

MINUTES OF  
OMBERSLEY AND DOVERDALE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 P.M.  
AT OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL

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Present: Cllrs: Mrs J Goodman (Vice Chairman in the Chair) Mrs H Barningham, M Best, F Cody, C McKenzie-Rowan, Mrs J Mitchell, P Reynolds, R Reynolds, Mrs B Serrell, C Welch (10)

131/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs W T Arnold, and D Ingram.

Apologies for absence were also received from Cllrs M H Broomfield (County Councillor) and P Tomlinson (District Councillor).

132/15 Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest

The following interests were declared:-

Cllr M Best - Member of Sytchampton Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr F Cody - Member of Sytchampton Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr C Welch – Member of Ombersley Memorial Hall Management Committee.

Public Question Time

Kate Daniels from The Little Black Pig attended and updated the Parish Council on the disturbing incident which had taken place on her premises recently. Her overall impression was that the Police were very quick to respond to the incident and were very supportive. However, they had not been quite so effective in following up or seeking to solve the crime.

The Parish Council had invited Supt Kevin Purcell to a future meeting and they would discuss this particular incident with him.

133/15 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 had been previously circulated.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. All Councillors agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

134/15 Planning Matters

(a) Comments on Planning Applications

The Parish Council agreed to make the following representations in respect of those planning applications before them as follows:-

- (i) W/15/02517/CU: Land off Boreley Lane, Ombersley  
Temporary siting of mobile home for rural (equestrian)

The Parish Council was sympathetic to all businesses within the parish and where it was able to do so, was happy to promote them. However it also had a responsibility to look at this in the wider context and pay particular attention to the effect any application had both on the local environment and impact on near neighbours.

It was aware of a number of letters of support for the application (presumably) from users of the existing business. However it had also considered the letters of representation from near

neighbours. The letter dated 12th November 2015 from Stewart Vick Associates encapsulated a number of the concerns the Parish Council had about this application.

In particular, the Parish Council commented that:-

- there had been a relatively recent application on this site (Appn W/12/01741/CU and the Parish Council believed that this application must be considered in the context of that application. The size of the development and the amount of land set aside for grazing etc established by that application were relevant to this application.
- the current application was for a caravan, the footprint for which seemed particularly large (especially when viewed alongside the footprint for the stables).
- there was no doubt that the business needed to be located in a rural area (which it was). However, the Parish Council did not believe that the need to reside on site to continue its existing operations had been established. If this was envisaged as being essential the Parish Council believed that it should have been included in the original application or brought forward as a new application for a residential dwelling to be determined in the appropriate way rather than a temporary permission for a caravan.
- the applicant had submitted details of local properties to show the high cost of renting and purchasing properties in the area (and thus attempting to justify the need for a caravan on the site from a cost point of view). The Parish Council believed that this search was misleading. By extending the search a little wider, a number of much more affordable properties would be revealed.
- the applicant had openly stated that this application was temporary whilst the viability of the business was established and an application for a residential dwelling may be brought forward if that need was established. The Parish Council's concern was that by approving the application for a caravan, albeit on a temporary basis, the principle of residential occupation of the site and the footprint of any future dwelling was likely to be established by this. It did not believe that this was the correct way of approaching this.
- there were a number of concerns raised about complying with conditions imposed alongside the previous permission. Whilst it understood that these were not relevant to the consideration of this application it would urge that attention be given to these.

In summary, the Parish Council did not believe that the need to reside on site had been established and therefore objected to the application. Should the applicant believe that residential occupation of the site was necessary the Parish Council believed that a full application for the erection of a residential dwelling should be brought forward and considered in the usual way.

- (ii) W/15/02638/PP & W/15/02639/LB: Uphampton House, Woodhall Lane, Ombersley New Single Garage, retaining wall, garden wall and replacement gates

The Parish Council had no objection to the proposal.

On a more general point, the Parish Council had considered a number of individual planning applications relating to Uphampton House in recent months. It was sometimes difficult to see the bigger picture and how the individual applications fitted together. It would therefore find it helpful to have sight of a master vision for the property if one exists.

- (iii) GPDE/15/02686/GPDE: Cherry Trees, Comhampton Lane, Dunhampton, Stourport-on-Severn  
Prior approval of a proposed larger home extension for a single storey rear extension (Information only)

No comment, although the Parish Council felt that the proposed extension could be more in-keeping with the main house. However, it recognised the constraints placed by permitted development regulations.

- (iv) NM/15/02787/NM: The Elms, Main Road, Ombersley, Droitwich Spa WR9 0EL  
Application for non-material amendment to planning approval W/15/00723/PN to  
include a chimney and additional Velux windows (For Information).

The Parish Council had previously expressed concerns about the visual impact of this development on the local street scene. Whilst it recognised that some modifications had been made to the proposal to bring it more in-keeping with neighbouring properties, it did not believe that the inclusion of the additional Velux windows would enhance the appearance and would have a negative impact on the street scene.

Although comments had not been sought by the Parish Council, it has asked the Clerk to pass on these concerns.

- (v) Lineholt House Farm, Boreley Lane, Lineholt, Ombersley, WR9 0LF  
Notification for a prior approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building  
to a dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development.

The Parish Council had no comment to make on this application.

Note: The application was subsequently withdrawn.

- (vi) 11 Apple Tree Walk, Ombersley, Droitwich Spa, WR9 0HQ  
Two storey side extension

The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

- (b) Responses to Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that responses had been made on the following planning applications:-

- (i) W/15/02000/CU: Land adj Tattle Cottage, Lineholt, Ombersley (and amendment)  
(ii) W/15/02521/PO: Uttbridge House, Woodhall Lane, Ombersley, Droitwich, WR9 0EQ  
(iii) W/15/02569/PN: Ringmore, Main Road, Ombersley, Droitwich Spa WR9 0JG

- (c) Details of decision notices received from Wychavon District Council

The Clerk reported that the following decision notices had been received from Wychavon District Council:-

- (i) W/15/02220/PP: The Cottage, Sytchampton Lane, Sytchampton (Approval).

The Parish Council wished to express its disappointment that its reasonable request aimed at conditioning the hours of work so as to avoid any adverse noise impact on neighbours had not been taken into consideration.

- (ii) W/15/02367/PP: 2, Hunts Green Cottages, Hunts Green, Ombersley (Approval)  
(iii) W/15/02032/AC: Land at the Rear of The Parsonage (Approval)  
(iv) W/15/01956/PN: Little Owl Farm Park (Approval)  
(v) Appeal Decision Notice – Albion House, Main Road, Ombersley (Dismissal)  
(vi) W/15/01958: Moat Farm, Sinton Land – Certificate of lawful existing use or development (Approval)

- (d) Consideration of any other 'planning' matters received by the Council prior to the  
commencement of the meeting.

No further planning issues were raised.

### 135/15 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Broomfield was not present and had not forwarded a report.

### 136/15 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Tomlinson was not present. He had been intending to attend but due to a late illness was unable to be present. The Clerk gave a brief planning update on Cllr Tomlinson's behalf

### 137/15 Police Report

A copy of the latest Police Report had been circulated.

The Parish Council was aware of Kate Daniel's comments from the earlier public question time.

It remained concerned to see that the number of burglaries from outbuildings showed no signs of reducing. Councillors were also very concerned to note that the number of dwelling break-ins was beginning to rise. These were issues it would wish to address with Supt Kevin Purcell who was due to attend the January 2016 meeting.

### 138/15 Clerk's Report and Progress Reports

The Clerk updated the Parish Council on the following matters:-

#### (a) Vacancy on the Parish Council

The Clerk reported that the vacancy had been advertised and no applications had come forward.

The Parish Council agreed that the vacancy be advertised again early in the New Year.

#### (b) Council Standing Orders

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the updated Standing Orders. There were a number of associated issues which the Clerk had highlighted which still needed to be addressed.

It was moved by Cllr Mrs Goodman and seconded by Cllr Mrs Mitchell that the revised Standing Orders be adopted and that work continue to resolve those outstanding matters identified by the Clerk.

#### (c) Village Enhancement Schemes for discussion with the Ombersley Conservation Trust.

The Clerk had previously written to Sarah Pennington but was yet to receive a response. He would chase this up. In doing so, the Parish Council asked the Clerk to ascertain whether the Trust would be prepared to sponsor a Christmas Tree to be placed on the Weighbridge Site.

#### (d) North Claines Parish Council – Draft Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultation.

The Clerk had circulated a copy of North Claines Parish Council's Draft Neighbourhood Plan to Parish Councillors.

Any comments would be fed back to the Clerk.

#### (e) Complaints: 303 Diamond Bus Service

Cllr Mrs Goodman was continuing to pursue this on behalf of residents. Cllr Mrs Mitchell was also assisting.

Should it be helpful and/or necessary the Parish Council was happy to write formally to the County Council and Bus Operator. Cllr Goodman would notify the Clerk if there was a need to write.

(f) Wychavon DC Scrutiny Exercise - Enforcement

The Clerk reminded Parish Councillors of the previous requests from Cllr Peter Tomlinson to forward to him any views on the enforcement issues within the Parish. This would help inform the Scrutiny Exercise he was currently involved in.

Councillors undertook to forward their comments to the Clerk who would co-ordinate these on the Parish Council's behalf.

(g) Any Other Matters of Urgency

There were no other matters which needed to be raised by the Clerk

139/15 Highway Matters

The following matters were raised:-

- Provision of Dog Waste Bin

Cllr P Reynolds enquired about the process for providing a dog waste bin along the route of the Ombersley Circular Walk. The Clerk reported that requests had also previously been made by residents in the village. His understanding was that although the District Council may supply these, the costs of installing the bin and arrangements for emptying it would rest with the Parish Council. He would, however, check the current position.

- Litter Bin in Village

Cllr Best was concerned that the litter bin adjacent to the Noticeboard area in the village was in need of repair. The Clerk also reported that he had received a number of complaints recently as it had not been emptied. Councillors agreed that this should be considered as part of the wider enhancement of the telephone box and noticeboard area.

- Signage – Sytchampton Village Hall

Cllr Mrs Mitchell enquired whether it would be possible to replace the existing directional to Sytchampton Village Hall on A449 as it was becoming worn and difficult to see at night time.

Cllr Best reported that arrangements to widen the access road were currently being considered and this would need to involve the Highways Department. At this point any junction improvements and signage could be looked at.

- Access onto A449 at Hadley

Cllr Mrs Serrell reported a further incident of a motorist joining the A449 at the Hadley Junction, unaware that the road was a dual carriageway and turning directly into oncoming traffic.

Whilst there hadn't been an accident yet, the Parish Council was concerned at the potential. This is why the Clerk had raised the matter previously. Cllr R Reynolds reported that he would pick this issue up and discuss it with the police/safer roads partnership.

140/15 Envirecover CLG – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Envirecover CLG was scheduled for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015. The Clerk would be attending although the Chairman was unable to attend.

Under the Terms of Reference, the Parish Council could send a substitute if so wished.

The Parish Council confirmed that it did not wish to send a substitute to the meeting.

#### 141/15 Finance and Authorisation of Accounts

##### (a) Sytchampton Village Hall – Report on previously approved works and Expenditure

Cllr Best reported on the recent expenditure at the Hall. As previously reported and in accordance with its expenditure plan, replacement guttering and fascia replacement had been completed. Major flood alleviation work had been undertaken. This had been more expensive than anticipated as the existing drain and soakaways also required major work. Work was continuing to convert the storeroom into a community office.

Invoices for the work had been received and payments put before the Parish Council for approval under item 141/15 (e) below.

##### (b) St Mary's Doverdale – Request for Expenditure

Cllr Best reported that a request had been received from St Mary's Church, Doverdale for consent to use grant funds held on its behalf to pay for an electrical condition survey at the Church together with the removal of a number of tree stumps in the churchyard.

The invoice for the electrical condition report was included under 141/15 (e) below. The survey had revealed that extensive re-wiring was necessary. This would be an expensive scheme which would require further discussions between the Parish Council and St Marys in due course.

##### (c) Ceramic Poppies Update

Cllr Best updated the Parish Council on the latest position. He was holding a number of donations which had been collected from individuals. He was going to approach businesses for donations shortly. He believed that the purchase of the poppies would ultimately be offset by donations.

A number of the poppies had been used at the recent Remembrance Day Service. Additionally 6 had been loaned to both schools.

The Parish Council believed that it was important that the poppies be used at appropriate times and arrangements now needed to be put in place to ensure their safe storage and display.

Cllr Best confirmed that this would be done.

##### (d) Payment requests received prior to the meeting – there were no further payment requests which had not already been notified.

##### (e) Income Received, Cheques Paid and payments to be made.

Income totalling £1,010.00 had been received.

Cheques totalling £2,575.10 had been paid since the last meeting.

Cheques totalling £9,335.33 needed to be paid.

It was moved by Cllr Mrs Serrell and seconded by Cllr Mrs Goodman that the transactions listed in the agenda papers (and included as an Appendix to these Minutes) be approved. All Councillors agreed.

##### (f) Arrangements for settling any invoices prior to the Next Meeting

The Parish Council authorised the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Finance Committee to deal with any payments required prior to the next meeting.

##### (g) Other Urgent Financial Matters requiring Determination

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None.

142/15 Councillors' Reports

The following matters were raised by Parish Councillors:-

- Cllr Best reported that the telephone line to the Telephone Box in the village had now been connected. There would be a provision to make outgoing calls to emergency services and other pre-authorised services. A call bar would be put in place to prevent any other inappropriate outgoing calls being made from the telephone. Given the unreliability of mobile phone signals in the village this would provide a useful community resource.

A second-hand emergency phone handset could be sourced and placed on the side of the pillar box. Locating the phone on the pillar box would allow the kiosk to remain locked. The Parish Council confirmed that this would be its preference.

The cost of the connection and line rental was estimated to be £15.95 per month. As part of this a BT Wifi hotspot would be provided. Again this would be of community benefit.

Cllr Best hoped that the Ombersley Conservation Trust would meet the costs involved and he would continue to discuss this with them.

- Cllr P Reynolds reminded Councillors that the next village walk would be held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The Parish Council agreed that details should be advertised on the Noticeboard and website.

He further reported that a walk from Sytchampton Village Hall was being planned for the New Year.

Additionally, Cllr Reynolds also wished to recruit more pathway wardens. An advert seeking volunteers would be placed on the Noticeboard and Website.

- Cllr Mrs Mitchell asked whether the Parish Council could make enquiries about registering the Fruiterers Arms as an Asset of Community Value.

The Parish Council was supportive of the general principle but felt that further discussions were needed, particularly with the current owner before this could be pursued.

143/15 Correspondence.

Correspondence received was listed in the agenda papers and received by the Parish Council.

144/15 Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 19th January 2015 at Sytchampton Village Hall (7.30pm)

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

..... CHAIRMAN.

## Appendix

### FINANCE and AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS

#### a. Income Received:

E J Gummery	£60.00	SVH Donation (not yet at Bank)
Sytchampton Endowed First School	£750.00	Car Parking –SVH (not yet at Bank)
Richardson Brothers Charity Foundation	£200.00	Donation – Ombersley Handbells (not yet at Bank)
	<b>£1,010.00</b>	

#### b. Cheques paid since the last meeting

Old School House Garage	Church Mower Account – September 2015	£36.89	01858
David Miles Gardening Services	Lengthsman, Gardening, VAS – September 2015	£582.75	01859
J Jordan	Clerk's Salary – October 2015	£366.66	SO
Old School House Garage	Church Mower Account – October 2015	£46.05	01860
David Miles Gardening Services	Lengthsman, Gardening, VAS – October 2015	£582.75	01861
Glassier Windows	Entrance Doors SVH – Deposit	£910.00	01862
O/D RBL	Donation – Remembrance Day Wreathes	£50.00	01863
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>£2,575.10</b>	

#### c. Invoices Received for Payment (to date)

Sytchampton Village Hall	Drains, Guttering and Facia Boards - SVH	£6,519.37
Lion Containers	Shipping Container – SVH	£2,316.00
Sytchampton Village Hall	Cupboards – SVH	£499.96
<b>Total Invoices Payable</b>		<b>£9,335.33</b>

Bank balances as at 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Current Account - £39,895.95

Reserve Account – £3,109.10