

The Minutes of Abberley Parish Council
Held at Abberley Village Hall Committee Meeting Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 February 2019

Present: Cllr C Knight (Chairman) Cllr R Goodman, Cllr. G Crompton, Cllr T Eden, Cllr J Gibson, Cllr K Andrew, Cllr T Nott.

In Attendance: District Cllr P Cumming, Clerk (Carole Hirst).
2 Parishioners.

Item

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| 124 | Apologies | Apologies were received from Cllr A Jukes and County Cllr Dr K Pollock. |
| 125 | Declarations of Interest | None |
| 126 | Democratic Period/ Public Time | Two Parishioners attended on behalf of the Friends of Abberley Primary School to inform the Parish Council that they are planning an event which will take place on September 21 st , 2019 at 2pm on the Hester Severne Playing Field. The event will be a Happy Circus and the Big Top has a capacity of 600. The school representatives explained that they had been undertaking consultation to try to agree parking arrangements locally including at Abberley Hall Preparatory School who had agreed to support the parking and offered help with Marshals. Abberley YFC were also going to be asked to help organise car parking. The owner of Tump House offered the use of their field. The possibility of a one-way system through the village was discussed to support the traffic flow and it was explained that Worcestershire County Council would have to be involved and a Road Closure Order applied for. In principle the Parish Council supported the idea and Cllr. Gibson invited the representatives to a meeting taking place at the Manor Arms Pub to discuss their proposal with a newly formed Events Working Group on 12 th March at 7.30pm. Cllr. Andrew commented that the event may be eligible for a grant from the National Lottery "Awards For All" to support the event. |
| 127 | Minutes | Proposed Cllr R Goodman and Seconded by Cllr. T Eden and all agreed to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on the 16 th January 2019. The Chairman duly signed them as a true record. |
| 128 | Matters Arising | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Highways: The Clerk wrote to G Herbert Banks to request that the hedge at the Orchard, Abberley was cut back to a reasonable height before 1st March 2019 to comply with the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The hedge was cut back and cleared away on 12th February. A local resident rang to thank the Parish Council for getting it sorted.2. A Fly-tipped bed was reported at the Parish Council meeting located next to Sewage Works. The Clerk reported to MHDC on the 18th January 19. This has now been cleared.3. The Clerk notified MHDC of the proposed Precept 2019/20 request on 18th Jan 19.4. The Clerk and Cllr Knight ascertained that there was no written contract preventing the Parish Council creating a new website moving away from Upperbridge.com. The Clerk checked records and Cllr. Knight spoke to previous Clerks and no evidence of this was found. Cllr. Crompton asked the |

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Clerk to check when the Annual Charges for the website were due for renewal.

129 Reports (District and Council Councillors)

District Councillor Paul Cummings (MHDC) reported that Council Tax increase for Malvern Hills based on a Band D Property will be £5. MHDC are working to a balanced budget.

Cllr. Cummings reported that further to Abberley Parish Council writing to Cllr. Cumming supporting Little Witley's response to the SWDP Submission, he can now report that further parishes have now come on board which will strengthen their support.

Cllr. Cummings reported that on the 29th January MHDC approved that properties that had been empty for 2 years + will pay 200% Council Tax Empty Homes Premium as a way of ensuring that properties are brought back into use.

County Cllr Dr K Pollock (WCC)

Budget Proposals

Council tax is scheduled to go up by 3.94%, near the maximum permitted without a referendum, but including 1% ring fenced for Adult Social Care.

Worcestershire Parkway and SLR4

We recently held a press briefing at the new Worcestershire Parkway railway station. We were keen to outline the progress being made towards completion of the work this summer and then, after the extensive and detailed "entry into service" process, the station should be fully functional by the end of the year.

This support for public transport is just part of our county wide policy to promote public transport, seen as complementing work on roads, to accommodate private cars and goods vehicles. In the capital programme we aim to see enhancements at several railway stations and in particular improved parking facilities.

In addition, work has recently started on preparing the embankments of the southern link road between the Ketch and Powick roundabouts, for the widening of the causeway to allow the dualling of the road. We anticipate final approval of the government grant of £54.5 million in the near future and the project will then proceed to an expected completion date in 2021.

Local issues

Please note that the Clows Top to Abberley road, the B4202, will be closed for highway repairs for 5 days starting on the 13th March. This is part of the extensive programme of works across the county that seeks to keep us in the top quartile for road quality across the country.

We need everyone's cooperation to maintain this standard and people like yourselves to report problems online at the WCC website, and if nothing happens quickly enough to let your clerk know so she can chase it up.

Despite the tight budget, we are keen to maintain expenditure on roads, partly for the simple self-interest as residents are very sensitive about road quality, but also because it makes everyone's lives better if the roads are well maintained, well signed and with good white lines painted.

Seeking to keep speeds within sensible limits is another matter, and one largely outside our control. We are keen, nevertheless, to support councils if they want to get extra help from the police and the Safer Roads Partnership.

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- 130 **Progress reports from Councillors/ Neighbourhood Plan Working Group** Cllr K Andrew NP working group were unable to meet in January as the Housing Needs Assessment report promised by AECOM was not ready in time and may only arrive as a draft in time for the re-scheduled meeting on 27th February. The steering group met instead and as a result we approached David Clark of MHDC for advice on how to move forward. The Housing Needs assessment figure is as we suspected key to moving forward and we have now approached MHDC to provide indicative HNA figures for us to both 2030 and 2040. MHDC have indicated they are happy to provide these with the proviso that there could be a small change. This will at least enable us to understand the scale of housing required and therefore the level of detail the NP needs to cover. We await this too. David Clarke's advice was to move forward with developing policies on housing mix and housing design and develop annexes (i.e. appendices, rather than policies) on Community Facilities and Community Assets and The AONB extension. We have now applied to AECOM for the Housing Design support package and have a teleconference call booked to establish eligibility for this second free piece of consultancy. This is likely to be supported. We have also obtained a copy of the Great Witley NP and are studying this to establish where policies either need to align or be complimentary. The Broadwas and Cotheridge NP has also been received for consultation since the last meeting.
- Cllr. Gibson reported that an initial meeting with Cllr. Knight took place last week, A meeting is subsequently planned in the Manor Arms Pub, 12th Mar at 7:30 to form a steering committee and 2 working groups. It is proposed to stage 2 events on the 21st September. A village picnic on the Village Green and an evening event at the Village Hall which may be a dance. Cllr. Gibson is contacting Abberley groups between now and then to ensure attendance.
- 131 **Planning** Tree Preservation Order reference number 631 (2019), affecting a tree at Tump House, The Village, Abberley, WR6 6BP- Formal notice of TPO placed on tree. **19/00011/CLE-** Highfields, Stanford Road, Great Witley, Worcester, WR6 6JG- Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of land as domestic garden. **CONSULTATION** to 20th Feb 19. The Parish Council has No Objection to this application.
- 132 **Highways** Pollution in Suffolk Lane and main Village area. Chris Clare reported that he was continuing to monitor the situation however had nothing further to report at this stage. *Action: Clerk to request a further update on this situation following local residents informing Cllr. Knight that they had been in touch with Chris Clare.*
- Road Closure Order-** close that part of Worcester Road, Pensax, Clows Top Road and Apostles Oak, from its junction with A456 Mamble Road to its junction with A443 Great Witley Road in order to facilitate carriageway patching works. Duration: 5 days Commencing: 13 March 2019.
- Cllr. Andrew reported that on the Clows Top Rd a tree had fallen onto an iron fence which was now presenting a hazard and danger on the footpath and road users to the Clows Top Rd. Grid Reference SO 74569 67724. Action: Clerk to report to WCC Highways for them to take action.
- Cllr. Nott reported that the Lengthsman had reported graffiti with the parish to WCC who were sending someone out. The Lengthsman also reported a blocked drain on Wynniattes Way Abberley to WCC Highways.
- 133 **Lengthsman Update**

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Cllr. Knight proposed that the Parish Council records a vote of thanks to the Lengthsman for his excellent on-going work for the parish. Cllr. Nott Seconded. All in favour. Action: The Clerk to write to the Lengthsman to convey their thanks.

134 Finance

Finance

(a) Bank Reserves report to 20th February 2019.

Cash at the Bank 20/2/19 £24,959.42

(b) Payments to be authorised 20/2/19

Payee and details	Amount
C Hirst Clerk Salary to Feb 5th 2019	£ 392.51
HMRC Clerk Tax to 5th Feb 2019	£ 98.00
Clerk Expenses 5th Feb 2019	£ 64.09
Chris Bunn - Lengthsman Jan 19.	£ 228.00

£ 782.60

Cllr Andrew Proposed that all payments be made. Seconded Cllr. Crompton. All in favour.

(c) **Informal Bank Reconciliation.** Noted.

(d) **Banking Update.** All correspondence is now being sent by the bank to the new Clerk. The Clerk is now to set up transferring the Parish Council funds to a new account to be set up with Lloyds Bank to enable the Parish Council to transfer to online banking. Cllr. Eden Proposed that the Clerk sets up the new bank account with Lloyds Bank and then organises with Lloyds Bank to transfer all existing funds from the accounts at HSBC. Seconded Cllr. Nott. **All in favour.**

135 Correspondence

Martley and Tenbury Safer Neighbourhood Team – Newsletter received 17/1/19 – **Noted.**

Cllr. Kedwards resignation as Councillor with immediate effect. MHDC notified and website updated. Received 27th Jan 19. MHDC notified Clerk that a co-option can be made. Cllr. Goodman commented that with only weeks to go before an election that it would be most appropriate to wait for the election. The Cllr. Knight Proposed that a vote of thanks be recorded for the hard work that Cllr. Kedwards had put into her work with the Parish Council and that they hope that she continues her work with the Neighbourhood Watch and NHDP in the future. Cllr. Goodman Seconded. All in favour. *Action: Clerk to write to Cllr. Kedwards to express the Council's thanks to Cllr. Kedwards.*

Email – MHDC – 18 Feb - The shared community safety service is offering a series of free property security marking events across Malvern Hills and Wychavon and we'd like to hold one for the residents of Abberley parish. They would require a small 4mx4m area to set up a gazebo and table but would also require an area for Car's to turn up due to the nature of the item's we are looking to mark. Would we know of a suitable place where this event could take place within the Village? At the moment, no date in mind, but would be looking at the period just after Easter. Councillors asked that more information be obtained before a decision was taken. *Action: Clerk to write to MHDC for further details.*

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- 136 Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda
- Great British Spring Clean. In 2019 it will run from 22 March to 23 April <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>. This is being organised with Keep Britain Tidy and MHDC. Councillors asked the Clerk to obtain more information and report back to the March Parish Council meeting.
- (b) Cllr Goodman reported that Abberley Village Hall had their AGM in January. He reported that they were still looking for a replacement booking clerk. They are also looking at how they can better utilise space within the building.
- Cllr. Goodman also reported that Hester Severne Trust which has two Parish Council trustees may be looking for a new Parish Council representative. Cllr. Goodman would look into this further.
- 137 Date of next meeting
- The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Committee Meeting Room of Abberley Village Hall.
- The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

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