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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 6th July 2023** |
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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), C Jones (CJ), B Dallow (BD), D Trow (DT) and C Hamer (CH), Andrew Goodman (AG) and Darren Danks (DD). D Cllr Pam Cumming (PamC) |

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** C.Cllr D Chambers (DC) and D.Cllr P Cumming (PC). | | | | | |
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| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest:** CD for Structons Heath planning application. | | | | | |
| **3.** | **To consider any Application for a dispensation:** None.  **DARREN DANKS WAS CO-OPTED UNANIMOUSLY AS A MEMBER OF THE GWHHPC.** | | | | | |
| **4.** | **Minutes:** The Minutes of meeting held on 11.05.23 were approved and signed. | | | | | |
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| **5.** | **District and County Councillors’ Reports:** Reports are attached to the end of the Minutes. | | | | | |
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| **6.** | **Progress reports:**   1. The mowing quote was accepted, and contact will be made with the contractors. It was agreed to order 2 benches for The Glebe. 2. Ruth Goodman reported that at the AGM the Quartergreen was incorporated into the Village Hall Committee. The Quartergreen has funds of £10,000. The LED lights need to be replaced and a quote for £6,000 has come in, which can be covered by the Quartergreen funds. Discussions are taking place as to whether £1 tokens will be required to help towards increasing energy costs. Thanks was given to BD who has repaired the broken door on the mower shed. It is now being considered how best to use this building going forward. The village hall is going to be redecorated. BD reported that he will replacing the gate next week, but the fence is the responsibility of Severn Trent as it was their tanker which got bogged down. As we grant them a licence to us this area they will be contacted by the Clerk ***(ACTION)*** to make the necessary arrangements to replace the broken fence. BD said that the village hall has 3 potholes which need repairing. ***(ACTION)*** Clerk will contact local contractors to quote for repairs. AG pointed out that the access to the surgery needs maintenance. As this is the responsibility of the surgery ***(ACTION)*** Clerk will contact them to ask for the necessary maintenance to be done. 3. CJ reported that the Lengthsman is busy and continues to do a good job. 4. FC reported that we are no further forward with the NP. No date has been given for the funding and we are waiting for this to be re-opened. He is worried that Gove MP is waiting to see what happens with the changes to Planning by the Government. It was suggested that Harriet Baldwin is contacted to see if she can prompt the Minister to release the funds and until this happens, we are in limbo. We have done the research but need the funding to draft our plan. | | | | | |
| **7.** | **CALC:** All updates and training events were circulated prior to this meeting. | | | | | |
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| **8.** | **Planning:** Although no applications were received when the agenda was being prepared it was felt important to discuss an application received before the meeting. This was for a re-applied application for a track at Structons Heath. Following comments received from residents that would be affected by this application it was decided to object once again as the application has been previously refused and the subsequent appeal failed. CD left the room as she had declared an interest at the start of the meeting, and the majority decision to object was done with a show of hands. | | | | | |
| **9.** | **Finance:** All finance was circulated prior to the meeting and DT did a spot check on the cash book and receipts against bank statements and found all was correct. | | | | | |
| **10.** | **Correspondence for Information:** | | | | | |
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| **11.** | **Clerk’s report on Urgent Decisions made under delegation since the last meeting:** | | | | | |
| **12.** | **Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda:**   * It was reported that the overgrown hedge at Brook House, Martley Road is causing tractors and lorries to travel on the wrong side of the road to avoid it. As we have an ongoing issue with the owners of the hedge not maintaining the hedge sufficiently it was decided to report to WCC. * ***(ACTION)*** The clerk was asked to write to the legal department of the MHDC Planning to report the missing heritage milestone at the Hundred House and the rubbish and vermin problem at 5 Stourport Road. * BD reported that there has been an increase in discarded litter and in antisocial behaviour in the village causing damage to property. This has been reported to West Mercia Police and the SNT. | | | | | |
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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 Thusday 14th September 2023. | | | | | |
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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 9.30 pm | | | | | | |
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| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. | | | | | | |
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|  | | Chairman | | | |

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| **Notes of Public Question Time** | | | |
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| Members of the public were in attendance and raised the following concerns during Public Question Time: | | | |
|  |  | 1. | Regarding the application for 9 houses in the village. No decision has yet been received and as the parish council has already commented on this application the member was recommended that they make their own personal comment. |
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**Worcestershire County Councillor Report for Town and Parish Councils in the Tenbury Division**

**June/July 2023**

1. The County Council has recently undergone a three week OFSTED inspection. Findings should be announced late June or July.
2. Following the recent murder trial of a young child in Coventry, the mother has been found guilty of manslaughter and her partner of murder. The murder itself took place in Worcestershire. Now the trial is over there will be a process of investigation, which West Mercia Police and Worcestershire County Council will both undergo.
3. The Boundary Review for Divisions within Worcestershire is underway. Once the Boundary Commission have concluded their work and following public consultation, the new Divisions will come into effect at the elections in May 2025.
4. The County Council is undertaking a number of “Road Shows” across the county over the summer. Details can be found on the council’s website.
5. Following early success derived through the Bromsgrove on Demand (BoD) Service, WCC has launched a second Pilot in South Malvern for increased provision of sustainable and efficient Demand Response Transport (DRT) in a rural location. The service will initially focus on Upton and Kempsey.
6. There is to be an increase in the cost of Home to School Transport rates for Vacant Seats. The increase will only effect those not eligible for free Home to School Transport, where vacant seats are available. The increase will only partly offset the increased cost incurred by WCC. WCC has not raised prices for several years and prices remain below those of our neighbouring counties who offer similar schemes.
7. Grass cutting is currently underway across the county, in partnership with the District Councils. A depth of approximately one metre is cut to allow for biodiversity.
8. At a recent Full Meeting of the County Council, Councillors unanimously agreed a revised Code of Conduct for Councillors following work done by the Local Government Association and a consultation process by WCC’s Standards and Ethics Committee.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division

District Councillors Report July 2023 Baldwin Ward The Council has started its new term under new ward boundaries, but events from pre-elec"on s"ll influence ma$ers and once again chiefly in the area of planning. The June council mee"ng has now been cancelled due to lack of business, but we remain busy behind the scenes clearing outstanding issues - not least on planning enforcement issues. There have been planning appeals at Astley , mainly within Baldwin Ward, where 145 houses opposed by MHDC on the edge of Stourport were granted outline permission, in addi"on to a further 50 at Martley primarily because of the lack of a five year land supply in the District. Such decisions emphasise the need for the SWDPR review to be completed. We will be pursuing this point , stressing that it creates further pressure on the already overstretched Severn river crossings which need addressing in the transport policies of the revised plan. On a more posi"ve route we have con"nued to press for the £1.2 addi"onal one off grant from the government to be earmarked for infrastructure needed under the new plan, rather than be put in general reserves and are pleased to say that a recommenda"on is now going to the Execu"ve Commi$ee to achieve this. Our specific individual roles at Malvern for the immediate future are now clarified with Pam focussing on the environment and Paul on planning and economic development. We are pleased and grateful to have been returned as members of the new ward and thank residents for their support which we intend to jus"fy. Pam and Paul Cumming Baldwin Ward

FC said that a development has been approved at appeal in Shrawley. The 5 year land supply is a rolling number and we have to keep looking at it. There was a failure to prove a 5 year land supply and the delay in the SWDP is letting us down.

He asked PamC to ask PC if they have got a 5 year land supply? Looking at MHDC, Worcester City and Wychavon, as nothing has been built by Worcester City or Wychavon are they making MHDC build more houses? Is this why Great Witley is being told its needs to build more houses?

PamC reported that there are high hopes with the new appointment of Gail Wooton as Director of Planning, that she will get the job done and send to the Government.

It if feared that developers will jump on this delay to their own advantage.