

The Minutes of Abberley Parish Council
Held at Abberley Village Committee Meeting Room at 7:30pm on 15th March, 2017

Present: Cllrs Mr T Nott (Chairman), Mrs C Knight (Vice Chairman),
Ms K Andrew, Mr G Crompton, Mr T Eden, Mr J Gibson, Mr R Goodman, Mr A Jukes.

In Attendance: County Cllr Dr K Pollock, District Cllr Mr P Cumming, Clerk

23. Apologies. Cllr Mrs N Kedwards

24. Declarations of Interest

- a. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
- b. Disclosure Pecuniary Interests: No pecuniary interests were declared.
- c. Other Disclosable Interests: No other disclosable interests were declared.

Scheduled Adjournment (Public Question Time)

Parishioner Mr Hammond raised his concerns about Bank Lane. An aide memoire of the discussion is attached to these Minutes (see Appendix 1).

25. Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th February, 2017 were approved.

26. Progress Reports:

- a. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (Cllr Andrew)
Cllr Andrews notified the council that meetings would resume in March 2017, following the cancellation of February's scheduled meeting.
- b. Website (Cllr Crompton)
The new website is nearing completion and will be live as soon as possible. There will be a contact link on the new website which includes Cllrs names, phone numbers and pictures. Cllrs Andrew and Jukes requested that their contact numbers were not displayed. In her absence it was assumed that Cllr Kedwards number was not to be displayed until she had given her direct consent to Cllr Crompton. All other Cllrs confirmed their numbers could be displayed.

Cllrs were encouraged to promote the use of the redesigned website by parishioners and others.

- c. Internal Auditor (Cllr Eden). Kevin Gittins and Cllr Eden (the former internal auditor) had discussed the upcoming internal audit. Mr Gittins will be charging a nominal fee of £20.00 for the 2016/17 audit.
- d. BT Phone Kiosk (Clerk)
BT, via Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) had confirmed that the current phone kiosk and number would remain operational at this time. The Clerk had already logged a request with BT for a full scale clean-up of the kiosk, which is in a sorry state of repair. The Clerk had also written a case and produced supporting evidence requesting that BT repaint the box once it has been thoroughly cleaned.

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27. Planning.

- a. 16/00816/OUT (Walshes Farm).

Cllr Goodman was thanked for the superb job he did in arguing against the development at the Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) Northern Development Management Committee (NDMC) Meeting on 1st March, 2017. The NDMC however approved outline consent for up to 26 dwellings.

District Councillor Cummings, who voted for the proposal, confirmed that the affordable housing segment of the layout is poor and this was noted in the NDMC Minutes. He also commented that the 26 dwellings are a maximum number and that the layout as a whole needs reconsidering. His decision to vote for approval was based on the current situation in which any successful appeal against a non-approval which ensure that MHDC would have no influence on the final layout.

Cllr Eden asked District Cllr Cummings why an additional 15 houses were given outline consent, over and above the parameters outlined in the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). District Cllr Cummings responded that the government stipulations on the need for new housing overrode the SWDP parameters.

28. Highways

- a. Vēlo Birmingham. The Clerk alerted the Council to the significant road closures that would be instigated around the Abberley parish on Sunday 24th September, 2017, in order to facilitate the 15,000 competitor’s sportif that would be taking place in the area.
- b. The Council reviewed the highways update provided by the Clerk.

Highways Report ID	Brief Description	Status
238649	Footpath Abberley Park downhill to village shop/up to junction B42020 Clows Top Road.	Referred to County Councillor Pollock at last meeting. Clerk has received a back dated update (emailed 22/02/2017, but dated 3 rd November, 2016). “Works will be undertaken when siding out programme of works allows.”
247475 & BT Openreach ID WM1ERB49	Flooding Brick Yard Corner / B4202 towards Pensax. BT ducting now exposed due to vehicle eroding verge opposite when avoiding flooding.	23/02/2017 – Gullies in the vicinity have been juetted. Clerk to continue to chase BT Openreach regarding re-burying of cable ducting.
248515	Flooding. Jacobs Well Suffolk Lane WR6 6BE 28/11/2016.	Matter now referred to the flood management team. Jetting has apparently taken place and an order for Root Cutting insder the drain(s) has been placed.
259483	Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on bend continues to exhibit intermittent problems – sometimes working/sometimes not.	No update. Report still open.

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Highways Report ID	Brief Description	Status
274996	Safety Railing / Bollards junction A443 and B4202	No update. Report still open. Cllr Jukes (original raiser of item) commented that now the elbow joint has been attached to the end rail there is little else that can be done here, however it is to be left open as Highways had been asked for to act on their professional opinion as to what would be the safest action to undertake on this matter.
274998	Pavement – Millers Green Development around to Abberley Parochial VC Primary Schol	17.02.2017 Highways confirm this is a known issue, but they have no date for remedial works. They comment that they are “monitoring its condition in the meantime.”
275315	Flooding around Suffolk Lane, Beehive, Bank Lane/Brickyard. (C2089)	No update.
287818	Zig Zag Road Lines, Abberley Parochial C Primary School/Abberley Village Hall, Apostles Oak.	<p>Situation being reviewed by Highways.</p> <p>Cllr Gibson and the Clerk met Highways representative Mr Roy Fullee on Monday 13th March, 2017 at 8.30am so that he could witness the problems first hand. His report/recommendations will be made known as soon as possible.</p> <p>Subsequently County Councillor Pollock advised the following in his written report dated 15th March, 2017.</p> <p>“Parking near the school. I understand that a meeting was held this week to discuss the problems of parking on the road leading to the old village, close to the Clows Top Road. I wholeheartedly endorse the request to increase the no parking zones as far as the junction itself and I am confident that Roy Fullee will start the process to get the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) put in place. This may, however, take a long time, due to a large back log of paperwork.</p>

b. Items Closed

Highways Report ID	Brief Description	Status
209927	Road outside Abberley Post Office.	Midi-patched. Item Closed
250909	Abberley Common Potholes/Road Surface	Repaired. Item Closed

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29. District and County Councillors' reports

- a. District Cllr Cummings confirmed that as from April 2018 landfill waste collections would be undertaken every two weeks, alternating with recycling (one week landfill, one week recycling). The delay in initialising this new cycle would be to allow the upcoming 12 months to be used to sort out the logistics around this new approach. This new pattern was being introduced as an attempt to fill the significant gap in Malvern Hills District Council's (MHDC) budget, following Central Government's funding withdrawal reported previously.
- b. County Cllr Pollock presented his report.

County Affairs

- Abberley Common road had been repaired under the £12m programme allocated to the Driving Home campaign.
- With £6m allocated to pavements, he hoped that some work in the village might be carried out in the summer months.

Parking near the School (Abberley Primary VC)

- Any Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that might be put in place to support the request to increase the no parking zone, would take a long time to come to fruition as there is a large back log of paperwork. However it was up to parents to exhibit good driver-ship and a degree of self-policing is required.

Drainage problems

- Bank Lane (C2089). Cllr Pollock concurred that the road situation is terrible and he was sorry to hear that the most recent road repairs were considered substandard.

Liaison Engineers

- Gerry Brienza will temporarily be taking over as liaison engineer for the Abberley area. The County will be recruiting two new liaison officers, probably in May.

Tesco's, Tenbury

- April 27th remains the scheduled opening date. Prior to this the company's contractor will be completing their contribution to the Public Realm work on Teme Street. The final section is planned to be finished in the autumn by the County Council's contractors.

After presenting his report the Chairman and Cllr Jukes voiced their disapproval about the state of highways maintenance in the area, most particularly about the Bank Lane situation.

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30. Lengthsmans Scheme

- a. 2017/2018 Lengthsman Scheme funding at £2,131 has been confirmed by Worcestershire County Council.
- b. The current Lengthsman, Mr Chris Jones who had been with Abberley for 12 years, has informed the Clerk of his intention to leave the contract as at 31st March, 2017. Mr Jones will also be leaving his other lengthsman's roles in the surrounding parishes.
- c. The process of recruiting a new Lengthsman was already underway, with advertisements and word of mouth being used to reach potential contractors. The Clerk is already in discussions with the Clerk for Great Witley Parish Council to see if some cross matching can be achieved in candidate applications and interviewing arrangements.
- d. Appointment of the selection sub-committee. Cllr Goodman and the Clerk would interview applicants, possibly with the support to Mr Jones who had expressed a willingness to assist candidates who had questions about the role.

31. Training or Development Opportunities

- a. Verbal report on MHDC Floor Risk Training.
No one had attended.
- b. Malvern Hills CALC.
An event has been organised for 3rd April which would not include a talk by Mr Richard Vakis-Loe from Heartstart on cardiac arrest and the issues impacting survival in the Malvern area.
- c. The Council **considered** attendance at forthcoming Worc Calc training events, however the most recent training event attendees affirmed their caution that the quality of training did not necessarily represent value for money.
- d. The Clerk confirmed that a revised feedback mechanism on Worc Calc training events generally was currently being considered by the organisation, as it had become apparent that the current feedback capture method needed to be reviewed.

32. Finance

- a. Arrangements for the voluntary audit (financial year 2016/17).
The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Mr Gittins to discuss practical arrangements for this audit.
- b. Payments made since previous meeting were confirmed.

Minutes	Item	Description	Payee	Amount
15.02.2017	20.c.1	Lengthsman Claim January 2017	Chris Jones	£240.00
15.02.2017	20.c.2	Parish Clerks Salary 06.02.2017 to 05.03.2017	Kym Wild	£277.86
15.02.2017	20.c.3	Parish Clerk Expenses – February 2017	Kym Wild	£23.25

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32. Finance (continued)

- c. Cancellation of previously authorised payment **agreed**

Minutes	Item	Description	Payee	Amount
15.02.2017	20.c.4	Contribution towards Public Liability Insurance on the public amenity of the village green. Clerk had requested incorrect sum. Error being corrected by this cancellation and the correct payment being requested under 32.d.1 below. Cancellation was agreed	Village Green Committee	£400.00

- d. The following payments were **agreed**

Minutes	Item	Description	Payee	Amount
15.03.2017	32.d.1	Replacement payment for Item 15.02.2015 20.c.4 as above. Contribution towards Public Liability Insurance for the village green.	Village Green Committee	£600.00
15.03.2017	32.d.2	Lengthsmans Claim, February 2017 (18 hours)	Chris Jones	£216.00
15.03.2017	32.d.3	Parish Clerk Salary 06.03.2017 to 05.04.2017	Kym Wild	£277.86
15.03.2017	32.d.4	Parish Clerk expenses – March 2017	Kym Wild	£20.00

33. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.

- a. 14/01122/OUT (Land to the west of Apostles Oak Cottage, The Common, Abberley). The Clerk was instructed to review the outline permissions granted under Appeal (APP/J1860/W/16/3144810) and report back to Council.

34. Date of next meeting. Wednesday 19th April, 2017 7.30pm Abberley Village Hall

SIGNED
 CHAIRMAN

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Appendix 1

Public Question Time (Aide Memoire for the meeting held on Wednesday 15th March, 2017.

Parishioner Mr Hammond raised his concerns about the public highway known as Bank Lane.

The road surface is poor, as is the current drainage arrangements. The most recent patching work is considered sub-standard with no real addressing of the major surface problems in this area. Recent highways remedial work in the surrounding parishes suggests that prioritisation of work in other parishes is being favoured over this high usage route. Even though Bank Lane is a cul de sac, it services a considerable number of access points along its length.

CLlr Jukes concurred that this is a pressing issue that is restricting safe access to the properties along its route. The potholing, deteriorating road surface and persistent flooding makes Bank Lane a completely unacceptable public highway.

County Councillor Pollock concurred that his most recent journey on that route had shown it was in a poor condition. Further comment on this matter was made during the District Councillors report item 30.b.