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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 10th November 2021**  **(The meeting was voice recorded and Gill Lungley from CALC attended via Zoom)** |
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| **Present: Chairman**, Cllr P Trow (PT). |
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| **In Attendance:** Clerk, J Evans, Cllrs C Dermietzel (CD), F Chapman (FC), A Goodman (AG), N Drew (ND), C Jones (CJ), A Symonds (AS), and D.Cllr P Cumming (PC). |

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** B Dallow (BD) and C.Cllr D Chambers (DC) | | | | | |
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| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest:** None made but this was disputed. PT said that in 2019 ND said that the Pains, whose planning application was requested to be brought up for discussion by ND, used ND’s lakes to irrigate their land. This was Minuted and approved and are a signed legal copy of the facts stated at that meeting held on 10.07.19. It was pointed out to the Parish Council that any failure to disclose an interest be it Pecuniary or Other Disclosable is a criminal offence and as such can be reported to the Police. Any request for dispensation must be made in writing to the Clerk and received 4 working days before the meeting is held. | | | | | |
| **3.** | **To consider any Application for a dispensation:** None received. | | | | | |
| **4.** | **Minutes:** Approved and signed. | | | | | |
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| **5.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:** PC reported that there remains a problem with planning conditions not being complied with and that there were issues with planning enforcement. He will pursue this. In relation to the 100 House, there still appears to be no work having been started to fit out the bar. Before they are allowed to have 50% of the dwellings occupied it is a condition of their planning permission that the bar and management accommodation must be in place. PC also said that in DC’s report Section 106 monies received from a development are not being allocated to the Hospital Trust as:   * there is limited money available to spread around from a viable development. No application was received from the Hospital Trust involved when the money was originally allocated. A decision was to allocate the money from any subsequent claims now received would affect monies already allocated. * Providing S106 funds for other purposes could also affect the amount available for affordable housing to the detriment of local communities.   CD pointed out this is where the 100 House have not kitted out their bar as stated in the planning conditions and they would be in breach if they sold over 50% of their houses, therefore, action may need to be taken and an enforcement notice served. CD said that those who follow the rules should not be disadvantaged by those who do not. FC reported that the company managing the 100 House development has gone into liquidation but that the planning conditions still need to be complied with. FC also asked PC if anything can be done regarding the state of 5 Stourport Road and it seems that despite previous efforts to clear the rubbish on the front of the property, no progress has been made. PC will chase this matter up again. Environmental Services have also been involved but they are under pressure with larger more urgent issues, although this does not excuse or help with our problem. The immediate neighbours need to make a formal complaint to the police.  DC report is attached: [..\REPORTS\D Chambers Great Witley Parish Council Report 10.11.21.docx](../REPORTS/D%20Chambers%20Great%20Witley%20Parish%20Council%20Report%2010.11.21.docx) | | | | | |
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| **6.** | **Progress reports: *ACTION:*** FC has the materials necessary to cap the badger holes in Bowen’s Field. He asked if he could appoint his gardener for help carrying out the heavy work which should take 2 hours and at a cost of £15 per hour. It was voted unanimously by a show of hands to approve this request.   1. Neither the Chairman nor Clerk had any progress reports. 2. AG reported that the Village Hall had received a response from the organisers of the recent cycling event where problems had been highlighted. They were most apologetic. The Quartergreen held a very successful bonfire night celebration and raised around £4,000. The Quartergreen are also happy to help with the planned Jubilee celebrations next year. AG suggested a village street party in the car park may be a nice thing to consider, at lunchtime with a bouncy castle for the children and the Jazz Band, which is booked. CD asked if the school field might be a better venue so the car park can be used for visitors attending the street party. FC asked about the flagpole idea initially raised by BD. AG said that he had agreed to have one located at the top of Walsgrave hill, for which a survey had been carried out. FC asked if the flagpole outside the Village Hall might be better used and to buy a flag for it. CD said there was already a flag. FC suggested that Union Jack flags could be provided for all the residents of the parish. 3. CJ reported that the Lengthsman is very busy and doing a great job. 4. FC reported that there is still political limbo with the NP and that the proposed Government plans proved to be very unpopular. He has no idea what will happen next. Abberley have had their Plan approved but since Turnpike Close there have been no new developments in the parish, so we are fairly safe. If the proposal for the development of 44 houses is adopted, then any NP to prevent that will be stuck down. | | | | | |
| **7.** | **CALC:** All CALC updates and training dates were circulated prior to this meeting for consideration. | | | | | |
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| **8.** | **Planning:** Although there were no planning applications to consider ND asked that we discuss our response to the Witley Park application. AS considered our procedure to be wrong and that we need to think about how to improve it. He was initially against the application but having since received feedback from the other parish councillors he has changed his mind. PC confirmed that the deadline for responses has been extended as the advert for the application was late. We can now put further views in which will be taken into consideration. FC stated that we are a consultee who will indicate the general view of the parish. PC said that we are a statutory consultee, and our view is the Parish Council’s view. Our opinions can be given but they must apply to planning.  PT has had a detailed look at the application and raised 3 points:   1. Do they have enough grazing, and do they need a change of use for equine purposes? PC said that applying for a building to keep horses, the land has to be considered and should go in the application. He does consider there is a distinction between the two. FC asked if there was no sufficient grazing then would this be a planning issue. 2. Have they considered the health and safety aspect of the Livery being on a working farm? CD said that machinery is always going passed and horses are not predictable animals. Will there be set timings for traffic to take into consideration the immediate neighbours? FC said you can put this response in as an individual. 3. Will the opening hours also be taken into consideration so that the extra traffic will not have a negative impact on the neighbours, i.e. weekends, early morning, late nights?   At this point the representative from CALC who had already pointed out that anyone who had an interest, Pecuniary or Other should have left the room while this application is being discussed. AG said that *all the farmers all know each other and do business with one another, what’s the point of being on the Parish Council?* Anyone who had not left the room and did have an interest was committing a criminal offence. AG and CJ then stated they both had an interest and left the room. ND was still disputing his interest even though CALC had confirmed that he had an interest through his statement made in 2019 and that he said during this meeting that he knew Mr Pain as he went to school with him. He therefore has a closer relationship with the applicant more than anyone else on the parish council. ND asked if he could read a statement which PT agreed.  [..\PLANNING\Nigel Drew statement re Pains 211110.docx](../PLANNING/Nigel%20Drew%20statement%20re%20Pains%20211110.docx)  Following this statement, ND asked if he was still required to leave the room which CALC confirmed and reiterated he should have already left. ND left the room.  The remaining Parish Council members were happy with the application if the anxieties raised by PT can be met. A majority of 4, by a show of hands, was made. The clerk would send in a further response.  FC suggested a subcommittee should be set up for planning application discussions. AS said that a meeting could be called if there appears to be an ambiguity from the email responses received by the clerk once an application has been circulated. This was agreed by all remaining members.  ND, AG, and CJ re-entered the meeting once planning discussion were completed. | | | | | |
| **9.** | **Finance:** All invoices and remittances were circulated prior to the meeting for approval along with the Bank Reconciliation and Budget Comparison.  SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER FINANCES   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | J Evans | Printer ink |  | BACS | 31.49 | | F Chapman | Lanes, poles and tape |  | BACS | 43.50 | | C Bunn | Lengthsman August invoice |  | BACS | 203.00 | | S Oakey | Dog waste bags |  | BACS | 24.99 | | J Evans | Clerk's September invoice |  | BACS | 503.40 | | J Evans | McAfee renewal |  | BACS | 74.99 | | J Evans | Weebly website renewal |  | BACS | 69.60 | | WCC | Lengthsman Scheme August | **£203.00** |  |  | | MHDC | Precept Payment 2021/22 | **£5,000.00** |  |  | | J Evans | Microsoft 365 renewal |  | BACS | 59.99 | | J Evans | Stationery |  | BACS | 14.00 | | C Bunn | Lengthsman Sept invoice |  | BACS | 196.00 | | K Ballard | Bin installation |  | BACS | 643.86 | | J Evans | Clerk's October invoice |  | BACS | 369.52 | | WCC | Lengthsman Sept invoice | **£196.00** |  |  | | | | | | |
| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:** A letter was received from MHDC informing us that we have received £281.27 from the Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund. This money has been deposited in the Section 106 bank account for safekeeping while a decision is made, within the next 5 years, as to how it will be spent in accordance with the regulatory requirements highlighted in the letter.  [..\FINANCE\Community Infrasctructure Levy Local Share Advance warning Great Witley 08-11-2021.docx](../FINANCE/Community%20Infrasctructure%20Levy%20Local%20Share%20Advance%20warning%20%20Great%20Witley%2008-11-2021.docx) | | | | | |
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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:**   * Dark Skies Policy, still waiting for a response to our application to be included on the Dark Skies Register. * Worcestershire Queens Green Canopy – ***ACTION:*** Clerk - a response will be submitted saying we would like to plant 2 or 3 saplings in Bowen’s Field. * CALC Updates, ***ACTION:*** PT to submit our response to the survey regarding our experience using virtual and hybrid council meetings and whether we would like to have that option again. * It was agreed that we would get the 2 faded information panels on Woodbury Hill refurbished as well as the notice boards at the Post Office and Hillhampton. ***ACTION:*** Councillors will look at the information panels to see if they are labelled with who created them and the Clerk will investigate who made the notice board at The Glebe and approach them for a quotation for 2 new notice boards. * CALC new Employment Kite Mark Scheme was pointed out. * CJ reported that the new bins need to be emptied and ***ACTION***: the Clerk agreed to inform Street Amenities. AS confirmed, he had emptied some bins. ***ACTION:*** AG will remove the bins from Bowen’s Field, and they will be repositioned where the refuse lorries can access them. Once the bins have been relocated AG will inform the Clerk who can then add them to the collection list. * AS highlighted that the new road resurfacing has been put on top of the existing surface which means that the road levels are now rising and will cause a flooding hazard to some properties and that the new manholes are now lower than the road level. ***ACTION:*** AS will draft a letter which the Clerk will send to Highways. * The broken VAS is still unresolved. No one is, it seems, prepared to accept responsibility for it so ***ACTION:*** the Clerk will contact Hannah Davies at Highways to ask if we can adopt it and therefore replace the missing solar panel or remove the post which is starting to lean into the road which will soon be a hazard to vehicles. | | | | | |
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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 January 2022. | | | | | |
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| The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes. 3 members of the public attended but nothing was raised. | | | | | | |
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| The meeting closed at 21:30pm | | | | | | |
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| **Notes of Public Question Time** – None. | | | |
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**Worcestershire County Council Report**

**Meeting of Great Witley Parish Council 10th November 2021**

1. Latest Covid Figures as at 8th November are:
2. Worcestershire is showing an infection rate of 442cases per 100,000.
3. The infection rate in the Malvern Hills District is 428 cases per100,000.
4. The direction of travel varies within districts in Worcestershire, but Malvern Hills continues to rise.
5. Redditch has the lowest infection rate in Worcestershire with Wyre Forest District the highest rate at 524 per 100,000.
6. The rate of infection in England as a whole, is 400 cases per 100,000.
7. Vaccination of children aged 12 and over is now progressing in schools and other venues, with Booster jabs being offered to those over 50 and the otherwise vulnerable.
8. Please encourage everyone you know who is eligible, to take their Booster jab as soon as possible. At a meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee last week, the Chief Executive of the Acute NHS Trust reported, that many of the new Covid patients are now double vaccinated but have not yet taken up their Booster jab.
9. Two wards are now occupied with Covid patients and a third may become necessary in the coming days, if numbers continue to rise.
10. With all the pressures the Acute NHS Trust currently finds itself in, with winter still approaching and attempting to bring forward delayed operations due to the pandemic, I personally was very disappointed that the Planning Committee at MHDC refused last week, to allocate the requested £1.8 million to the Acute Trust, as part of Section 106 monies coming forward from the South Worcestershire Urban Extension.
11. Following the visit of the Leader and Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Council to Tenbury last month, I have arranged a meeting next week at County Hall with them both, and also the Cabinet Member and representatives from the Environment Agency, to receive updates of progress, regarding the Tenbury Flood Defences. With works due to start early next year, I would like to be assured that plans, timescales and funding are all in place, because as we all know, this project is time critical.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division