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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 13th November 2019** |
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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), A Goodman (AG), N Drew (ND), C Jones (CJ), B Dallow (BD), A Symonds (AS) and P Trow (PT). |

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** C.Cllr K Pollock (KP) and D.Cllr P Cumming (PC) | | | | | |
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| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest:** None. | | | | | |
| **3.** | **To consider any Application for a dispensation:** None. | | | | | |
| **4.** | **Minutes:** The Minutes for meetings held on 10th July 2019 and 18th September 2019 were approved and signed. | | | | | |
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| **5.** | **Progress reports:**   1. Recycling Bins: FC reported that the contract for the Cardboard recycling bins are with R&S contractors arranged by MHDC. CS complained that the service provided by R&S was appalling. The bins were emptied, after much chasing, on Tuesday however the contractors left behind the overflow of cardboard even replacing the bin on top of said overflow. Prior to last Tuesday the bins were emptied on September 20th. They are supposed to be emptied every 2 weeks, unfortunately this is not the case. CS has recommended that we ask for the bins to be removed and alternative contractor arrangements made. Whilst Malvern Hills District Council look for an alternative contractor provider, a sign should be erected explaining why the bins have been removed and highlighting alternative recycling plants. ***ACTION:*** FC will communicate this to the parish through the parish magazine and direct parishioners to use the facilities at Stourport or Worcester. 2. Village Hall and Quartergreen: CS said the Village Hall is as busy as ever and that there will be a craft fair this Saturday. The film nights continue with the next showing being Green Book on the 13th December. A well-attended bonfire went ahead on the Quartergreen despite the wet weather. Thanks, are given to Richie and the Quarterman family for the use of their land and help to facilitate this social event. Regarding making charges for use of the sports facilities and the limitations that HMRC have made, contributions are now coming in from 2 football groups as well as The Walking Football group, otherwise known as Great Witley Senior Sports Group in conjunction with Worcester University. 3. Lengthsman and Footpaths: CJ confirmed that the lengthsman Chris Bunn does a very good job. Flooding water continues to be a problem around Home Farm, and it was thought that the tree felling at David Banks’s property might be the cause of the problem. If a channel was dug out around the barn on Roger Kendrick’s land excess water might be diverted away from the road where it causes flooding and icy hazards. ***ACTION:*** AG will speak to Roger Kendrick to enquire whether he would be prepared to dig out this channel as required. FC said that he was pleased with the siding out along the Stourport Road however, weeds are still a problem on the pavement and asked whether CJ could ask the lengthsman to use a weed wand to rid the path of weeds. Regarding the public footpath by Mr Owen's field CS said that the entrance to this path is shockingly wet. Pedestrians can't use it which means that the public footpath cannot be used and is becoming overgrown. Paul Owen said he would be happy to move the entrance along through a thin part of his hedge so that pedestrians can avoid this boggy patch. FC queried whether we would need to speak to the County Council and the owner if we wish to change the public footpath. AS suggested that by adding a new way to the public footpath this communication could be avoided. ***ACTION:*** BD will ask the owner Mr Owen if he is happy and prepared to make a new opening to the public footpath. BD will supply an estimate for required works. FC suggested that next Spring a working party walks all the parish public footpaths to see what maintenance work is required. AS pointed out that flooding by CDs house on the A443 towards Hillhampton remains a problem and asked 1. what could be dirt done and 2. why no flood warning signs were provided. CJ said that Ringway had tarmacked over a drain and he had asked MHDC to inspect this, but they were not prepared to dig up the road. ***ACTION:*** The Clerk will write to John Fraser requesting a new drain is provided by the white house as you leave the village and that flood warning signs are used to warn traffic of the hazardous conditions during wet weather. AG and CS both were of the opinion that Bowen's field could do with one more cut to tidy up the fallen leaves if the weather allows. 4. FC said that before the neighbourhood plan working party draft can be completed the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review needs to be sorted out. | | | | | |
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| **6.** | **CALC:** None. | | | | | |
| **7.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:** In the absence of the District and County Councillors’ reports have been received and are attached to these minutes.  [..\REPORTS\P Cumming Report 191113.docx.pdf](../REPORTS/P%20Cumming%20Report%20191113.docx.pdf)  [..\REPORTS\K Pollock 131109.docx](../REPORTS/K%20Pollock%20131109.docx) | | | | | |
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| **8.** | **Planning:** Application for Walnut House, Stourport Road was supported.  FC asked if the trees had been reinstated at to Stamford drive and also whether any further action will be taken against 5 starport Rd. Although there has been some slight improvement to the frontage of this property immediate neighbours are still not happy with its state. ***ACTION:*** FC will ask PC to update the parish council on both these matters. AS wanted to know if any progress is being made with the development at The Hundred House. FC said some work was taking place, but it was painfully slow and to date it was not apparent that work on fitting out the bar was in progress. | | | | | |
| **9.** | **Finance:**   1. Paid invoices and remittances were circulated and approved before this meeting. 2. The bank reconciliation was circulated and approved before the meeting. 3. The budget comparison was circulated before the meeting. 4. The budget comparison was used in discussions to set the precept for 2020. It was decided that no change would be made to the amount requested and therefore the Clerk will apply for a precept in the sum of £10,000 in January 2020.   CS said he would be providing the clerk with invoices for expenses relating to dog waste bags and would deduct the amount owing to the parish council already paid to him. | | | | | |
| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:** An email was received from Paula Verma requesting the parish council to consider a grant towards insurance costs for the running of the Parent and Toddlers playgroup. This was discussed along with the quotations provided but with reference to CALC’s guidelines it was decided we could not help on this occasion and that the chairman would write with our response and suggesting that further avenues such as Children in Need funding be explored. | | | | | |
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| **11.** | **Clerk’s report on Urgent Decisions made under delegation since the last meeting:** FC recently attended a meeting at the Guildhall in Worcester where the SWDP Review was outlined. The SWDP was adopted in 2016 by all councils and Great Witley was allocated 27 houses. Houses have been built, such as in the coal yard, plus an additional 25 houses which more than satisfies this allocation. The government policy says that every 5 years a review of the SWDP is carried out. This has now been published. Although it is not set in stone some persuasion will be needed for them to change their review. It was decided that between 2021 and 2041 14,000 new houses would be required. This parish council sent in its view. More than 13,000 houses have been allocated to Rushwick, Thockmorton and Parkway. 900 more in the outlying rural villages. For ease, category 1 villages have been chosen as they already have facilities and amenities. Great Witley have been allocated 44 new homes to be built in the field next to the Glebe. It was decided that a public meeting would be arranged on November 21st to communicate this to the parishioners. FC asked for flyers to be distributed and these were handed out at the meeting to volunteer counsellors to post around the village. AS said, he would publish the flyer on the social network site Nextdoor. ND wanted to know if the meeting would be fair and unbiased. He does not want the meeting to be an anti-protest towards the development. He's for any development where the village may benefit. He was told that it is the parish council's duty of care to inform the parishioners of this review and its impact on the village. FC thinks this development will go through prompting an application for further development to go straight into the Planning Department. AG asked how the development was going to happen. Could the village have a say in what sort of houses are to be built. Would they be self builds? Or buy to let? He used the example of Springfield house now being used as an air bnb rather than occupied by a local resident. A lot of the houses in the last development are known to be buy to let. FC thought the solution would be for the 44 houses to be split into 2 stages of development. The first to happen immediately but the second stage to not happen for another 10 years and he would like to see this done by an agreement. AG highlighted the environmental impact this new development would have for example all the new cars it would bring to the village who would have to commute to their place of work or shops. ND said that he did not want to be difficult. He wants the parish council to be more involved with the developers in order to gain benefits for the village and what he doesn't want is a negative approach. FC thought that not all the development should be allocated to category 1 villages. Smaller villages may benefit from better facilities if developments could go ahead. ND said occupants of new houses will still have to drive as the planners say that sustainable development is not possible in smaller villages. FC argued this point by saying that new shops and facilities would be built as a result of this new development**.** AS said that Wychavon could swallow more developments and the spread of houses could then go out to smaller villages. As there are approximately 900 villages in Wychavon an extra 1 or 2 houses in each village would equate to the 900 required without too much disruption. FC then read out his personal response to this Review (attached). [..\GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE\FC comments South Worcestershire Development Plan Review.docx](../GENERAL%20CORRESPONDENCE/FC%20comments%20South%20Worcestershire%20Development%20Plan%20Review.docx) ND is of the opinion that parishioners need to be more open minded where new development is concerned. Going back to the application for 175 houses he said that the parish council should have been able to have an open dialogue with the Pains. FC replied no dialogue was possible as the first he knew about the application was when it was published by the Planning Department. ND replied that this was “rubbish”. FC reminded the meeting that we were being asked to respond on a Review Policy. Not an application. ND does not want urban style development. He would prefer Border Oak style houses, but CD said that in the end it all comes down to budget and that style of house will more than likely be too expensive to achieve. | | | | | |
| **12.** | **Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda:**   1. CS represents the Great Witley Seniors Sports Team and that the Quartgreen had given £100 grant towards new kit. 2. PC was not present. 3. The rules governing the use of drones was published in the Parish Magazine. 4. CS provided a draft Safeguarding Policy for the parish Council to consider. ***ACTION:*** CS will for this draft to the Parish Council. | | | | | |
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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 8th January 2020. | | | | | |
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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 9.40pm | | | | | | |
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| **Notes of Public Question Time** | | | |
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| 3 Members of the public were in attendance and raised the following concerns during Public Question Time: | | | |
|  |  | 1. | It was brought to the parish council's attention that when the big school bus parks at drop off and pick up times it cannot access the schools drive and therefore stops on the roadside outside the black and white house. Parents picking up their children from school then park behind the bus obstructing visibility on the main road causing a hazard. Apparently, the school had asked parents to be more careful where they park but this continues to be a problem. BD suggested but the parish council speak to the school and the community policing officer Vanessa Snape regarding this. AS asked whether we could contact the Highways Department to paint no parking lines along this stretch of road. BD wondered whether we could make it a left turn only out of the car park. PT suggested that we asked the school if they can stagger the finishing times for pupils or remove the hedge between the car park and the doctor’s surgery which might make parking easier for the bus. ***ACTION:*** Clerk too email the school and Vanessa regarding this matter. |
|  |  | 2. | One member of the public noted that the hedge at Mr Newings’s property has not been cut back to the curb. The parish council reported that the Highways Department are satisfied the hedge has been trimmed back sufficiently. However, it was suggested that's a letter is sent to Mr Newings in January to remind him to give the hedge a further cut back before the birds nest again, so that it does not outgrow its position during the following spring and summer causing obstructions to road visibility. ***ACTTION:*** Clerk to diarise this. |