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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 12th September 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), C Dermietzel (CD), G Goodman (GG), N Drew (ND), C Jones (CJ), B Dallow (BD), A Symonds (AS), and D.Cllr P Cumming (PC) |

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** R Perkins (RP) and C.Cllr K Pollock (KP). | | | | | |
| ***Presentation by David Perridge from the Safer Roads Partnership***  *FC opened the meeting and presentation with a reminder that as a Parish Council, we have no powers to make or enforce speeding traffic calming measures but that we can and do constantly relay the concerns of our parishioners of the speeding traffic through the parish to the relevant bodies. In order to impress our concerns on the Safer Road Partnership we invited David Perridge to speak to us and to residents who had attended.*  *DP worked as a teacher for over 7 years and then had 25 years experience as a Police Officer of which 20 were as a traffic officer. He has attended 90 fatal collisions. DP said his aim is to keep people safe. Our parish does not have a high collision history. Looking at recent data, taking the 85 percentiles of cars travelling through the parish on the A443 he said that most cars were travelling at 34mph or less.*  *On the Stourport Road, mobile speed cameras have caught speeding traffic in large numbers; 13.6 per hour. On the Worcester Road fewer have been caught, with 4 by the garage and 9 by the Church. If the stats were anything to go by it could be said there is a case for the limit on the Stourport Road to be changed to 40mph.*  *Mobile speed cameras attend the parish once a week but if they cannot park at their designated location they will move on to their next deployment. Most traffic speeds recorded in the parish are at 34mph and at this level the cameras would usually be pulled out of a village. They have only stayed in our parish because the Parish Council have made so many complaints about speeding traffic concerns.*  *Some members of the public disagreed with these stats and thought that the cameras were deployed more often in the village of Dunley than Great Witley. This was refuted by DP for the reasons given above.*  *When questioned whether a 20mph zone could be enforced outside the school, DP reported that no 20mph zones at school sites were enforced in Worcestershire because they are not legally enforceable.*  *He said that most people are law abiding but that if the ‘feel’ of a road leads people to drive above the speed limit then perhaps the speed limit was wrong and should be raised., because if you feel the limit is correct then you are likely to stick to it. This does not mean that you will automatically drive even faster over an increased limit.*  *DP questioned whether edge lines could be used which would make the main road feel narrower which would in turn make lorries slow down etc.* ***ACTION****: CS asked if we could get in touch with Hannah Davies at the Highways Department to make enquiries about the possibility of having edge lines used on the A443. It was pointed out that WCC would have conditions for where such line painting could be used. It might be more appropriate to use Slow signs or Hatch signs to keep the road marking simpler.*  *CJ queried whether we could benefit from using metal white radar warning signs rather than the plastic ones which are put up by the Police? They may be taken more seriously. DP said that the metal signs need poles which WCC would need to put in place. He also pointed out that although Worcestershire use these warning signs for motorists that cameras are in operation, no such warning signs are used in Warwickshire.*  *AS pointed out to the members of the public present that himself and CJ are part of the A443 Action Group who are in talks with the Highways Department. He repeated that the first step towards traffic calming would be road engineering changes followed by enforcement, but as there are no funds available at WCC any major engineering changes are highly unlikely. Enforcement tends to happen where national stats show where fatalities occur. As no fatalities occur in our parish there is no need for enforcement. Instead, injury related speed collisions are looked for.*  *DP reported that for the whole of the Worcestershire area he has 10 officers to daylight hours. A laser beam can catch traffic travelling in either direction from around 750m from the deployed van.*  *20:15 DP left the meeting with CJ to take more questions outside briefly so the parish council meeting could continue.* | | | | | | |
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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: none. | |
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| The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes. | | | | | | |
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| **3.** | **Application for a dispensation:** none. | | | | | |
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| **4.** | **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th July 2018 were approved.  FC confirmed he wrote a letter to the garage as requested in these Minutes a copy of which is attached. | | | | | |
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| **5.** | **Progress reports:** | | | | | |
|  |  | | | a. | **Clerk:** Informed the meeting that bagged dog waste can now be binned in normal waste bins. | |
|  |  | | | b. | **Village Hall –**  CS reported that the village hall continued to do well and had a healthy bank balance. For upcoming events please check the parish magazine and subscribe to the mailing list.  **and Quartergreen:**  CS was pleased to inform the meeting that all facilities are being well used. There is a Fun Day on Saturday 15th September on the School field. A firework display will go ahead on the Quartergreen field with thanks to the Goodman family. FC commented how good the trees looked and GG thanked Fraser Evans for his mowing of Bowens field as part of his Duke of Edinburgh voluntary section. | |
|  |  | | | c. | **Lengsthman and Footpaths:** CJ reported that the Lengsthman is doing a very good job. CJ has inspected the trees with a tree surgeon, Mr Jake Bowdige, who originally contacted us through the website pointing out that certain trees needed attention. CJ has received 2 quotes for work. ***ACTION***: FC will also speak to Bede Howell to take further advice.  Regarding the ferns which needs cutting back on the A451 as it is late in the season they are now dying back.  CS reported the worn-out road markings to WCC (ref no 568481) at the Stourport Road/Worcester Road junction. | |
|  |  | | | d. | **Neighbourhood Plan Working Party:** FC asked for IT help in completing the NP and AS offered. | |
|  |  | | | e. | **SWDP:** FC reported that Great Witley has a settlement boundary but is worried that there is no spare site for development. If it is considered that the parish is full then we may be asked where the parish may consider offering up land for further development. If we are not prepared to do this MHDC may decide for themselves. This is something which needs to be considered. The affordable homes which are planned for the land known locally as the Donkey Field are going in as it is a rural exception site and so can be built outside the settlement boundary.If the boundary ws extended to include this site there is a chance that these plans could change from affordable homes to normal homes. It was queried whether, if Mr Van Tonglen was approached, the land at the Old Farm Shop may be used to be offered up as development land. The SWDP is going to be extended until 2041. It is not known yet where the houses are to be built.  ND thinks that the land which was proposed for the development of the 175 houses may be used. Although it was against the will of the villagers. He pointed out that perhaps the land at the back of surgery may be favoured and that we should engage sensibly with the developers.  GG made the point that there should be no urban style development.  PC said that we can say in our NP what style of development we prefer; the density and which sites should be used. While to the SWDP is still be finalised the infrastructures still needs to be looked at.  AS pointed out that we have already had more houses built than the last quota in the last plan. He asked which dates in the timeline would be used. PC couldn’t say at this time.  Regarding the methology, FC referred to the transport links and posed the question—is it better to build in a Grade 1 village where amenities already exist or is it better to build in smaller villages to make them more sustainable?  FC read out his answers to the Recreational Space Survey which everyone agreed to. This will now be sent off. | |
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| **6.** | **CALC:** The clerk reminded the meeting that there will be parish elections this coming May. | | | | | |
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| **7.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:** | | | | | |
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|  |  | | | a. | PC reported that Universal Credit is now available for new applicants of working age. Pensioners will stay the same. | |
|  |  | | | b. | FC read out KP report, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. | |
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| **8.** | **Planning:** | | | | | |
|  |  | | | a. | The 175 houses, plans have been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. | |
|  |  | | | b. | 18/01060/LB The Long Barn, Little Witley – As the council was not familiar with this property it was decided not to comment. | |
|  |  | | | c. | 18/01171/HP The Long Barn, Little Witley – As the council was not familiar with this property it was decided not to comment | |
|  |  | | | d. | 18/01017/HP The Sheiling, 73 Structons Heath – Permission has been approved. | |
|  |  | | | e. | No update on the Hundred House was received from the developers. It is believed that work is not in accordance with permissions and there are concerns over the quality of the work. Talks are ongoing. | |
|  |  | | | f. | Permission did not go ahead on The Bakery and an amended application will be going in. It was mainly denied as it was felt it was out of character.  PC reported that regarding 5 Stourport Road, Regulatory Services have reported some improvements but MHDC will be chasing the matter. | |
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| **9.** | **Finance:** | | | | | |
|  |  | | | a. | Invoices paid were approved and Remittances received were notified. | |
|  |  | | | b. | The Bank reconciliation was circulated and balanced prior to the meeting. | |
|  |  | | | c. | The Budget comparison was circulated prior to the meeting. | |
|  |  | | | d. | Following the advice received from the War Memorial Trust, it was agreed that the memorial will be cleaned by a working party with a natural bristle brush with water. FC said that Mary Chapman had suggested that perhaps a commemorative bench could be purchased using the funds gifted by Mr Spurrier and the names of the fallen in the Second World War be inscribed on a plaque on the bench. ***ACTION:*** BD will research the names of the fallen. | |
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| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:**   * CS will volunteer for a litter pick up. ***ACTION:*** The clerk will contact WCC to put our request in for a team to attend the parish in the October half term. * CD brought to the attention of the council concerns raised about the amount of mud being left on the road at Structons Heath from tractors which is not being cleared away. One residents gravel drive is now completely compacted. This has been reported to MHDC. Even though the Lengthsman has cleared the drains road water is running into this drive. WCC require tractors to clean mud off main roads but it is unclear about side roads. ***ACTION:*** The clerk will contact the Highways department to ask what can be done to clean the mud away. * CS brought an example of new Neighbourhood Watch Signs to the meeting which the council are in support of. CS will ask for 5 signs for the village and will arrange for an event to mark the signs coming to the village. ***ACTION:*** CS will contact Nina Das Gupta from BBC Hereford and Worcester regarding this event. * CS asked BD when the remedial work to the fence would be completed and BD said soon. * ***ACTION:*** CS asked the clerk to order a new defibrillator now the insurance monies have been banked. | | | | | |
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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. | Tree surgery quotations. | |
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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 21st November 2018. | | | | | |
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| The meeting closed at 22:30 | | | | | | |
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| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. | | | | | | |
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|  | | Chairman | | | |

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| **Notes of Public Question Time** | | | |
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| 7 Members of the public were in attendance and raised the following concerns during Public Question Time: | | | |
|  |  | 1. | A gentleman from Shrawley who is proposing to move to the new development at The Hundred House asked the Parish Council if they were opposed to the development and the plans? FC said that we supported the application for a public house with houses. Progress has slowed down recently to almost standstill. PC confirmed that it is a planning condition that the pub must be fitted out before the development can be sold and residents moved in. FC said that in case the pub failed the parish council have already discussed the idea of a community pub as it is an important addition to the village. English Heritage want to have the new pointing removed and redone and have raised some disapproval over the interior too. Work has stopped while the developers are in talks with English Heritage to try and fix the problems. It is hoped that work will be completed in the New Year. |
|  |  | 2. | The state of the drive to Witley Church is of great concern and it was hoped that the parish council could do something to improve the condition of it by asking the owners to attend to repair works. Unfortunately, FC said he didn’t think we could. CD pointed out that the drive to the tea rooms has a sign which says Private Road, but it should say Private Road with Access. **ACTION**: FC said he would speak to Angela Snow to see if the PCC could approach the owners, Chilvers, as it affects access to the tea rooms.  20:45 Public Question Times ended. |

Frank Chapman’s letter to Great Witley Filling Station

The Old Rectory,

Great Witiey,

Worcester.

WR66JP

From The Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council

Dear Sirs,

I am Chairman of the Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council and write to you on their behalf.

Firstly may I say how pleased we are with your presence in the village. The petrol station, the shop and the ATM provide very welcome services.

However, your success has brought about a problem which we would like you to address. In the past most callers at your premises were buying fuel and so were obliged to use the lanes alongside the fuel pumps with cars queuing behind at busy times.

Now we notice that a number of callers are not buying fuel but shopping for newspapers, food etc. and park wherever they can. Some however, especially lorries and large vans, park either on the pavement or half on and half off. The problem with this is that it obstructs visibility of traffic travelling along the main road and could lead to a serious accident. Several members of the public have brought this to our attention so we invite you to consider alternative ways of solving the problem.

We appreciate that there is little or no spare land at the side or rear of your premises but it may be that you could obtain a strip at the back and create some parking spaces. Alternatively we could ask the County Council to put yellow "no stopping' lines on the roadway along the length of the forecourt.

We would be pleased to help you deal with this in any way we can.

Yours faithfully

Frank Chapman

**Ken Pollock’s Report**

**GREAT WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**12.09.18**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

1. **Rail Developments**

In July, I mentioned our aspirations for further developments in our rail network. I was able to pursue these at a meeting at the House of Commons last Thursday, courtesy of GWR. The MD of Network Rail’s Midland Region, Mark Langman, was lobbied in detail by Harriett Baldwin, Tenbury’s MP, and by me, as a member of the North Cotswold Line Task Force.

We are hopeful that we will see dualling of the North Cotswold Line in the near future, complementing the opening of the Worcestershire Parkway station next year. It is crucial in our arguments with the Department for Transport, Network Rail and Midlands Connect that these rail improvements will help move some traffic off our motorway and major roads that are already experiencing congestion.

1. **The Financial Position**

Councillors will be aware of the extensive and detailed examination of all county expenditure necessary because of our financial position. One area under examination is supporting bus services and councillors will be aware of the reduction of some commercial services that have been announced recently.

The Tenbury area has the advantage of the excellent service provided by Tenbury Transport Trust and I am hopeful that the DfT will amend legislation to combat the impact of a recent court case that threatened the continued use of volunteer drivers.

There are notices of motion at tomorrow’s full Council meeting calling for more support for bus services and, while we are all aware of their value, any public subsidy needs to be justified. If there is insufficient demand, it is hard to argue that the public sector should intervene when many isolated communities have not been able to avail themselves of such services for many years.

At Cabinet on the 27th September, a detailed examination of our library services across the county will be presented. While it would be premature to go into detail, it is noted that Tenbury is recognised as having the third highest need in the county behind Redditch and Evesham. This should indicate it is secure, although visits have declined by 6% in the last year.

Stourport library lies 10th in the table for greatest need, and its recent relocation has resulted in a 28% increase in visits. Martley library is run as a community resource, a pattern that may be copied elsewhere in the county.

1. **Tenbury Public Realm works**

We will all be aware of various small items of work needed to complete the second phase of the Public Realm work on Teme Street, and I am assured that these problems will be tackled starting today. The work will include the following:

* Permanent repairs to the footway areas outside the Vaults and Smarty Pants
* Installation of bollards at discrete locations to protect against further vehicle loading
* Replacement of the ‘wobbly’ service covers outside the old post office.
* Repairs to the vent to the cellar beneath Smarty Pants

I would be grateful for any information from residents as to further work that needs correction. I am aware of the drainage problems outside the Bridge Hotel and I trust these will be sorted soon. We await certain works to be paid for by Tesco’s that are still not finished, including the seat to be positioned outside the Regal.

1. **Local issues**

I am sure many Great Witley residents will be pleased, as I am, that the appeal against the rejection of an application to build 175 house in the centre of the village was turned down. There are many smaller such developments in existence and planned, so the village is changing but at a pace that is more acceptable.

I have been approached by a resident who is worried about the speed of traffic entering the village from the west, and they suggest a flashing sign at the site of the 30mph limit. A cardboard warning sign is there already, but you may wish to consider funding such a VAS. I am not sure of its efficacy.

In ten days’ time, a cycling sportive will take place based at Goodwood in Sussex. This is instead of a second running of the Velo Birmingham that received a mixed reception when run through the county last year. Next May, a further such event is planned, but, while this will be based in Birmingham, it will go east to Warwickshire. This route is likely to become the one to be used by the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

**Cllr Ken Pollock**

**Cheltenham,**

**Gloucestershire,**

**GL50 2BZ**

**12.09.18**