

The Minutes of Abberley Parish Council  
Held At Abberley Village Hall Committee Meeting Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th April, 2018

---

- Present: Cllr C Knight (Vice Chairman), Cllr N Kedwards, Cllr K Andrew, Cllr A Eden, Cllr J Gibson, Cllr R Goodman, Cllr A Juckes,
- In Attendance: County Councillor Dr Ken Pollock, Mr I Platt, Clerk
- Item
- 040 Apologies Cllr R T Nott (Chairman), Cllr G Crompton and District Cllr P Cumming had all previously advised the Council that there were unable to attend this meeting. Their apologies were accepted. In Cllr Nott's absence, Vice Chairman Cllr Knight chaired the meeting.
- 041 Declarations of Interest No Declarations of Interest were received.
- 042 Adjournment The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time. Mr I Platt made a statement on the subject of the design and specification amendments received by Malvern Hills District Council to the Planning Consent being sought by the owners and others of The Elms Hotel and how it would impact the enjoyment of his property.
- Brief notes are appended to the Minutes as an aide memoire. See Appendix 1.
- 043 Minutes The Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 were **approved**.
- 044 County & District Councillors Report
- a.1 County Councillor Dr Ken Pollock's report is appended to these Minutes See Appendix 2.
- Cllr Knight asked about housing and the suggestions of "new towns." County Councillor Pollock commented that non-small housing developments would come from organic growth.
- Cllr Goodman, referring to the figures stated for broadband coverage, asked for clarification of what this referred to. County Councillor Pollock confirmed that his figures were countrywide. In addition, Cllr Goodman asked for confirmation that the £2trillion related to the national level and not the county. This was confirmed.
- a.2 District Council Paul Cummings had contacted the Clerk requesting that the meeting be updated on the following items.
- MHDC (Planning) had requested amendments to the design and specification submitted by the owners and others of The Elms Hotel.
- District Councillor Cummings had intervened in the matter of wheelie bin deliveries to some areas of Suffolk Lane to ensure that the bins originally delivered in error to refuse sack-based collection locations would stay and become the accepted refuse collection norm.
- 045 Progress Reports
- a. Neighbourhood Watch (Cllr Kedwards)
- SMART Water Kits. Despite the advertisement in the Parish Magazine, the take up for this offer was still below the minimum % of households in the Parish required by West Mercia Police, therefore contact would be made with the householders who had expressed an interest to advise them of the current situation.

Chairman .....

West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch AGM 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 circa 8pm.

The incoming General Data Protection Regulations for Teme Valley Neighbourhood Watch requires positive ascent to stay on the list.

b. Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr Knight)

Local businesses and the Anglican Church (CofE) have expressed an interest in being involved with this project.

Consultant Appointment

Following the consultant interviews, a candidate had emerged with all four members of the interview panel (Cllrs Andrew, Goodman, Kedwards and Knight) in accord with their recommendation of Dr David Nicholson of DJN Planning Limited, Hereford.

The project steering committee advised the Parish Council that in order to initiate the grant application process, the Parish Council will have to verify the appointment (subject to grant funding).

The vote to appoint was unanimous (no abstentions) subject to funding being sourced outside of the Parish Council's resources. The Clerk was instructed to contact the candidate to inform him of the conditional appointment.

c. A443 Cross Parish Group

Cllr Kedwards confirmed that there is a further meeting with the Safer Road Partnership on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Selected representatives will be attending and feedback will come back after the event.

046 Highways

The Clerk confirmed that

- a. The Clerk confirmed that the footpath outside of the village school had been re-laid.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the WCC central contact to express the Parish Council's thanks to all concerned for the excellent job,

- b. Bank Lane. Phase 1 (repairs) are scheduled to start Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Jucks confirmed that he had met with the team leader for the work crew and arrangements were in place for this phase of works.
- c. There is an advanced notice Road Closure Notice (14<sup>th</sup> May for 7 days), C2071 junction with the C2276 (The Village to junction with Reynolds Lane). BT Openreach works.
- d. Mr Jack Adams that new Land Drainage Enforcement Officer has visited Abberley and been taken on a tour of the parish's trouble spots by Cllr Trevor Nott.

Chairman .....

e. New signposts Repair and Replacement Programme.

The Countryside unit at Worcestershire County Council have visited the parish and reviewed the Clerk's requests regarding signage (Worcestershire Way). They have confirmed that they are planning a programme of replacements/repairs for Summer 2018.

047 Lengthsmans Scheme 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

- a. Now that Worcestershire County Council had confirmed that the scheme would go ahead for the next financial year, the contract (which lasted for one year at a time) would be re-advertised in the normal manner. Cllrs Trevor Nott and Richard Goodman had volunteered to form the interview panel for any contractors who applied.
- b. For the financial year (as above), Cllr Trevor Nott would be taking over the day to day running of the scheme, with the Clerk handling the claim and reimbursement element.
- c. Worcestershire County Council have advised that they will continue to fund the scheme at the same level as per the previous financial year.

048 Planning and Related Matters The Clerk confirmed that

- a. 18/00168/S106. New Hazeland Farm WR6 6BS  
Limited discharge of conditions imposed by permission 99/01267/FUL.  
APPROVED by MHDC
- b. 17/01773/HP. One Acre Cottage WR6 6BS  
Two storey and single storey side extension(s). – APPROVED by MHDC
- c. 17/001965/FUL and 17/01966/LB The Elms – Revised proposals.  
The council looked at the revised proposals placed before MHDC. It was noted that attempts had been made to address some of the concerns previously made, yet after extensive discussion it was decided that the revised proposals did not fully allay the concerns of the parish council. The Clerk was instructed to make the Parish Council's position known to MHDC Planning Department.

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

Mins	Item	Description	Payee	Amount
21.03.18	035.c.1	Clerk's Salary (Month 12)	Kym Wild	-318.28
21.03.18	035.c.2	Office Allowance (Month 12)	Kym Wild	-16.00
21.03.18	035.c.3	PAYE Deduction due to HMRC (on line payment required via Kym Wild)	HMRC	-4.80
21.03.18	035.c.4	Expenses Claim (Month 12) 2 x Reams of Paper	Kym Wild	-8.00
21.03.18	035.c.5	Lengthsmans Claim to 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Andy Johnson	-132.00

Chairman .....

The Minutes of Abberley Parish Council

Held At Abberley Village Hall Committee Meeting Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th April, 2018

049 Finance  
(Cont)

Mins	Item	Description	Payee	Amount
Delegated Powers	035.d.1	Lengthsmans Claim to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	Andy Johnson	-144.00
Delegated Powers	035.d.2	Neighbourhood Plan Hall Hire to end of financial year	Abberley Village Hall	-76.00

- c. Scheduled payments as per agreed budget for financial year 2018-19  
 Total Clerks Salary £4429.92 (Financial Year 2018-19 Budget = £4430.00)  
 Total Office Allowance £192.00 (Financial Year 2018-19 Budget = £192.00)

Schedule of Payments		
Dates	Description	
2018 06/04-05/05	Clerks Salary	£369.19
HMRC PAYE 1	Office Allowance	£16.00
2018 06/05-05/06	Clerks Salary	£369.19
HMRC PAYE 2	Office Allowance	£16.00
2018 06/06-05/07	Clerks Salary	£369.19
HMRC PAYE 3	Office Allowance	£16.00
2018 06/07-05/08	Clerks Salary	£369.19
HMRC PAYE 4	Office Allowance	£16.00
2018 06/08-05/09	Clerks Salary	£369.19
HMRC PAYE 5	Office Allowance	£16.00
2018 06/09-05/10	Clerks Salary	£369.19
HMRC PAYE 6	Office Allowance	£16.00
2018 06/10-05/11	Clerks Salary	£369.19
HMRC PAYE 7	Office Allowance	£16.00
2018 06/11-05/12	Clerks Salary	£369.19
HMRC PAYE 8	Office Allowance	£16.00
2018 06/12	Clerks Salary	£369.19
2019 05/01 (9)	Office Allowance	£16.00
2019 06/01-05/02	Clerks Salary	£369.19
HMRC PAYE 10	Office Allowance	£16.00
2019 06/02-05/03	Clerks Salary	£369.19
HMRC PAYE 11	Office Allowance	£16.00
2019 06/03-05/04	Clerks Salary	£369.19
HMRC PAYE 12	Office Allowance	£16.00

050 Councillors,  
Clerk's  
Reports and  
items for  
future agenda

- a. Reports from Councillors on items not covered elsewhere

Cllr Goodman

1. The Village Hall will be looking at replacing the chairs.
2. The Car Park drain/soakaway. The committee are aware of the problems and comment that there appears to be an issue with the age of the drains and possibly a problem further along the drainage route.

Chairman .....

b. Reports from the Clerk on items not covered elsewhere.

1 Remembrance Day Wreath

Cllr Trevor Nott and Cllr Jim Gibson will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Service in Abberley on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

051 Date of next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 – The Main Hall, Abberley Village Hall.

7.30pm The Annual Meeting of Abberley Parish  
Followed by The Annual Meeting of Abberley Parish Council

Please can Cllrs and Clerk bring with them appropriate, non-alcoholic, refreshments.

The Chairman closed the meeting

Chairman .....

## Appendix 1

During adjournment Mr Platt spoke of his continued concerns over the planning proposals put forward by The Elms. He spoke of the impact he believed that the (revised) design of the top floor would have on the enjoyment of his property, particularly his back garden. Mr Platt noted other concerns about the proposed development including the proportions.

## Appendix 2 County Councillor's Report – 18.04.2018

### 1. County Council Affairs - personnel

March the 1<sup>st</sup> brought the dreadful and totally unexpected news of the death of our interim chief executive, Steve Stewart. He was only 64, and had made a huge contribution since starting last May, when our previous CE, Clare Marchant had left to run UCAS.

Steve was just coming to the end of his service with us, before our new permanent Chief Executive, Paul Robinson started work in the middle of last month. He has been the Chief Executive of Derby City Council, where he has run a unitary authority with a large budget and staff, comparable to this county.

In the last month or so, we have recruited other senior members of the management team. They are the Chief Finance Officer is Michael Hudson, from Wiltshire, the Chief Commissioning Officer is Andrew Spice from Essex, and the Interim Director of Adult Social Care Services is Avril Wilson from West Sussex.

We wish the whole team well in getting started in post, and providing the vision and leadership needed for the large County council staff, and all those in the County that rely on the council for services and encouragement.

Some people have questioned why so many senior staff have left at this time. In each case they have gone on to bigger and better jobs, indicating we had originally chosen high flying people, and that their careers had been advanced by their service in the County Council.

## **2. County Council Affairs – council tax**

In the middle of February, 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.

It is worth noting that while the Liberal Democrats and Green councillors wished us to raise the council tax by the maximum permitted, (an extra 1%), the Labour group wanted no increase at all, as with last year. This is strange in the context of their continual criticism of austerity, resulting in cuts in services.

Just as an aside, many people seem to be confused about the difference between deficit and debt. If we spend more in any period than we receive in income, the difference is a deficit. If we continue to do so, the deficits add up and are referred to as our debt.

In consequence, as long as we spend more than we receive, our debt will go up – as it has since 2010, now standing at around £2 trillion. As a consequence our interest payment on that debt is now around £50 billion a year, a similar sum to that we spend on defence.

## **3. Council County Affairs – expenditure**

The County Council's budget runs to about £330 million pounds. The greater proportion of this sum is spent on Adult and Children's Services, where it must be noted that a small number of individuals attract most of the cost. Thus we have about 750 children in care, and, through past failings, are going to be required to set up a separate company to run the services needed by such children and various ancillary needs. This will result in an extra £10 million being spent on children's service in the coming year.

Adult services are for the elderly and vulnerable adults, again a total amounting to about 7,000 people. This from a population in the County of 560,000.

All other services are paid for out of the balance, including all money spent on roads and pavements, as well as libraries, education services, regulatory services, waste disposal and the like. Our roads are generally in good condition compared with our neighbours and we are in process of spending an extra £12 million on bringing them up to the top quartile of roads in the country.

Infrastructure spending can be paid for in part by government grants and monies levied from developers. In the past year, we have seen the opening of the new Eastham Bridge, and the approval of the dualling of the Carrington Bridge and the causeway to the Powick roundabout. We have also seen work starting on the new Worcestershire Parkway railway station at Norton that should be open by this time next year.

## **4. SWDP revisions**

Following its publication in 2016, the South Worcestershire Development Plan (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 recent publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

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 welcomed by your local district councillors and the planning departments.

Under our newly revised Local Transport Plan, (LTP4), we would seek to encourage developments in places where there is excess capacity on our road and rail network. We also recognise the importance of facilities for walking and cycling, as part of our active travel strategy. In addition, we need to make provision for public transport, where possible and appropriate.

Recently Tenbury has seen a successful application to build around 70 houses opposite the High School. It is to be hoped that many of those buying such houses will have children that can then go to the local primary and secondary schools. 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.

In general, I suggest we should be prepared for organic growth of our villages and hamlets, as well as a growth in jobs in rural areas. Another aspect is the need for better broadband and I have to report steady, if slow, progress at reaching the last 5% or so of premises not yet served by Superfast Broadband. This becomes increasingly important as more people work from home and the internet is used for a greater amount of our social and educational needs.

In that regard, it is worth noting that Worcestershire has been chosen as a testbed for 5G, the next generation of mobile phone coverage that promises much higher speed and capacity. This is in conjunction with the LEP, Malvern Hills Science Park, QinetiQ, the Heart of Worcestershire College and two large employers in the county, Mazak and Worcester Bosch. We are one of six such testbeds and the only one that comprises a single county.

## **5. Public Realm work**

We are approaching the end of the long and drawn out process of improving the Public Realm in Tenbury. There is no need to rehearse here the detail of this project. Suffice to say that virtually all of the work to be conducted by the County council is now complete, with the new red tarmac in place on the raised tables.

There has been general approval for the new paving slabs on the footways, and the 20 mph limit on the central shopping area. What remains is some work that was to be paid for by Tesco's under a section 278 agreement. That is the reason for the raised table outside their entrance not having been completed yet, and also for the absence of a couple of items of street furniture in their section.

While the overall development has been very satisfactory, it is disappointing that this last commitment has been shirked, leading to the need for legal action, to recover the cost from the Tesco bond lodged at the start of the process.

I can only hope that trade will pick up over the coming months, particularly attracting holiday visitors to what is now even more a very attractive rural town, with great retailers, services and public spaces.

## **6. Local problems**

Residents will be only too aware of the road problems experienced in recent months. A discovery of *e coli* in a water main recently closed to road to Heightington while it was fixed. School Lane should be reclassified as a primary gritting route, following concern about safety near the primary school, and Bank Lane should be repaired extensively later this month.

You may know of a small consortium of parishes on the A443 have arranged a meeting with a senior County officer for May 9<sup>th</sup>, to discuss a novel approach to reducing speeding in villages. You may wish to ensure you have a representative at that meeting.

## **7. Divisional Fund**

It is a privilege to be able to allocate some £10,000 of council taxpayers' money to good causes across the division. In the past year, Abberley residents have made few claims upon the fund, with the exception of the WI. Other monies have helped organisations and good causes across the division, in particular in Clifton and Pensax.

I am always keen to hear of new good destinations for this small amount of money that can nevertheless make a big difference to the organisations so favoured. It is your money and it can be spent for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire 18.04.18