

MINUTES OF OMBERSLEY AND DOVERDALE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30 P.M.  
IN THE NARTHEX AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, OMBERSLEY

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Present: Cllrs Mrs J Goodman, (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), W T Arnold, Mrs H Barningham, M Best (from 8.35pm), F Cody, C McKenzie-Rowan, Mrs J Mitchell, P Reynolds, R Reynolds, Mrs B J Serrell. (9)

In Attendance: Cllr P Tomlinson (County and District Councillor)

*In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr J Goodman (Vice-Chair) took the chair for the meeting*

*(Cllr Mrs Goodman in the chair)*

123/16 Chairman's Announcements

None

124/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs S Collier, D Ingram and C Welch. Cllr Best had reported due to a conflicting commitment, he was likely to be late arriving.

125/16 Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest

The following interests were declared:-

Cllr W T Arnold – Member of Ombersley Memorial Hall Management Committee.

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

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

Public Question Time

One member of the public attended but did not wish to address the Council.

126/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016 had been previously circulated. Councillors agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes.

127/16 Proposals for New Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in the West Midlands

To assist Councillors, the Clerk had circulated details of the consultation paper.

It was noted that under the proposals Ombersley and Doverdale Parish would be transferred from the existing Mid Worcestershire Constituency to a new Malvern and Ledbury Constituency.

The Parish Council took the opportunity to discuss the proposals in detail. Having done so, it concluded that it did not support the proposals principally for the following reasons:-

- Whilst it recognised that the review aimed to bring consistency to the number of electors in each electoral division, the transfer of Ombersley and Doverdale would create a number of additional issues which the Parish Council felt would be detrimental to the Parish and its residents.
- Historically, the Parish had developed an affinity with Droitwich. This had been regarded as its 'administrative centre'. Furthermore, many services (including postal services and school placements arrangements) had been developed on this basis. This relationship was well understood and the Parish Council felt that it was imperative that this relationship be preserved.

- Ombersley and Doverdale is the only Wychavon Parish proposed to be moved into the new Malvern and Ledbury constituency. As a consequence, to effectively represent the interests of the Parish, the serving Member of Parliament would be required to develop a day to day working relationship with the District Council for the benefit of only one Parish. The responsibilities of MPs are significant and the Parish Council believes that it would be unreasonable to expect an MP to do so. Whilst it is sure any serving MP would endeavour to represent the interests of the Parish, it believes that this is not realistic and it would become the 'poor relations' of the new Constituency.
- Historically, electoral divisions (whether Parish, District, County or Parliamentary) have always taken account of natural boundaries. In Ombersley and Doverdale's case the River Severn has always formed one of these natural boundaries. This is well understood and the proposal to move the Parish to the other side of the River would simply create confusion.
- Like many others, Ombersley and Doverdale is a large rural parish. Therefore in order to meet the electoral numbers threshold, the proposed constituency is required to cover a large geographical area. Ombersley and Doverdale is situated on the North Eastern boundary of the proposed constituency and would be included along with Grafton (Hereford) on its western Boundary. The constituency would also border Ross-on-Wye in the South Western corner and Tewkesbury in its South Eastern corner. Realistically, a Constituency of this geographical size cannot be in the Parishes best interests.
- The Parish Council and its residents already have well established links to Droitwich and the surrounding area. The issues affecting Ombersley and Doverdale are similar to those experienced by Droitwich and surrounding parishes. The Parish Council would therefore urge that this proposal be reconsidered and that arrangements be made for Ombersley and Doverdale Parish to be placed in the Bromsgrove and Droitwich Constituency where it more naturally sits.

The deadline for the submission of responses was 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The Clerk was therefore asked to draft a response highlighting the points made. A draft would be circulated to Councillors prior to despatch.

#### 128/16 Planning Matters

##### (a) Comments on Planning Applications

##### (i) Planning Ref W/16/02218/CU – The Grange, Chatley Lane, Ombersley - Detailed planning application for 2 No Holiday Lodges and Associated Minor Works

The Parish Council remains committed to supporting appropriate and sustainable development in the Parish. However for a number of reasons it is unable to support this particular application.

In terms of the market for such a service, the Parish already has a significant number of providers of holiday let accommodation. This site is in close proximity to a number of already established providers. It is not clear from the documentation provided whether any form of research has been carried out to establish the need for such a facility. Without such research, the Parish Council is not convinced that there is a need for such a facility.

Although the proposal only seeks to provide two lodges, the Parish Council is very concerned about the sustainability of the development. Given its location away from local services, anyone using the facility is likely to be wholly reliant on the use of a private car to access local services and facilities

It also has concerns about the access arrangements and the impact on those residents on the access route and in the immediate vicinity.

In conclusion the Parish Council strongly objects to the proposal for the following reasons:-

- the lack of adequate demonstration of need for such a facility;
- concern about on-going viability;

- the unsustainable nature of the development;
- the highway implications for those residents living along the access route to the site and its immediate vicinity.

- (ii) W/16/02288/LB – The Fruitlands, Lineholt Lane, Uphampton, Ombersley – Install reconstructed stone cills to 5 windows to East Elevation.

No objection.

- (iii) W/16/02017/CU - The Cottage, Comhampton Lane, Dunhampton, Ombersley – Change of use of land to domestic curtilage for the keeping and enjoyment of horses and to erect stables, tack room and stores with hay loft.

To be dealt with under delegated authority.

- (iv) W/16/02334/PP - Oakdale, Sytchampton Lane, Sytchampton, Ombersley – Side extension over existing car port with single storey rear extension

To be dealt with under delegated authority.

- (v) W/16/01724/PN - Woodfield Farm Barn, Northampton Lane, Ombersley – Conversion of existing garage to independent dwelling with associated garden

Given the location of the development the Parish Council appreciated that the application may give rise to concerns over the sustainable nature of the development. It was, however, mindful that there may well be reasons which may outweigh any sustainability concerns.

As with other applications of this nature, the Parish Council would advocate that, if the District Council was minded to approve the application, a suitable condition should be included to ensure that the new dwelling remained linked to the main house.

- (vi) W/16/02393/PN – Hawford Bridge Fishery, Ombersley Road, Hawford – Erection of a stable block and hay barn/tack room not in accordance with Condition 3 of planning ref. 13/02371 with regard to external materials.

Based on the information supplied and the reasons given for the change, the Parish Council saw no reason to object to the application.

It was, however, aware of local instances where the principal reason for such applications was to make the structure more appropriate for future development either as a residential accommodation or holiday let.

The Parish Council would therefore request that any consent is suitably conditioned to ensure that any further development is suitably controlled and subject to all necessary planning considerations.

- (vii) W/16/02393/PN – Hawford Bridge Fishery, Ombersley Road, Hawford – Alteration to roof of approved fisherman’s shelter – part retrospective.

Based on the information supplied and the reasons given for the change, the Parish Council saw no reason to object to the application.

It was, however, aware of local instances where the principal reason for such applications was to make the structure more appropriate for future development either as a residential accommodation or holiday let.

The Parish Council would therefore request that any consent is suitably conditioned to ensure that any further development is suitably controlled and subject to all necessary planning considerations.

(b) Responses to Planning Applications made on behalf of the Parish Council (Delegated Authority)

The Clerk reported that he had responded to a number of applications on the Parish Council's behalf under the delegated authority procedure. These are listed at Appendix 1.

(c) Details of decision Notices received from Wychavon District Council

A list of decision notices received since the last meeting was also circulated. A copy is included in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

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

The Clerk reported that he had received notification that an appeal had been lodged in respect of the application on Land South of Ox Orchard, Powers Lane, Ombersley.

Councillors also requested an update on progress with the approved planting scheme at Woodland View Fisheries.

Additionally, enquiries should be made about the on-going developments at and around Spice Fusion on A449.

129/16 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports.

Copies of Cllr Tomlinson's County and District Councillor reports had been previously circulated.

In his role as County Councillor, Cllr Tomlinson had met with David Hunter-Miller to look at various highway issues within the Parish. The following areas/issues had been identified for further investigation and attention:-

- Comhampton Lane – Drainage issues
- Boreley Lane – Drainage issues
- Northampton Lane – the verges and associated Badger activity
- Uphampton – speed issues
- Footpath on A4133 – from junction of Parsonage Lane into the village
- Hays Lane – Collapsed Drain and flooding issues
- Signage on A449 at Hadley and Chatley junctions

At the request of Councillors, the following additional issues would be added to the list

- Flooding on Uphampton Lane (outside entrance to Fruiterer's Arms Caravan Park
- Drains and ditches – Sytchampton Lane/Dark Lane.

As part of Cllr Tomlinson's District Councillor Report, updates were provided on specific planning issues relating to Plot 4, The Paddocks, Comhampton Lane and the Appeal at Pask Farm.

Cllr Tomlinson also reported that he would be accompanying staff from Wychavon who would be conducting a Rural Communities door-knock in the Parish on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016

At this point, Cllr Tomlinson left the meeting.

130/16 Police Report

A copy of the Police Report had been previously circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Mrs Goodman reported that she had discussed the use of Checkett's Car Park or the car park at the Alzheimer's Society for the next Mobile Station visit. She was also seeking clarification on the date of the next visit.

In respect of the reported crimes, the Parish Council was pleased to note that the number of reported crimes appeared to have reduced.

At this point, Cllr Best joined the meeting.

#### 131/16 Clerk's Report and Updates

##### (a) EnviRecover CLG meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016

The Clerk reported on the outcomes from the last EnviRecover CLG meeting which had been held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The next meeting (and tour of the Site) was scheduled for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016

##### (b) Rural Communities Programme – visit to the Parish – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016

This matter had been dealt with as part of the District Councillor's Report at 129/16 earlier.

##### (c) Remembrance Day Parade and Arrangements

The Clerk reported that the Traffic Management arrangements would again be dealt with by Midland Traffic Management Limited. The cost of the Road Closure had been included in the Parish Council's budget for 2016-17.

Whilst accepting the need for a road closure to be undertaken professionally, there was a concern at the cost of this. The Parish Council should look at this again as part of its discussions on 2017-18 budget.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman would liaise with organisers regarding attendance at the two services as well as arrangements for the collection of wreathes.

Finally, the Clerk had asked the Parish Lengthsman to clear any litter and leaves from the area in advance of the parade on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

##### (d) Neighbourhood Watch Update

Cllr Mrs Goodman updated the Parish Council on progress. A Co-ordinator's meeting would be convened shortly.

#### 132/16 Progress Report – Projects Working Group (Ombersley Play Area)

Cllr Mrs Barningham updated Councillors on progress.

Three companies (Active Play, Jupiter and Wicksteed) had visited the play area. To date only Wicksteed had provided a quotation.

Cllr Barningham would chase for responses and would also seek a quotation from Sovereign Playgrounds. Once responses had been received she would convene a further meeting of the Working Group.

#### 133/16 Finance and Authorisation of Accounts

##### (a) Report and Recommendations from the Finance Committee

Cllr Best provided an update following the recent meeting of the Finance Committee. The key points reported were as follows:-

- The Audit of the 2015-16 had been successfully concluded. A copy of the Annual Return had been circulated to Councillors. The Auditors had raised some administrative matters and their advice would be taken on board when preparing future years' reports.
- A scheme to enhance the Weighbridge Hut had been discussed. The Parish Council had previously agreed to the electricity connection and to replace the glass. The electricity connection cost had been confirmed (£1,269.54 inc VAT). Further, a quotation for the replacement glass had been received and authority to commit that expenditure would be dealt with under 133/16 (c) below. Arrangements were being made for the electricity supply to be connected. Cllr Best hoped that this would be completed in time for Christmas.

Some attention would need to be given to the roof and guttering and Parish Councillors agreed that this work should proceed.

In order to ensure that the building was fully secured, consideration would need to be given to installing some additional security measures. Due to the status of the building it would not be possible to erect any security guards on the exterior of the building. Quotes would therefore be sought for the provision of internal shuttering.

- The Committee had also conducted a review of income and expenditure for the year to date, agreed the process for seeking Grant Applications for next year and had discussed the current status regarding New Homes Bonus draw-down. The Finance Committee would discuss this in detail at their next meeting.
- Finally a request had been made by the Alzheimer's Society that the Parish Council consider holding funds raised locally on its behalf, as it did with other local organisations. The Finance Committee had agreed to this request.

#### (b) External Audit - Conclusion

As reported at 133/16 (a) above, the 2015-16 External Audit had been successfully concluded. A copy of the Annual Return had been circulated to Councillors. The Auditors had raised some administrative matters and regard would be had to their advice when preparing future years' reports.

#### (c) Replacement Glass for the Weighbridge Site

Cllr Best reported that a quotation in the sum of £691.90 had been received from Glassier Windows for the repair of frames and replacement glass at the Weighbridge Hut. It was moved by Cllr Mrs Serrell and seconded by Cllr Mrs Barningham that this quotation be accepted and the work should proceed. All councillors agreed.

#### (d) Payment requests received prior to the Meeting

No additional requests for payment had been received.

#### (e) Reports of Income Received, Cheques Paid and Payments to be made.

Income totalling £12,234.50 had been received.

Cheques totalling £3,081.24 had been paid since the last meeting.

Although the payment had previously been approved, Cllr Best confirmed that the amount payable to Nicholson Limited for tuning the organ at St Mary's Church was £218.40

It was moved by Cllr Cody and seconded by Cllr Mrs Serrell that the transactions listed in the schedule and included as Appendix 2 to these Minutes be approved. All Councillors agreed.

#### (f) Any other Financial Matters

There were no other financial matters requiring attention at this point.

134/16 Highways Matters

A number of highway matters had been considered as part of Cllr Tomlinson's Report at 129/16 above. No other issues were brought forward for attention.

135/16 Councillors' Reports

Cllr Mrs Serrell reported that she had been contacted by a number of local residents regarding a recently held Classic Car Rally. A number of vehicles had been driven around the lanes in the Boreley area at speed. The Rally appeared to be an organised event but she was concerned that no prior notification had been given. Cllr R Reynolds undertook to investigate this further.

Cllr Mrs Serrell also reported that she had been offered Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November and Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November by The Cross Keys Inn as potential dates for the Parish Council meal. Councillors expressed a preference for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Mrs Serrell would confirm the details and would circulate a menu.

Cllr Mrs Mitchell reminded councillors that an Acoustic Music Evening would be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at Sytchampton Village Hall with proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Society.

136/16 Correspondence

A list of correspondence had been circulated and was received by the Parish Council.

137/16 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7.30pm at Sytchampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm

..... CHAIRMAN.

## Responses to Planning Applications on behalf of the Parish Council

W/16/00510/CU – The Paddocks, Comhampton Lane, Ombersley

Change of use of land as a gypsy and traveller caravan site consisting of 3 no. mobile homes and 3 no. touring caravans and associated development; the erection of a small conservatory on one of the existing lawful mobile homes (part retrospective).

W/15/03242/PN – Land to the Rear of Oldfield House, Main Road, Ombersley

Erection of Dormer Bungalow

## Notification of Decisions taken by Wychavon District Council

W/16/00510/CU	The Paddocks, Comhampton Lane, Dunhampton, Ombersley	Change of use of land as a gypsy and traveller caravan site consisting of 3 no. mobile homes and 3 no. touring caravans and associated development; the erection of a small conservatory on one of the existing lawful mobile homes (part retrospective)	<b>REFUSED</b>
W/16/01866/OU	Uttbridge House Woodhall Lane, Ombersley, Droitwich Spa WR9 0EQ	Outline application for the erection of two dwellings (alternative layout to 13/01763 and 13/00045)	<b>APPROVED</b>
NM/16/02228/NM	The Fruitlands, Lineholt Lane, Uphampton, Ombersley, WR9 0JP	Non Material amendment to planning permission W/16/00043/PP to add stone cills to the five sash windows to the east elevation as per the original construction.	<b>APPROVED</b>

## Appendix 2

### FINANCE and AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS

#### a. Income Received:

Wychavon District Council	£11,812.00	Precept and Grant – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Instalment
Mr E J May	£422.50	Rural Rate Relief – Fruiterers Arms
	<b>£12,234.50</b>	

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

Old School House Garage	Church Mower Account – August 2016	£35.24	01931
Expression Media	Induction Loop – Ombersley Memorial Hall	£1,479.00	01932
Major Oliver Charity	Poppies – Donation	£500.00	01933
J Jordan	Clerk's Salary	£433.33	SO
Old School House Garage	Church Mower Account – September 2016	£50.92	01935
David Miles	Lengthsman, Gardening, VAS – September 2016	£582.75	01936
		<b>£3,081.24</b>	

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

		<b>£0.00</b>