cutting road side verges unnecessarily – and cutting down valuable wild flowers before they have had a chance to seed.

1. **Economic developments**

Meanwhile, we are keen to support local industry and get more new companies started or relocated to this county. Worcester 6, the business park next to Junction 6 of the M5, has seen new tenants being established, with Kimal, the medical supplies company building their large depot there just now. There will announcements about other new tenants in the near future.

We need to produce as much sand, gravel and crushed rock locally as possible. At Cabinet tomorrow, I will be presenting the results of work to improve the number of appropriate sites for aggregate extraction in the county. In addition we will be bringing forward the latest waste strategy to ensure maximum recycling of waste where possible and incineration of other materials at the plant at Hartlebury. There is scope for increasing the throughput at that plant, which should being in extra income for the county.

You will know of the developments in 5G in Worcestershire. While we are acutely aware that not all residents get a good service at present, there is a celebration on Friday at Upton Warren of the superfast broadband that has been installed in an area that has been unable to get good speeds for some time. Our new Home Secretary, the MP for Bromsgrove, Sajid Javid, has been active in this and he will be present.

Meanwhile, we are all concerned about the future security of energy supplies, and I have been to a couple of local conferences recently examining the alternatives available, several of which are local developments of new ideas in this area. Western Power Developments are holding a workshop on Friday, and the Worcestershire Energy Strategy is holding a meeting a week today on how we can improve our situation locally.

1. **Local issues**

While this report has concentrated on county wide issues, I am aware of the local problems and needs in Great Witley. While there is a great of concern about housing developments, that is mainly a district concern. We have tried to find ways of improving the speeding situation without great impact. I will be pleased to hear of any other problems that need attention.

Earlier today, I was able to spend some time in the morning at Tenbury High Ormiston Academy discussing the importance of local politics with some of the pupils. I hope I was able to convince them of the importance of the sort of dedication shown by people like yourselves at local level, as well as those who serve at District and County level, not to mention our Members of Parliament. There is a tendency to believe that anyone who gets involved in this sort of activity is only interested in furthering their own careers and status. I am sure you will agree with me that this is far from the truth in most, if not all, cases.

**Cllr Ken Pollock**

**Cheltenham,**

**Gloucestershire,**

**GL50 2BZ**

**09.07.18**