

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OMBERSLEY AND DOVERDALE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 21ST JULY 2015 AT 7.55 P.M.
AT SYTCHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs: D Ingram (Chairman), W T Arnold, Mrs H Barningham, M Best, F Cody, Mrs. J Goodman, Mrs J Mitchell, R Murphy, R Reynolds, Mrs B Serrell, C Welch (11)

In Attendance: District Councillor P Tomlinson was also in attendance for part of the meeting

Chairman's Announcements

- Arthur Dowty

The Chairman informed the Council of the sad news that Arthur Dowty had recently passed away.

Arthur's had served on the Parish Council for a number of years. In addition to this he had also provided a considerable amount of dedication and support for the Parish and its residents over many years whether as an elected representative or simply a valued member of the community.

The Parish Council wished to formally recognise Arthur's contribution both in the minutes of this meeting and by a moments' reflection in his honour.

The Parish Council stood and observed a minutes' silence in Arthur's memory.

- New Councillors

The Chairman formally welcomed three new Councillors (Cllrs Frank Cody, Mrs Janet Mitchell and Peter Reynolds) who had been co-opted onto the Council.

The Clerk confirmed that all three new councillors had signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

81/15 Apologies for Absence - Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C McKenzie-Rowan and P Reynolds.

82/15 Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest

Declarations of Interest

The following interests were recorded:-

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

Cllr M Best - Member of Sytchampton Village Hall Management Committee

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public was present. Roy Richardson wished to address the Parish Council on a number of issues as follows:-

- Local Crime and Neighbourhood Watch – Recent police reports had revealed an escalation of criminal activity in the area. In many instances, sheds and outbuildings were being targeted with tools and machinery being taken.

Mr Richardson advocated a greater use of Neighbourhood Watch schemes to help combat this. In response Cllr Mrs Goodman outlined the work she was currently doing to ensure that

local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme were linked and that there were no gaps. Schemes were already in place in some parts of the Parish and the intention was to ensure that schemes operated where there were currently gaps. Cllr Goodman was hopeful this would be concluded shortly. Cllr Mitchell would also discuss the current position with Cllr Goodman in order to give any further assistance.

In addition, the Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should write to Kevin Purcell – Police Superintendent for South Worcestershire expressing the Parish Council's concerns and inviting him to set out what West Mercia Constabulary were doing to combat the current rise in crime.

- Business meeting with Nigel Huddleston MP – a lunch meeting with Nigel Huddleston and local businessmen/others had been arranged at the Crown & Sandys on Friday 18th September 2015 at 12 noon. Cost would be £15.00 per head for lunch and a cash bar. Mr Richardson felt that it would be beneficial if a member of Parish Council attended.
- The Ombersley Trafalgar night dinner event at the Crown & Sandys would take place this year on Tuesday 20th October. There was now a waiting list for tickets.
- West Midlands Combined Authority Mr Richardson had read in the press that Ombersley may be within the area included in the proposed combined authority for Birmingham/Black Country and the West Midlands. He asked that the Parish Council keep this matter under consideration.

83/15 Approval of the Minutes from the meeting on 16th June 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2015, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, agreed and were signed by the Chairman.

84/15 Arthur Dowty Funeral and Memorial Service.

The Parish Council was informed that Arthur's funeral would be held on 4th August 2015. A private family service would be held at Worcester Crematorium at 11.30am and this would be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's Church, Ombersley at 2.30pm

The Chairman asked that as many Councillors as possible would attend the Thanksgiving Service. The Clerk would circulate details to those Councillors who had recently retired from the Council.

85/15 Committee Etc Appointments

Further to the discussion at the last meeting, the following additional appointments were made:-

- Finance Committee – Cllrs F Cody and Mrs B Serrell;
- Sytchampton Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr F Cody
- Lloyds Educational Foundation – Cllr D Ingram.

86/15 Police Report

The latest Police Report was circulated for Councillors' attention.

Crimes were reported as follows:-

Burglary

This **BURGLARY** was reported at 1312hrs on Sunday 14th June on Uphampton Lane, Ombersley. At this time it was discovered that someone had cut off the padlocks and gained access to two storage units. They stole 3 18 gallon containers full of beer, 9 5KG bags of hops and 20 bags of malt.

Burglary

This **BURGLARY** took place between 2100hrs on Sunday 14th June and 0700hrs on Monday 15th June on Hays Lane, Ombersley. Between these times someone has cut the padlock off and gained entry to a wooden shed. Nothing was stolen.

Burglary

This **BURGLARY** took place between 2145hrs on Sunday 14th June and 0700hrs on Monday 15th June on Hays Lane, Ombersley. Between these times someone has entered an unsecured shed and stolen a strimmer with its attachments.

Burglary

This **BURGLARY** took place between the evening of Monday 15th June and 2040hrs on Wednesday 17th June on Owlhill Lane, Ombersley. Between these times someone has gained entry to a shed and had stolen a set of golf clubs and a Harley Davidson Motorcycle.

Vehicle Crime/ Theft

This **VEHICLE CRIME/ THEFT** took place between 1600hrs on Monday 22nd June and 0900hrs Tuesday 23rd June on Boreley Lane, Ombersley. Between these times someone has removed the rear door window from a Vauxhall caddy and stolen some tools. These include a STIHL strimmer, a STIHL blower/vac, a DANARM/ KASS strimmer and a safety helmet. Various hand tools were left behind.

Burglary

This **BURGLARY** took place between 2300hr on Monday 29th June and 0630hrs on Tuesday 30th June on Parsonage Lane, Ombersley. Between these times someone had forced entry to a shed and stolen some tools. The tools included a petrol Hedge Trimmer and a petrol strimmer. A set of golf clubs were left behind.

Burglary

This **BURGLARY** took place between 2000hrs on Monday 29th June and 1000hrs on Tuesday 30th June on Woodfield Lane, Ombersley. Between these times someone had forced a padlock off and gained entry to a shed and stolen a Honda rotary mower.

Burglary

This **BURGLARY** took place between 0000 and 0630hrs on Tuesday 30th June on Holt Fleet Road, Ombersley. Between these times a padlock had been forced off the door of a wooden shed and ripped a steel door off its hinges to gain access to a workshop. Various items were stolen, including 10 boxes of exercise mats and a Honda petrol mower.

Criminal Damage

This **CRIMINAL DAMAGE** took place between 2230 on Tuesday 30th June and 0400hrs on Wednesday 1st July at The Lake, Westwood Way. Between these times someone has caused damage to a seating and BBQ area, damaging some furniture, a bbq and a light fitting.

Vehicle Crime

This **VEHICLE CRIME** took place between 1030hrs and 1230hrs on Thursday 2nd July at Ombersley Golf Club. Between these times someone had stolen tools from an unsecured Mercedes Van. Stolen items included a Pass Load Nail Gun, a MAKITA Chop Saw and a HITACHI Rip Saw.

Burglary

This **BURGLARY** took place between 1900hrs on Monday 6th July and 0700hrs on Tuesday 7th July on the Main Road, Ombersley. Between these times the padlock had been broken on a detached garage and the door had been forced up. Nothing was stolen.

Burglary

This **BURGLARY** took place between 2300hrs on Monday 6th July and 0730hrs on Tuesday 7th July on the Main Road, Ombersley. Between these times someone had gained access to a wooden shed by forcing the padlock. Nothing was stolen.

Criminal Damage

This **CRIMINAL DAMAGE** was discovered at 1754hrs on Tuesday 7th July on Sinton Lane, Ombersley. At this time it had been discovered that someone forced the lock from a shed and gained entry. Nothing was stolen.

Criminal Damage

This **CRIMINAL DAMAGE** took place between 0000hrs and 0630hrs on Tuesday 7th July in Sytchampton, Stourport- On- Severn. Between these times someone had tried to force a mortice lock on a garage and damaged it. Entry was not gained.

Burglary

This **BURGLARY** was discovered at 1120hrs on Friday 10th July at Woodfield Lane, Ombersley. At this time it was discovered that a shed had been broken into using a Boot Cleaner and an Iron Bar. Entry was gained but nothing was taken.

Theft

This **THEFT** was discovered at 1637hrs on Tuesday 14th July on Lineholt Lane, Ombersley. At this time it was discovered that 3 quadbikes had been stolen from an old box lorry. The bikes were a Red Honda 4 Track, a Black and Blue Kazooma Meer Cat and a Yellow and Blue Suzuki LP.

The report concluded by commenting on the large number of break-ins to sheds and outbuildings lately. The number of proactive patrols had been increased, but the over-riding advice was to try to ensure that all outbuildings were secure wherever possible and that valuables were secured. Wherever possible logging any serial numbers from tools was recommended to help should anything occur.

The Parish Council had already discussed its concerns as part of the discussion under Public Participation earlier in the agenda. It re-iterated its desire to get a response from the Police regarding action it was proposing to take.

87/15 Clerk's Report and Progress Report

- (a) Ombersley Play Area – As a result of further comments about the Play Area, the Parish Council's advice was sought on the way forward. It had previously been agreed that the Play Area was in need of upgrading but the cost was prohibitive unless external funding could be secured.

The Clerk had already expressed a wish to Wychavon District Council that an upgrade to the Play Area be considered for funding via the Community Infrastructure Levy arising out of The Racks Development. Further following a conversation with Sarah Pennington (Ombersley Conservation Trust) she had confirmed that it was the applicant's desire to see Community Infrastructure Levy funds spent on local projects.

The Parish Council asked the Clerk to contact Jem Teale at Wychavon District Council to see if he was able to provide any further advice on potential sources of external grant aid.

The conclusions would then be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

- (b) Rodent Problems – Northwood House/Weighbridge Gardens – The Clerk had circulated correspondence with the owners of Northwood House concerning rodent problems at Northwood House. The Clerk confirmed that as part of the action being taken, bait boxes had been placed behind the Weighbridge Hut. He had received an assurance that these would be secure and did not pose any health threat to animals or children.
- (c) Droitwich Spa Community Bus – The Clerk had been asked to remind Councillors of this Rural Bus Service which was in danger of ceasing if there wasn't sufficient take up. Details had been placed on the website and Noticeboard.

Cllr Goodman commented that the feedback she had received was that whilst the service was appreciated, it was not necessarily convenient. It also relied on pre-booking which did not suit a number of users.

On the subject of Bus Services Cllr Goodman also informed the Parish council of concerns over the frequency and reliability of the 303 Worcester – Kidderminster service. She had encountered particular difficulties on the weekend of 9th and 10th July which she was currently seeking to address with the operator. What was more concerning was the fact that regular users reported that delays and cancellations was not uncommon.

Cllr Goodman would keep the Parish council up to date regarding responses received and, if necessary, would involve the County Council.

- (d) Ombersley Circular Walk – Although unable to be present at the meeting, Cllr P Reynolds had circulated an update regarding the Ombersley Circular Walk as follows:-

“The route preparation is almost complete. We have installed new walk posts along the route to increase help with directions. These posts will be waymarked with ‘Ombersley Village Walk’ plaques in two weeks’ time. We are working closely with the Countryside Services agency to continue to clear the paths where overgrown. We are working towards a launch date of September and I will keep the Parish Council abreast of developments”.

Cllr Roy Murphy also confirmed that promotional leaflets would be prepared by the County Council to co-incide with the official launch of the walk.

88/15 Newsletter and Parish Magazine (plus website)

The Parish Council discussed the continuation of the Newsletter and also its contributions to the Parish (Church) magazine.

A number of issues were now relevant to the discussion: Firstly the Parish council had ceased producing hard copy versions of its newsletter. Also the timing of the Parish magazine meant that the Parish Council Report was usually quite dated by the time it had been published.

Whilst the reasons for this were appreciated the Parish council was coming to the view that much more could be done via regular reports on its website.

The Clerk confirmed that he needed to have a discussion with Peter Newman (who set up the original website) to migrate the software from the now defunct Parish Council laptop. He would do this and would also look at how flexible the current website was and whether it could accommodate the Parish Council's needs.

The Finance Committee would, at its next meeting, consider this matter in greater detail and report back to the Parish Council.

89/15 Envirecover Update

The Chairman reported on the last meeting of the Envirecover CLG which was held on 13th July 2015.

In addition to a tour of the facility, progress reports were also received. The Group had elected Nigel Dowty as its Chairman and had further agreed a flexibility around membership. Whilst each Parish Council would still nominate 2 representatives, the ability to send a substitute members had been agreed. Therefore should any member of the Parish council wish to attend future meetings, this could be arranged.

Finally Mercia had committed to holding another Open Day if this was something Parish councils felt would be helpful.

90/15 Finance Committee Report and Recommendations

Cllr Best presented the following Finance Reports:-

- (a) Expenditure Requests – Sytchampton Village Hall – In terms of future expenditure requests, the Village Hall had replaced some of the Fire Doors. It was now proposed to replace the remainder of the external doors. It had also investigated the possibility of putting its energy bills through the Parish Council. In effect this would involve the Parish Council settling these from the Grant Funds held on behalf of the Village Hall. This would enable the legitimate reclaiming of VAT incurred.

Similar schemes could be investigated at Ombersley Memorial Hall if so desired.

The Parish Council agreed to the additional expenditure requests for Sytchampton Village Hall.

- (b) New Homes Bonus – Confirmation had been received from Wychavon District Council that the New Homes Bonus arrangements would now continue. An indication of the level of funds available to draw down had also been received.

The Parish Council agreed that the available balance should be drawn down and as per previous agreements, split between the two village halls.

- (c) Ombersley Handbells – The Parish Council had previously agreed to make good the difference between the funds raised and the cost of restoring the Ombersley Handbells. Cllr Best reported that it had now been agreed to include the polishing of the inside of the bells so the quote would revert to the original sum (£2,406.96 inc VAT as opposed to £2,162.16 inc VAT). Cllr Best further reported that the additional works would be funded by way of donation from the Richardson Brothers Charity Foundation)

- (d) Flowers for Lady Sandys Funeral - Cllr Best presented to the Parish Council a £50.00 donation towards the costs of Lady Sandy's funeral flowers from The Richardson Brothers Charity Foundation. The Clerk would write expressing the Parish Council's gratitude.

- (e) Payment of Invoices During the Summer Holidays – As the Parish Council was not due to meet again until September, the Parish Council agreed that the Clerk be authorised to settle any urgent invoices which needed to be paid in conjunction with the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

(f) Finance and Authorisation of Accounts - Income and Expenditure

Income totalling £266.00 had been received since the last meeting.
Cheques totalling £2,823.28 had been paid since the last meeting.
Payments totalling £182.79 needed to be paid.

Detailed information on the individual transactions was included in the Appendix to these minutes.

All transactions (including the actions proposed in (a) – (d) above) were moved by Cllr Best, seconded by Cllr Arnold and agreed by the Parish Council.

91/15 Roads and Related Matters

The following issues were raised:-

- Grass Cutting Request – A request had been received to arrange for the verge to be cut in Woodhall Close. For the last few years it had not been possible to confirm where the responsibility for cutting the grass lay. For ease, the Lengthsman had undertaken this task. The Clerk would ask the Lengthsman to attend to this again this year.
- Road Naming Request – The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the owners of The Denes and Wallsmead House to consider naming the currently un-named lane as 'Holly Lane'. The Clerk had advised that this was a matter for the District Council (who would no doubt consult the Parish Council as part of any naming process). It was, however, suggested that this lane was already known locally as 'Back Lane'.
- Litter in the gateway on the S Bends in Haye Lane - The Clerk had spoken to Sarah Pennington at the Conservation Trust who were in the process of considering whether an alternative access could be used. If this could be achieved some remedial work could be carried out at this location to help ease the current problem.
- Ombersley Roundabout – As part of his discussions with Sarah Pennington, the Clerk had discussed the current situation with regard to the Ombersley Roundabout as the Trust would be interested in contributing to the cost of planting and maintaining the roundabout.
- Contributions from the Conservation Trust for other Village Enhancement Schemes - In addition, the Trust would be interested in hearing whether there were any other schemes which it could help with to enhance the visual appearance of the village. The provision of planters was mentioned as was the provision of a Christmas Tree on the Weighbridge Gardens. Councillors were asked to forward any thoughts to the Clerk.
- Boreley Lane - Cllr Arnold asked that the Lengthsman be asked to clear the drains in Boreley Lane.
- Other Reports - The Clerk was asked to report potholes in Powers Lane and Northampton Lane and The Link Road, Hadley.

92/15 Correspondence

Correspondence received was listed on the agenda. The Clerk took the opportunity to draw specific attention to:-

- Email from DEFRA – Soil Sampling in Ombersley. The Parish Council confirmed that it did not own any suitable land but suggested that the Clerk respond, suggesting that Battendon Common would be a suitable place. The RAF butted batteries there during WW2 and there are still underground fires from time to time.
- Wychavon District council Flood Alleviation Grant Scheme.

93/15 Councillors' Report

(a) District:

Cllr Tomlinson covered the following issues:-

- Progress with the SWDP;
- Development of Shared Services and Wychavon's approach to 'self-sufficiency';
- Appointment of Linda Robson as new Leader of the District Council; and
- Discussions with Nigel Huddleston MP regarding retrospective planning applications

(b). County:

Cllr Broomfield was not present

(c). Parish:

Cllr Best thanked the Parish council for its good wishes following his recent operation.

Cllr Ingram asked Cllr Tomlinson to establish the current situation regarding enforcement matters at Knottsfeld Nurseries.

It was reported that the former Reindeer Public House was being re-developed as an Equestrian Supplies outlet.

94/15 Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 15th September 2015 at Ombersley Memorial Hall - (7.30pm)

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Appendix

FINANCE and AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS

a. Income Received:

Rural Rate Relief	£266.00	Ombersley Dental Practice
	£266.00	

b. Cheques paid since the last meeting

New Mill Services	Repairs to Church Mower	£121.36	01839
Tim Lewis	Decoration – Ombersley Memorial Hall	£475.00	01840
J Jordan	Clerk's Expenses – June 2015	£49.75	01841
Wychavon District Council	Rural Rate Relief – Ombersley Dental Practice	£267.00	01842
Coomber Electronics	Audio Equipment – SVH	£1,266.00	01843
Old School House Garage	Petrol and oil – Church Mower – June 15	£61.42	01844
David Miles	Lengthsman and Gardening Services	£582.75	01845
Total Expenditure		£2,823.28	

c. Invoices Received for Payment (to date)

Roy Murphy	Re-imburement – Fasthosts - PC website hosting	£82.79
David Miles	Work on Ombersley Roundabout	£100.00
Total Invoices Payable		£182.79

Bank balances as at 21st July 2015

Current Account - £31,895.33

Reserve Account – 3,108.58