

The Minutes of Abberley Parish Council
Held At Abberley Village Hall Committee Meeting Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st February, 2018

Present: Cllr R T Nott (Chairman), Cllr G Crompton, Cllr A Eden, Cllr J Gibson,
Cllr R Goodman, Cllr N Kedwards

In Attendance: District Cllr P Cumming, Clerk

- Item
- 15 Apologies Cllr C Knight (Vice Chairman), Cllr K Andrew, Cllr A Jukes and County Councillor Dr Pollock had advised the Council that they were unable to attend this meeting. Their apologies were accepted.
- 16 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.
 - c. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
 - d. Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the Clerk at least four days prior to a meeting.
- Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4)(b) of the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items. Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may be a criminal offence.
- 17 Adjournment / Public Question Time There being no members of the Public or the Press at the meeting, there was no adjournment for Public Questions.
- 18 Minutes The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January, 2018 were **approved**.
- 19 County & District Councillors Report
- a County Councillor Dr Ken Pollock's abridged report is appended to these Minutes (Appendix 1).
 - b District Councillor Paul Cummings urged the Parish Council to write to the County Council regarding the lack of infrastructure planning within the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). In particular District Councillor Cummings pointed to the absence of roadways commensurate with the planned increase in housing across the area covered by the SWDP.
- 20 Progress Reports
- a. Neighbourhood Watch. (Cllr Kedwards)

Cllr Kedwards was pleased to advise the meeting that there had been a noticeable upturn in the quantity and quality of public reports to West Mercia regarding suspicious behaviour that may be linked to criminal behaviour. She was able to state that it seemed there were more members of the public proactively looking out for the safety and security of their neighbours, their neighbourhoods and being prepared to assist the Police service. This had also resulted in increased traffic on the Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page.
 - b. Neighbourhood Plan. (Steering Committee Representative, Cllr Kedwards)

Using advices from Hallow Parish Council as their model, the Steering Group representative advised that they had now moved into the Grant application process and were looking to invite applications from specialist services to assist the team in steering the Neighbourhood

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Parish Website. <http://www.abberleyparish.org.uk>

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Development Plan document through the various stages of production, debate and towards its final goal of adoption.

c. Cross-Parish Council Working Group, A443 Issues (Cllr Kedwards)

Cllr Kedwards advised that she was due to meet with the Safer Roads Partnership on Thursday 22nd February, 2018 to discuss the various issues in and around the Parish. She would be presenting an update on that meeting at a later meeting.

21 Highways The Clerk had received no new reports relating to Highways at the time of the meeting. She had not yet received a firm date as to when the various works on Bank Lane were due to commence.

22 Planning and Related Matters a. Report from the Planning Sub-Committee
1. 17/01773/HP, One Acre Cottage WR6 6BS
The plans and other documents had been reviewed and the matter considered. No objection was being raised.

2. 18/00168/S106, New Haseland Farm WR6 6BS.
Application under section 106A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to discharge the requirement relating to legal agreement dated 19/09/2000 associated with planning permission reference 99/01267/FUL for the erection of a dwellinghouse.

The Planning Sub-Committee had exercised their option to decline to comment on this complex legal issue. The matter would now reside with the Malvern Hills District Council Legal unit.

23 Annual Meeting of the Parish - 2018 The Annual Meeting of the Parish would be held on the evening of 16th May, 2018 in the Main Room of Abberley Village Hall (timings to be confirmed). The Council requested that, in the first instance, the Clerk issue invitations to present at the Annual Meeting to, the organisations who had received Grants from the Parish Council in the financial year 2017-18, West Mercia Police Service, the Young Farmers group and to Abberley Parochial VC Primary School. The Clerk was to report back to the Parish Council once responses had been received.

24 Finance a. Confirmation of payments made. **Noted.**

Item	Description	Payee	Amount £
012.c.1	Clerk's Salary (Month 10)	Kym Wild	-323.08
012.c.2	Office Allowance (Month 10)	Kym Wild	-16.00
012.c.3	Month 10 PAYE – paid on behalf of Abberley Parish Council to HMRC, ahead of quarter date 19 th January 2018.	Kym Wild	-25.40
012.c.4	ICO – Data Protection Licence, voluntary subscription (expired 11/01/2018) ICO required on-line payment, which the Parish Council do not possess. Confirmation of account settlement was produced.	ICO Via Kym Wild	-35.00

b. Confirmation of receipts. No monies received. **Noted.**

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c. Payments to be made. **Agreed.**

Item	Description	Payor	Amount £
024.c.1	Clerk's Salary (Month 11)	Kym Wild	-323.08
024.c.2	Office Allowance (Month 11)	Kym Wild	-16.00
024.c.3	Black Ink Cartridge for Parish Council Printer	Kym Wild	-22.49
024.c.4	Lengthsman's Claim	Andy Johnson	-360.00

- 025 Councillors, Clerk's Reports and items for future agenda
- a. Reports from Councillors on items not covered elsewhere
1. SMART Water Forensic Marking Kits. Despite a slow take up, individual interest in purchasing these kits at the special offer price from West Mercia was growing. The Clerk was instructed to contact the relevant project supervisor to advise them of the likely demand.
- b. Reports from the Clerk on items not covered elsewhere.
No reports to be made.

The Meeting was closed.

- 026 Date of next meeting
- Wednesday 21st March, 2018 7.30pm Committee Room, Abberley Village Hall

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Appendix 1 – Item 19 a.

ABBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

21.02.18

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

1. County Council Affairs

Last Thursday the full council approved a county council tax rise of 4.94%, comprising 1.94% for the main council tax and a 3% rise in funds for Adult Social Care, as prescribed by central government. The overall figure includes extra money for Children's Services, as they prepare to move to an Alternative Delivery Model, and extra funds for provision for the elderly population and those adults in need of council support.

Despite these heavy burdens on our resources, money is being devoted to improving our highways and footways, which are already among the best in the country.

We are also pleased to announce that we have recently appointed three senior executives to the County Council. The Chief Finance Officer is Michael Hudson, from Wiltshire, the Chief Commissioning Officer is Andrew Spice from Sussex, and the Interim Director of Adult Social Care Services is Avril Wilson from West Sussex. Along with our new Chief Executive, Paul Robinson from Derby City, we now have a strong senior team who will be taking up their position in the coming months, ready to steer the council in the difficult times ahead.

2. Tenbury Public Realm

This work is nearing completion. The new red tarmac on the raised tables is scheduled to be laid on the 5th March onwards, overnight, but please note that the work is starting at 19.00 and not 21.00 as previously arranged. Roads will be open again at 06.00. It should not take more than 2 or 3 nights to complete. The stainless steel bollards are now in position in Teme Street and the bench should be installed outside the Regal in the near future.

The new 20 mph speed limit is in place for the central shopping area, and there is a chance that the 20 mph limit will be reinforced with “20” signs in the road. The 20 minute parking limit outside Tenbury News will be applied this month. The civil enforcement officers report that 26 fines were handed out in recent months, largely for staying too long in Teme Street.

3. SWDP revisions

Following its publication in 2016, the SWDP has been the basis for deciding the pattern of house building across south Worcestershire. Recently, the three councils involved have been considering revising the plan in the light of the impending publication of the second National Planning Policy Framework. While this concerns the County Council more from the infrastructure viewpoint, I have been keen to take part in the discussions. My impression is that while organic small scale growth of communities is desirable, it could be that larger new settlements may be necessary. Should one or two “new towns” of around 5,000 dwellings be required, the location of such developments is crucial. Any strong feelings on such plans would be welcome by your local district councillor and the planning departments.

Recently Tenbury Town Council considered an application to build 72 houses off Oldwood road opposite the high school. I have suggested that it would be advantageous to the school to have more young families in its catchment area. In addition, it is unrealistic to suppose that homes should only be allowed close to where there is an unmet need for employees. Minimising travel distance to work is desirable, but often unrealistic, and could be seen as a reason for allowing rural areas to become depopulated.

4. Winter weather

I have been informed that some of the road grit has gone missing and is not being used on the highway. It is important to realise that this grit is for use on the carriageway, as conventionally understood, but also on footways. It is quite legitimate for local people to assist the council in disbursing this material as appropriate. To use it on private drives is theft. Council supplied grit bins are yellow. Parishes can have their own bins to supplement that which the Council deems essential, by buying green bins. The use of grit in them is entirely within the powers of the parish council. The council grits the roads when necessary. The B4202, Clows Top to Abberley road and the A443 are primary routes and will be done first and at all times when required. The road from the village hall to the old village, and the Abberley Common road between the B4202 and the A443 are secondary gritting routes, and will be covered when necessary and once the primary routes have been treated. If it is felt that the roads are not properly treated please report this on the Council website and if the problem persists, please let me know.

5. The Elms

I note that there has been concerns about the projected expansion of the Elms Hotel. Some of you will know that long ago both my wife and my younger daughter worked there, but these comments are not influenced by that in any way.

The hotel is a major asset to the village and the county. I am very keen to see it flourish, and would support its expansion within the existing grounds. It is valuable to the community to see it used more, attracting people and trade to the area, to our mutual benefit.

The quality of the design for an extension is another matter, and beyond my professional competence. Any comments on that design will, I hope, be separated from other considerations about the value of the enterprise overall.

6. Velo Birmingham

CSM Active have announced that they will not be seeking road closures for another cycle event like Velo Birmingham in 2017 for later this year. They are working on a similar event to take place in the spring of 2109, on a route as yet to be determined. Any opinions on the past event and plans for the future would be welcome. The 2017 event caused a lot of controversy, and the response of those in opposition to it were louder than any that might have enjoyed it. Although the only Abberley resident I have spoken to on this was very supportive of the event, I am aware that you have expressed the feeling that it did not benefit the parish economically. My perception is that such benefit would be noticed across the county as a whole, given that many thousands of people – average age 43 and 85% male – will have been given a very good impression of the county and that will benefit us in future.

CSM are organising another event this autumn. Velo South will be based in Goodwood, at the racing circuit as guests of Lord March, and will explore the roads around that area within West Sussex. The Redditch round of the Tour Series will be held on Thursday May 10th, and will be the second round of this professional cycle race series. It reflects the County Council's support for active travel, including walking and cycling, an activity supported by considerable investment in better footways and cycle routes.

7. Divisional Fund

I still have a reasonable sum in my Divisional Fund and would be pleased to allocate it to good causes. If anyone knows of deserving enterprises that could benefit from a small sum, up to around £1,000, I would be pleased to talk to them about whether I could help. Please pass this message to others in the community who may be unaware of the fund.

Cllr Ken Pollock,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire
21.02.18