

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

Present: Cllr R T Nott (Chairman), Cllr C Knight (Vice Chairman), Cllr N Kedwards, Cllr K Andrew, Cllr A Jukes, Cllr A Eden, Cllr G Crompton, Cllr R Goodman

In Attendance: District Cllr P Cumming, Parishioner Mr J Mills, Clerk

106. Apologies. Cllr Gibson and District Councillor Ken Pollock had advised the Council that they were unable to attend this meeting.

107. Declarations of Interest

- a. Register of Interests. Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
- b. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
Cllr Goodman declared an interest for both himself and Cllr Gibson in Planning case 17/01490/FUL
- c. No other disclosable interests were made.

The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**, but Parishioner Mr J Mills advised that he had come to listen to the discussion on item 114, rather than to raise a new issue.

108. Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 18th October, 2017 were amended to include Cllr R Goodman as having been present and then **approved**.

109. Progress Reports

- a. Project, Neighbourhood Plan
Cllr Andrew updated the meeting with the progress to date on the Neighbourhood Plan project. This included the news that draft text had been produced for some areas of the document and the need to have more in depth research in areas had been revealed. These areas included Farmers, Business and other groups that fell within the remit of the project.
- b. Neighbourhood Watch Update
Cllr Kedwards informed the meeting that thefts and burglaries were on the increase in the general area and in the parish. Cllr Nott advised that he had suspicions that his land had been damaged by Hare coursers.
 - b.1. Article for inclusion in Abberley Parish News on personal security and crime prevention.
Following on from the previous meeting, West Mercia Police have drafted an article for the Parish Magazine, which has been submitted to the Editor.
- c. Cross-Parish Council Working Group, A443 Issues
The Council's representative, Cllr Kedwards confirmed that all outstanding actions she had picked up from the meeting had been completed and that the next meeting was scheduled to take place one week after the current Council meeting.

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110. District and County Councillors Reports.

- a. District Councillor Paul Cummings gave his report.
 - a.1 Changes to the Planning Committee structure(s) were being discussed by MHDC, more information would follow.
 - a.2 The Waste disposal trails were continuing and letters to households were scheduled to be sent out during January 2018 which would contain details of the new collection arrangements. Approximately 2,500 households would not be given wheeled bins due to problems in moving the units on, off and around the properties.
- b. In his absence County Councillor Dr Ken Pollock had previously circulated his report to the Council.
 - b.1 County Council Affairs
Financial picture is difficult. The Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy was approved as was the development of Kidderminster station and road improvement in Pershore include a new bridge over the main railways line to linkup with the Wyre Piddle bypass. The revised Local Transport Plan (LTP4) was approved. County Councillor Pollock acknowledged the difficulties experienced in Children's Services and with Adult Social Care.
 - b.2 Tenbury Public Realm
The work is on schedule to finish before the end of the month, with four night closures (21.00-06.00) scheduled for the 27th November onwards for the carriageway works.
 - b.3 Velo Birmingham Bike Event
Abberley Councillors and residents are invited to contact County Councillor Pollock to voice their experiences of how they were affected by the event.

District Councillor indicated that, to his knowledge, the event will be repeated in 2018 with no change to the route used in 2017.
 - b.4 Road Repairs
Bank Lane will continue to be patched, with surface dressing scheduled when funding is available. Work is to be carried out on the footpath by the school when funding is available.

111. Planning and Related Matters

- a. 17/01490/FUL. Old Yates Farm PV Array Installation. Approved.
- b. The Elms (Hotel), Abberley. A open consultation focussing on site developments was being requested by parties working for and with Gemini Properties the current owners. District Councillor Paul Cummings would meet with the MHDC planning officer to discuss arrangements and publicity for any consultation.

112. South Worcestershire Rural Communities Programme (SWRC), Abberley Village

The Council **agreed** to accept the SWRC offer to visit Abberley Parish (as part of a joint initiative with Great Witley Parish) and provide a service support review for max 50 households during 2018.

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113. West Mercia Police (WMP) “We don’t Buy Crime” Initiative/Smart Water, Abberley Village

- a. The Council considered the WMP offer to visit Abberley Parish and provide a “We don’t buy Crime”/Smart Water Forensic Marking and Data Registration kit event. WMP are to be asked to clarify relevant time scales for this initiative before any further deliberations or decision were undertaken.

114. Highways and Related Matters

- a. The Village Phone Box. Following the receipt of confirmation that BT would not be removing the village phone box at this time, their engineering and maintenance teams had now completed the agreed cleaning and repainting of the box itself.
- b. Jacobs Well. The Community Engineering Liaison Officer had confirmed that she had spoken to the resident who had provided significant photographic evidence of the effects of flooding in the area, giving appropriate advices about the installation of an appropriate ACO unit. The County Council would be undertaking a full clean of the two gullies opposite Thistledown, alongside the cleaning of the completely blocked gully and had raised a works order for the cleaning of all compacted grit which was obstructing the water draining away.
- c. Bank Lane. The first stages of works in this area would start on 27th November with the identification and marking of the pot holes that were to be repaired.
- d. The ongoing problem of vehicles parking on footpath. Vice Chairman Councillor Catherine Knight would be drafting a warning letter to residents in the areas worst effected, which would include the information provided by West Mercia PCSO Snape.
- e. The Road Safety Partnership is again operating vehicle speed check points within the parish, primarily on Clows Top. The Council debated the cost / benefit of the request to purchase and install VAS units within the parish. Other options were also suggested for consideration and would need to be investigated.
- f. The Clerk was asked to request information from the County Council on the criteria for introducing a 20 mph speed limit on The Common.

115. Lengthsman Scheme Review

- a. The Clerk was asked to procure a report from the current contractor as to his experiences/observations on the contracted work.

116. Finance and Related Matters

- a. The Council received confirmation of payments made as below

Mins	Item	Description	Payor	Amount £
18.10.17	103.c.1	Clerk’s Salary (Month 7)	Kym Wild	-298.26
18.10.17	103.c.2	Clerk’s Office Allowance (Month 7)	Kym Wild	-16.00
18.10.17	103.c.3	Lengthsman Claim	Andy Johnson	-144.00

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116. Finance and Related Matters (Cont.)

- b. The Council received confirmation of income as below

Mins	Item	Description	Payor	Amount £
15.11.2017	116.b.1	Lengthsmans Scheme Refund	Worcester County Council	144.00

- c. The Council **confirmed** that the following payments were to be made as below

Mins	Item	Description	Payor	Amount £
15.11.2017	116.c.1	Month 8 Clerk's Salary	Kym Wild	-298.26
15.11.2017	116.c.2	Month 8 Office Allowance	Kym Wild	-16.00
15.11.2017	116.c.3	Lengthsman Claim	Andy Johnson	-144.00

- d. The Council **approved** delegation of power for financial expenditure to the 2017-2018 Budget Committee during the upcoming 'no meeting' period.
- e. The Council received an update on the issue of electronic banking from Cllr Eden. Currently Lloyds and Barclays Banks were strong contenders. No councillor raised objections to Cllr Eden continuing his investigations on secure electronic funds management with these two potential banking services suppliers.
- f. The Clerk and members of the budget sub-committee had started the preliminary work on the 2018/19 precept in order to present budget proposals to the Council during the January 2018 meeting.

117. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda

- a. The Clerk outlined the report received from Cllr Jim Gibson in his absence on his voluntary role of Parish Path Warden.
- b. Cllr Richard Goodman advised that the Village Hall Committee were hopeful of installing a secure key box on site, removing the need to collect / return the key to a Committee member as per the current arrangements.

- 118. Date of next meeting.** This was confirmed as Wednesday January 17th 2018, 7.30pm Abberley Village Hall.

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Chairman

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