

LITTLE WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 08th January 2018 in Little Witley Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Councillors Present:

Mr P Cumming (Chairman)
Mr C Bexley
Mr P Owen
Mrs L Slater
Mrs K Wilson

In Attendance:

Mrs A Watson (Clerk), Worcestershire County Councillor Dr K Pollock and 2 members of the public.

1. Public Participation: Mr P Hill raised concerns about the cherry trees dying on the main road and the missing fingerpost by the Ockeridge T junction, which has already been reported to County Council by the Chairman. Mr Hill also wished to express his thanks to the lengthsman, Mr Chris Bunn, for sorting out fallen branches due to the heavy snow. Cllr. Slater also reported on the state of the footpath between Well Lane and Old Timbers. The Chairman asked County Cllr. Pollock to raise this with Highways as it may need siding out.

2. Apologies: These were received and accepted from Cllr. Mrs P Cumming.

3. Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Mr P Cumming relating to planning decision for Item 11.1.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13th November 2017:

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Progress Reports:

5.1 Velo Birmingham - An invitation from Worcestershire CALC to a 'Velo debrief' on 10/01/18, 7pm at County Hall. The Chairman will attend.

5.2 'Old Road'/lay by on A443. The Clerk reported on a request made via Highways Liaison Officer, Hannah Davies, under the Freedom of Information Act and Cllr. Pollock reported on concerns the residents have relating to safety. Current measures being discussed are movement sensors to illuminate the area and ways to alter the kerb to make the entrance narrower. The Chairman suspended Standing Orders for five minutes to allow Mr P Hill to inform the meeting that the Council would need to de-dedicate this area of highway if changes were deemed necessary.

5.3 Parish Website: Cllr. Wilson stated that some progress has been made in building a new website, and although she and other councillors are capable of doing the work, in reality the council should look at paying a professional website developer to set it up and maintain it. A number of individuals were suggested and Councillors are to research other websites and providers for the next meeting.

5.4 Parish Council Assets: The Chairman confirmed that work had been done on the roof of the Bus Shelter, however further work is needed. Councillors unanimously agreed to this been done by Mr C Bunn who estimates the cost at approximately £40.

5.5 Broadband: The Chairman was happy to report that the system was working quiet well and that he had a test broadband download speed of 27mb. Councillors agreed this was a significant improvement, although the future of Airband's provision is still yet to be decided.

5.6 Smartwater Scheme. This was briefly discussed and the Clerk reported that the cost is £8.90 plus VAT per bottle, if a 60% parish uptake is guaranteed. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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6. District and County Councillors' reports.

Cllr. Pollock kindly gave a brief summary of his monthly report that is available on the parish website www.littlewitley.org.uk. He was pleased to report that Worcestershire starts the year in good shape, as indicated in the annual conference of the Local Enterprise Partnership last month. Over 400 local business people, local authority officers and councillors attended and overall, it was a very positive conference, with many lessons learnt and encouraging enthusiasm for the tasks ahead. A new Chief Executive will start work in the Spring. He is Paul Robinson, currently the Chief Executive of Derby City Council, where he runs a unitary authority with a large budget and staff, comparable to this county. The Public Realm work in Tenbury is nearing completion although there are still several items of street furniture still to be installed, but we must all trust that trade will now start return, to bring more prosperity to all retailers and residents in and around Tenbury.

Due to Mr P Hill wishing to ask questions on the Velo debrief, the Airband contract and the clearing of snow, the Chairman suspended Standing Orders for ten minutes to allow a discussion to take place. The Chairman re-instated Standing Orders and Cllr. Pollock left the meeting at 8.30pm.

The Chairman gave a short District Council report on how the leader of the Council had proposed getting rid of the two area planning committees and just having one. Cllr. Cumming reported that he had opposed this idea together with six other Councillors so there are still two committees representing everyone.

7. Finance

7.1 Update on current financial position and to agree the Budget 2018-2019.

The Chairman provided Councillors with a copy of the Income and Expenditure Accounts at 31/12/17, and a budget analysis, showing a small surplus, which was agreed.

7.2 To agree the Precept request 2018-2019 and submit to Malvern Hills District Council by 31/01/18.

The Chairman proposed that the Precept should remain the same as the previous year at £5000. This was seconded by Cllr. Owen and unanimously agreed.

7.3 The following payments were ratified:

7.3.1 Clerks Salary November 2017	£173.34
7.3.2 Clerks Office Expenses November 2017	£20.00
7.3.3 Clerks Salary December 2017	£173.34
7.3.4 Clerks Office Expenses December 2017	£20.00
7.3.5 Lengthsman for work during November 2017	£144.00
7.3.6 Lengthsman for work during December 2017	£132.00

8. Highways

8.1 Speed Signs, White Village Gates and Parish Council Grit Bins. The Clerk is to gather more information on the cost of mobile speed signs and provided a new quotation for the cost of village gates. Grit Bins have been recently filled Cllr. Owen is to liaise with the Lengthsman regarding additional salt provision.

8.2 Lengthsman's additional work was discussed – including approval of repairs to the Bus Shelter.

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9. Risk Assessments and Data Protection. The Chairman provided a draft risk assessment for discussion. It was agreed that Cllr. Bexley will look at what other parish councils do and report back to the next meeting. The Clerk is waiting for information on how the new data protection laws will impact on parish and town councils from CALC.

10. Correspondence for information.

- Invitation to Malvern Hills Area CALC Meeting 09/01/18, 7.30pm County Hall.
- Invitation to Worcestershire County Council Budget Consultation Meeting 24/01/18 at 6pm.
- Invitation to Worcestershire Pollinators Conference 27/03/18 at Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.
- Worcestershire CALC Training Programme 2018.
- Letter from Alice Spearing, Engagement Officer at St Richard's Hospice, Worcester. The Clerk will invite Ms Spearing to the Annual Parish Meeting in May.
- Information on Enterprise and Learning Bus ICT courses for adults.
- Letter from DM Payroll Services regarding General Data Protection Regulations.

11. Planning

Due to a Cllr. Cumming's Declaration of Interest, Cllr. Wilson Chaired Item 11.1 and suspended Standing Orders for 5 minutes to allow Mr Geach to address the meeting regarding his application.

11.1 Planning Application Number: 17/01787/FUL
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Geach, Field House, Well Lane, Little Witley, WR6 6LN. Proposal: Change of land for the stationing of 2no. Caravans for holiday let purposes. Little Witley Parish Council Response: Recommend Approval
11.2 Planning Application Number: 17/00507/HP. Malvern Hills District Council Decision Notice: Approval
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Fitch. Location: Tinkers Cottage, 2 The Square, Bank Road Little Witley. Proposal: Single storey side extension to replace a previous single storey extension.

12. Any other business and consideration of items for the next meeting.

12.1 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Monday 12th March 2018 and the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council as Monday 14th May 2018 to be held in the Hall at 7.45pm.

12.2 Co-option of Parish Councillor. The Clerk has notified Electoral Services and Councillors discussed the vacancy and the recent CALC Councillor training attended by Cllrs. Bexley and Wilson.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.50pm.