

MINUTES OF
OMBERSLEY AND DOVERDALE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 20TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.30 P.M.
AT SYTCHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs: D Ingram (Chairman), Mrs H Barningham, F Cody, Mrs J Goodman, Mrs J Mitchell, P Reynolds, Mrs B Serrell (7)

117/15 Apologies for Absence - Cllrs W T Arnold, M Best, C McKenzie-Rowan, R Reynolds and C Welch

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

118/15 Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest

The following interests were declared:-

Cllr F Cody - Member of Sytchampton Village Hall Management Committee.
Cllr D Ingram – Member of Hartlebury Parish Council.

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

119/15 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2015 had been previously circulated.

It was moved by Cllr P Reynolds and seconded by Cllr Mrs Goodman that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. All Councillors agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

120/15 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/15/02000/CU: Land adj to Tattle Cottage, Lineholt, Ombersley.
Change of use of land to Residential Use to form new Access, Tennis Courts. Manege and Stables.

The Parish Council's overall feeling was that there was insufficient information accompanying the application to enable it to reach an informed conclusion. There were a number of issues arising from this application which it believed required further information. In summary, these were:-

- Did the application represent an appropriate use of green belt, agricultural land? There would undoubtedly be Planning Policies regulating this. In addition, answers to some of the questions raised below may begin to determine the appropriateness of the application.
- the area proposed for development was extensive, particularly when viewed in the context of Tattle Cottage itself. There was a concern that the size of the area to be developed was dis-proportionate.
- the site would require ground works to be undertaken to enable the site to be levelled. The surrounding area already had drainage issues (which were currently managed). The current gradient of the site (and surrounding area) allowed an element of natural drainage. Assurances would need to be sought to ensure that the levelling of the site and extent of surfacing required would not exacerbate existing drainage issues?

- the proposed tennis courts were extensive in size. In addition to drainage concerns mentioned above, there was no indication as to whether the Courts would be floodlit. If they were, potential light pollution may become an issue.
- the Manege proposed the creation of a stable block with 4 stables. The size of the associated paddock was relatively small and unlikely to be sufficient to graze and exercise 4 horses.
- there was no suggestion as to whether the Manege was to be restricted for private use or whether a commercial arrangement was envisaged. The number of car parking places proposed may suggest the latter. If the application involved an element of commercial use of either the Manege or Tennis Courts, there would undoubtedly be highway issues which would require comment from the Highway Authority.
- Regardless of whether the whole arrangement was intended for private use or an element of commercial use, controls would be needed to regulate potential light and noise pollution.
- it was recognised that there were few neighbouring households likely to be affected by the proposals, although the issues of light and noise pollution, highway and drainage/flooding issues may have a wider impact.
- in overall terms, the Parish Council was concerned about the sustainability of the proposal.

The Parish Council believed that further information and assurances were required to address the issues outlined above before an informed decision could be made on this application.

- (ii) W/15/02521/PO: Uttbridge House, Woodhall Lane, Ombersley, Droitwich, WR9 0EQ
Application to discharge a Section 106 legal agreement in relation to planning application 98/00031 in relation to annex accommodation.

The Parish Council had no comment to make as it believed that this was a legal matter to be resolved between the applicant and District Council.

(b) Responses to Planning Applications

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

- (i) W/15/01958/LUE: Moat Farm, Sinton Lane, Ombersley
- (ii) W/15/02220/PP: The Cottage, Sytchampton Lane, Sytchampton
- (iii) W/15/02367/PP: 2, Hunts Green Cottages, Hunts Green, Ombersley
- (iv) W/15/02447/PN: Ombersley Memorial Hall, Sandys Road, Ombersley.
- (v) W/15/02271/PP: Daneswood Farm (amended)

(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/15/01777/PP 16, Sandy's Road, Ombersley (Approved)
- (ii) W/15/02048/PP Blacksmith's Cottage, Chatley Lane (Approved)
- (d) Consideration of any other 'planning' matters received by the Council prior to the commencement of the meeting.
- (i) Consultation on Main Modifications to submitted SWDP.

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the letter from Wychavon District Council setting out details on the Consultation arrangements on the Main Modifications to the submitted South Worcestershire Development Plan.

A copy of the email dated 8th October 2015 had been circulated to Councillors which reported that the consultation period ran from 9th October 2015 through to 20th November 2015.

The Clerk also reminded the Parish Council that whilst there had been discussion about the allocation of the site off Main Road (The Racks) for housing, there was also another site north of Woodhall Lane identified for housing in the SWDP. The fact that this had not been the subject of modification meant that it had not been discussed since it was originally included. It was, however, a useful time to remind Councillors of its existence.

121/15 County Councillor's Report

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

122/15 District Councillor's Report

Although he was unable to be present, Cllr Tomlinson had circulated a written report. One particular issue which he wished to bring to the Parish Council's attention was the Scrutiny Exercise into Enforcement at Wychavon.

At the Scrutiny Team's first meeting, it was agreed to ask all Parish Councils two basic questions:-

- Have they had/or are experiencing any problems with Enforcement ?
- What is their opinion of Enforcement ?

Councillors were asked to put forward and thoughts they had on these questions to the Clerk so that a response could be provided to Cllr Tomlinson.

123/15 Parish Council Appointment

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting of the Parish Council a further letter of thanks had been sent to Roy Murphy following his resignation. As part of his response to this letter he had confirmed that he would be happy to continue to take on the role of a Path Warden.

In the light of this, the Parish Council should look to appoint a Parish Councillor to take on the responsibility for co-ordinating public rights of way matters, including the Council's Pathway Wardens.

It was moved by Cllr Mrs Barningham and seconded by Cllr Mrs Goodman that Cllr Peter Reynolds be appointed to undertake this role. Cllr Reynolds confirmed that he would be happy to do so and all Councillors agreed to this appointment.

124/15 Police Report.

The Clerk reported that following his letter, he had received a response on behalf of Supt. Kevin Purcell. Kevin had agreed to attend the Parish Council's January 2016 meeting so that Councillors could discuss their concerns directly with him. The Clerk would liaise with the Parish Council Chairman and Supt Purcell's PA to put detailed arrangements in place.

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

The Parish Council referred to the Rural Crime Matters event which had been held at Ombersley Memorial Hall. Whilst it was pleased to see that some proactive measures were being taken in respect of rural crime in the area, it was disappointed that the Parish Council had not been made aware of the precise arrangements or asked to assist in any way. 30 people had attended the event but the Parish Council considered that this may have been significantly greater had the event been publicised and promoted more widely.

125/15 Clerk's Report and Progress Reports

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

(a) Revised Standing Orders

The Clerk reported that he was currently revising the Council's Standing Orders and these would be circulated to Councillors once completed.

(b) Vacancy on Parish Council

The Clerk reported that he had now been informed by Wychavon District Council that they had not received an elector request for an election to be held. He could, therefore, now proceed to advertise the position for co-option.

He would now prepare the necessary notices so the Parish Council could determine the matter at its next meeting. All Councillors agreed.

(c) Councillor Development Opportunities

The Clerk would discuss this matter with Ian Marshall, Head of Legal Services at Wychavon District Council, with a view to determining what arrangements could be put in place for early 2016.

(d) Creation of Smartwater Protected Village

The Clerk had circulated details of an initiative where one Parish Council within Wychavon had purchased Smartwater Protection Kits at a reduced rate for every household in their parish. The costs had been met from New Homes Bonus monies. Councillors were asked to consider whether this would be something the Parish Council may be interested in doing.

From a financial point of view it was felt that this would be un-affordable to the Parish Council given the number of properties within the Parish. New Homes Bonus money, even if the Parish Council went down this route, would be insufficient to cover the costs. A significant proportion of the costs would therefore need to be met from the Parish Council's Reserves.

Should there be interest in purchasing kits, a number of residents in the Parish would be able to afford to purchase one. The Parish Council therefore considered whether any assistance should be offered to those residents who were interested but would find the cost prohibitive.

The initiative currently being discussed relied on all members of a parish having access to a kit, so an approach where only a small proportion took up the offer would not have the same impact. Added to this it would be difficult for the Parish Council to make judgements on who could afford to purchase a kit and who couldn't.

Cllr Mitchell reported that at the recent Rural Crime Matters event, the Police were handing out UV marker pens free of charge. This was an alternative way of marking property and was more readily available to all.

The Parish Council agreed not to proceed with the Smartwater initiative. Instead it would encourage any individual with an interest in obtaining a kit to contact the Organisers directly.

(e) Village Enhancement Scheme for discussion with The Ombersley Conservation Trust.

The Clerk had written to Sarah Pennington (Ombersley Conservation Trust) highlighting the Village Enhancement Schemes the Parish Council would be interested in pursuing jointly with the Trust. He hadn't received a response to date so would chase her for a response.

(f) Remembrance Day Parade

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Tony Checketts who had confirmed that an application for the Road Closure on 8th November 2015 had been submitted. As with last year, it would be necessary to employ an external company to manage the Road Closure on the day itself. Midland

Traffic Management had undertaken this last year and they had been requested to manage the Road Closure again this year.

The cost would be in the region of £450 including VAT. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had previously recognised that this was likely to be an expense for future years so had included provision in the Parish Council's 2015-16 budget to cover the costs. All Councillors agreed that the Clerk should be authorised to make this payment when the invoice was received.

126/15 Highway Matters

(a) Update on previously notified highway concerns

The Clerk reported that he had notified the Highway Authority about those concerns expressed at the last meeting. A number of these had already been attended to. He would continue to chase those which were still outstanding.

(b) Request for a Street Name – Consultation by Wychavon District Council.

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the background to this issue.

The owners of The Denes and Wallsmead House (which was located off Main Road) had contacted Wychavon to request that the currently unnamed lane on which their properties were situated be renamed Holly Lane. They believed that this would assist the local postal and delivery services to locate these properties in future.

The Parish Council had no objection to such a name change. The Clerk was asked to respond to Wychavon District Council notifying them that the Parish Council would have no objection to the proposal.

(c) Other Highway Matters

The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman had cut back the foliage which was obscuring the VAS on School Bank. He would also be paying specific attention to the Memorial and surrounding area in the lead up to the Remembrance Day Service.

Cllr Mitchell reported that there were a number of potholes around Winterfield Farm which needed to be reported. The Clerk would report these.

Cllr Serrell reported that there had been another report of a motorist turning into oncoming traffic on A449 at the Hadley Junction. The Clerk confirmed that he had reported this on two previous occasions and no action had been considered necessary by Highways. He would, however, report it further.

Cllr P Reynolds reported that he was also seeking to raise the profile of footpaths within the parish. Although Parish Path Wardens regularly walked the public rights of way it was not always possible to identify all those issues requiring attention. He would therefore encourage any resident or Councillor to report any issues to him.

(d) Land Drainage Issue at Acton Court.

The Clerk reported that he had been informed that notice had been served on the owners of Acton Court under the Land Drainage Act 1991. This required remedial action to be taken clear the watercourse deemed to be the responsibility of the landowner.

The Clerk had similarly raised the issue of the blocked and overgrown ditch affecting Dark Lane in Sytchampton.

127/15 Finance and Authorisation of Accounts

(a) Rural Rate Relief Application – The Old Leaking Well.

The Clerk reported receipt of a Rural Rate Relief application from the owners of The Old Leaking Well.

The Parish Council was concerned that there were strict criteria surrounding the approval of such applications. They were concerned that this had been received late in the financial year (after it had determined other applications) and approval could have knock-on implications on those applications already approved.

The Parish Council also noted that the size of the property was already at the maximum permitted (12,500 sq. m) and needed to be assured that any recent developments on the site had been included in the calculations.

The Parish Council agreed that it could not support this application for the reasons outlined.

(b) Process for seeking Grant Applications for 2016-17

The Clerk outlined the process for seeking and considering grant applications from those organisations who wish to apply to the Parish Council for grant support.

In accordance with previous practice the Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should make the necessary arrangements for notices to be placed inviting applications.

(c) Payment Requests Received

No further requests had been received.

(d) Income received , cheques paid and payments to be made – a copy of the financial transactions and updated bank balances had been circulated to Councillors.

Income totalling £12,199.00 had been received
Cheques totalling £2,528.82 had been paid since the last meeting
Cheques totalling £719.64 needed to be paid

The Clerk reported that there were no other financial transactions which needed to be approved.

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

(e) Other Financial Matters requiring consideration

In his absence, the Clerk had been asked by Cllr Best to raise the issue of the restoration of the telephone box in the centre of the Village.

The Parish Council had previously agreed to reconnect the telephone so that there was an opportunity to contact the emergency services should the need arise. This was considered to be essential given the limited mobile phone signal in the village.

As part of the previous consideration, there had been discussion about locating a defibrillator within the telephone box.

Following further discussion, the Parish Council concluded that it was not dismissive of the idea but wished to obtain further information from other community organisations that had done something similar before making a final decision.

Cllr Mrs Barningham also asked for an update on donations received in respect of the Ceramic Poppies purchased by the Parish Council. The Clerk would arrange for an update to be provided for the next meeting.

128/15 Councillors' Reports

The following matters were raised by Parish Councillors:-

- Cllr P Reynolds reported that another village walk was being planned for December 2015. He asked what the process was to book the Ombersley Memorial Hall. The Clerk would forward the Booking Secretary's details. The Parish Council also confirmed that should a booking charge be levied, the Parish Council would be happy to meet the cost.
- Cllr Mrs Mitchell queried whether an additional Parish Council noticeboard could be placed in (or near) the Bus Shelter outside the Medical Centre. This would need to be considered by the Finance Committee and would need to be looked at in the context of the many disused noticeboards around the Parish.
- Cllr Mrs Mitchell also raised the issue of parking outside the Medical Centre. As the Car Park was located at the rear of the Centre a number of people were increasingly parking on the road. Without traffic regulations preventing parking on the road, there was little the Parish Council could do, although should the problem become more widespread it could write to the surgery asking them to encourage users to make use of the car park. At this point, the matter should be kept under review.
- Cllr Mrs Mitchell also reported that the light in the bus shelter adjacent to the Medical Centre was no longer working. The Clerk would speak to the Lengthsman to see if this was a simple matter to resolve.

129/15 Correspondence.

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

The Clerk made specific mention of the following:-

- (a) Wychavon Bursary

The Parish Council confirmed that it did not wish to forward a nomination.

- (b) Wychavon DC Chairman's Christmas Service

Details had been circulated. Responses should be made to the Clerk.

- (c) Wychavon DC Chairman's Christmas Fayre.

Details had been circulated to Parish Councillors.

130/15 Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 17th November 2015 at Ombersley Memorial Hall (7.30pm)

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

..... CHAIRMAN.

Appendix

FINANCE and AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS

a. Income Received:

Wychavon District Council	£11,699.00	Grant and Precept – 2 nd Instalment
Worcestershire County Council	£500.00	Lengthsman – July and August 2015
	£12,199.00	

b. Cheques paid since the last meeting

John Taylor Ltd	Restoration of Ombersley Handbells	£2,162.16	01857
J Jordan	Clerk's Salary – September 2015	£366.66	SO
Total Expenditure		£2,528.82	

c. Invoices Received for Payment (to date)

Friends of Ombersley School	Grant Application	£100.00
Old School House Garage	Church Mower Account – September 2015	£36.89
David Miles Gardening Services	Lengthsman, Gardening, VAS	£582.75
Total Invoices Payable		£719.64

Bank balances as at 20th October 2015

Current Account - £40,882.25

Reserve Account – £3,108.97