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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 Wednesday 14th July 2021** |
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| **Present: Acting Chairman**, Cllr F Chapman (FC). |
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| **In Attendance:** Clerk, J Evans, Cllrs C Dermietzel (CD), N Drew (ND), B Dallow (BD), A Symonds (AS), P Trow (PT) and C.Cllr D Chambers (DC) and D.Cllr P Cumming (PC). |

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** C Jones (CJ),  **Absent:** A Goodman (AG), | | | | | |
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| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest:** None. | | | | | |
| **3.** | **To consider any Application for a dispensation:** None. | | | | | |
| **4.** | **Minutes:** The Minutes for 12.05.21 and 20.05.21 were approved and signed. | | | | | |
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| **5.** | **Progress reports:** ND proposed PT should take over from FC as Chair and AS seconded this. PT proposed CD should take over from PT as Vicechair and BD seconded this. Declaration of Acceptance of Office will be signed.  FC said that he had put tape rings around the badger holes in Bowen’s Field as a safety precaution. ***ACTION:*** The clerk will contact Red Kite senior ecologist to quote for a survey of the badger setts. ND will also email the Clerk with the person he uses for ecology surveys.  The time for applications for the vacancy on the parish council has elapsed so we are now able to co-opt. ***ACTION:*** BD will ask Dan Griffiths if he would consider joining as he has shown some interest. FC seconded this. BD will forward Mr Griffiths contact details to the Clerk who will write to him in this regard.  NPWP: FC reported that we are still awaiting political developments. He has noted that the Home Counties are “kicking back” and he is waiting to see if the Government abandon their proposals or not.  SWDP Review: Again, we are waiting to see what happens. Options have been sent and responses received but nothing has happened since.  BD asked if Bloor Homes have acquired 2 plots of land in Great Witley? The fields in question are at present in open countryside. ND queried if the land was in the settlement boundary? FC said they would have to change land from open countryside to land which can be built on. A representative from Bloor Homes want to talk to us at our next meeting in September.  BD also reported that he had heard on the Jeremy Vine Show that the World Society of Architects are lobbying parliament that areas recording carbon emissions will no more be free from VAT. Bowen’s Field is green and therefore will be free from VAT.  FC reported that the 100 House have assured us that they still have the milestone and will reinstate it. He asked when the Bar will be open but has not received an answer to date. It was noted that as they appear to be finding it hard to sell the new properties at 100 House, does the village need any more new housing? | | | | | |
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| **6.** | **CALC:** All CALC updates are circulated, and it was highlighted that  discussions are now taking place to consider how to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee next year. Please see notes under point 12. | | | | | |
| **7.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:** FC took this opportunity to wish PC good health.  District Councillors Report:  PC reported that the number of councillors is to be reduced from 38 to 31. It was decided that there are too many currently to cover the local population for MHDC. Changes will be made before the next election and results from discussions will be made known in about 12 months’ time. The public can have their say and encouraged to do so.  PC said that following his recent ill health, he is asking MHDC to publish a list of all local defibrillators and where they can be found. This is should then be made available of their website.  Provisions for capital money and revenue for support is allocated for specific purposes. 0.5 million can go out and the average member has no say in where it goes. These funds need to go to all areas of the district, not just one. PC will comment that rural areas need to be considered not just the district.  County Councillors Report:  DC’s report was circulated prior to the meeting: [..\REPORTS\D Chambers Great Witley Report 14.07.21.docx](../REPORTS/D%20Chambers%20Great%20Witley%20Report%2014.07.21.docx)  Note: TSB will act to facilitate a safe environment for anyone suffering from domestic abuse. The code for help is “could I use your facilities?” ***ACTION:*** This will be published in the parish magazine. | | | | | |
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| **8.** | **Planning:** CD noticed that a planning notice has not been put up by a resident and asked if the parish council supported her in contacting the applicant to publish the notice at the property. FC agreed she should ask for this to be done.  PT highlighted that the footpaths are not in a good state in Hillhampton. The Clerk said we have been advertising for a parish warden for at least the past 6 years, but no one has come forward to offer to carry out the maintenance required. | | | | | |
| **9.** | **Finance:** All finance for approval was circulated prior to the meeting along with the Bank Reconciliation and Budget Comparison. [..\..\Users\great\OneDrive\Documents\Bank Reconciliation 06 (1).pdf](../../Users/great/OneDrive/Documents/Bank%20Reconciliation%2006%20(1).pdf) [..\..\Users\great\OneDrive\Documents\Bank Reconciliation 06 (2).pdf](../../Users/great/OneDrive/Documents/Bank%20Reconciliation%2006%20(2).pdf) [..\..\Users\great\OneDrive\Documents\Budget Comparison to end 06.21.pdf](../../Users/great/OneDrive/Documents/Budget%20Comparison%20to%20end%2006.21.pdf)  The new litter bins have been purchased and received and these have been handed over to BD who will liaise with Keith Ballard who will in turn install them. | | | | | |
| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:** An enquiry was received from the Chairman of Herefordshire & Worcestershire LTA to establish if our Parish Council have control of any tennis courts within the parish. ***ACTION:*** The Clerk will write to ask why they need to know and if they are willing to contribute to the maintenance of the facility? | | | | | |
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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:** It was agreed that a celebration for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee would take place on Sunday 5th June 2022 at lunchtime. A sub-committee was set up to organise this event and consists of BD, PT, CD, AS and AG (in his absence on behalf of the Quartergreen). ND would organise mobile toilets but will not be able to be on the sub-committee. PT will be responsible for Childrens’ gifts and a request will be made in the parish magazine for anyone of primary school age, 7-11, who wish to receive a commemorative gift should write to the Clerk and their name which will be passed onto PT. BD will be responsible for flying the Union Jack on the flagpole and the Bar using his liquor licence. Catering will also need to be organised and the Clerk has contacted the local Film Orchestra who are happy to support the event with their Jazz Band. | | | | | |
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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 in September on a date to be confirmed. | | | | | |
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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 21:20 | | | | | | |
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| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. | | | | | | |
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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. | Gentleman from Robyns Croft brought up the problem with speeding traffic again through the village. FC explained that this is an ongoing problem and outline what the parish council had done so far to tackle this matter and the responses we have received. To summarise: our roads are not wide enough to paint white lines to make them appear narrower, bollards are deemed too dangerous, we have more mobile speed camera than anywhere else in the County, the SRP do not think traffic speed excessively through the village according to the results of their research gathered and funds prevent WCC from changing the infrastructure.  It was asked if more 30mph speed signs could be inserted. CD pointed out that they are at the entrance to the village and AS said motorists should know what speed to drive. FC said that the pavements are narrow so even if lorries are keeping to 30mh they are so close to you it is frightening. ND asked why WCC do not keep the pavements clear of overgrowth. ***ACTION:*** DC will talk to Hannah Davies of Highways to ask if the pavements can be cleared where hedges have grown over them. He also offered some of his funds to clear the pavements by the 100 House and to purchase white gates at the entrance to the village. He will also see if the speed limit by the school can be reduced to 20mph. ND clarified that it is at the base of hedges that are causing problems where they are encroaching on the pavements. DC responded that WCC only clear pavements when it is a health and safety issue, and it is deemed dangerous. Any minor accidents need to be reported so that they can be recorded. FC explained that it is a catch 22 situation. That if the pavements are not cleared, they are not used. If they are not used it is deemed that they do not need to be maintained! ***ACTION:*** The Clerk asked the member of the public to email with his concerns which she will then forward onto DC and Hannah Davies. FC queried whether a 20mph limit could be imposed from the link road to the Post Office? The parish council, with a show of hands, approved that this should be requested. ***ACTION:*** The Clerk will request a reduction in speed following this resolution. FC asked DC if residents could be written to reminding them to cut their hedges. PC said if residents take no action, we are to ask WCC to write to them. |
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