

LITTLE WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2017 in Little Witley Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Councillors Present:

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

In Attendance:

Mrs A Watson (Clerk), Worcestershire County Councillor Dr K Pollock and 7 members of the public.

1. Public Participation:

Mr P Hill stated that he had sent his observations regarding the Birmingham Velo to the Chairman, who had passed these onto County Cllr. Pollock.

2. Apologies:

The Chairman informed the meeting, that along with apologies from Councillor Mrs F Wilson he had also received and accepted her letter of resignation as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk will inform the Electoral Roll Officer.

3. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11th September 2017:

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

5. Progress Reports:

5.1 Birmingham Velo; including correspondence from Mr J Fraser, Worcestershire CALC, Little Witley parishioner Mr J Herbert and Belbroughton resident Mr B Robinson. The Chairman agreed to allow questions to County Cllr. Pollock upon his arrival at the meeting.

5.2 'Old Road'/Lay-by on A443 – Update from Highways Liaison Officer, Hannah Davies. No statement was available and Miss Davies did not attend the meeting.

5.3 Parish Website. The Chairman stated that as Cllr. Wilson has resigned and was leaving the village, there was an opportunity for a new member to look at taking on this role. The Councillors expressed their gratitude for the contribution Cllr. F Wilson has made and are sorry to be losing such a valuable member but wish her well for the future.

5.4 Parish Council Assets. The Chairman confirmed that he is working on the asset register with replacement costs and valuations for insurance purposes. The brick bus shelter requires some work that can be carried out by Mr C Bunn, Parish Lengthsman. Councillors unanimously approved expenditure of up to £200 to cover labour and materials. If it is more than this amount the Chairman will email Councillors for approval. It was agreed that the phone box will need painting after the winter and this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

5.5 Broadband is in the village and ready for parishioners to sign up to. The Chairman confirmed that he has his order in and will report on progress in the New Year. The current situation with Airband remains unchanged as the contract with the County Council stands, although they may look at usage in the near future.

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5.6 Smartwater Scheme. The Chairman reported on a talk given by the Police at Abberley Parish Council and details of an offer to supply the Smartwater liquid and parish signs at a reduced price provided there was a 60% uptake in the village. The Chairman suggested that as the external auditors had commented that Little Witley reserves are too high, that the Parish Council could purchase one bottle per household, he then suspended standing orders at 8pm for 10 minutes to allow an open discussion. It is understood that the bottle will mark a number of items and last for up to 5 years and be registered with the Police. There is no annual fee and there are different rates for business owners and churches. It was agreed that the Chairman will ask the parishioners if this is something they support and wish to take part in.

County Cllr. Pollock arrived at the meeting and the Chairman re-instated Standing Orders at 8.10pm.

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, and also stated that he had visited the Old Road/Lay-by a couple of times, whereby in his estimation things are working quite well. Cllr. Pollock then gave a short review of the Velo, which he accepted had proved quite controversial especially for those directly affected by the route; however he was not aware of any real problems other than some acts of sabotage at the beginning which resulted in a delayed start and finish time.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders at 8.20pm to allow member of the public to speak.

- Mr P Hill referred to correspondence received by the Parish Council from Mr Herbert and Belbroughton residents offering alternative ideas and routes. Cllr Pollock explained objections that the Velo was a race were not legal and the suggestion of an alternative Worcestershire Ramble for ramblers and cyclists was not a sensible one.
- Cllrs. Owen and Wilson put forward the suggestion of changing the route on an annual basis so that the same people are not burdened with the Velo every year, as it was asking too much to run the same route for the next 5 years. Cllr. Pollock stated that due to the cost involved this would be an unattractive proposal for the event organisers who had already lost money this year.
- Cllr. Mrs P Cumming argued that the whole of the Baldwin Ward had been disrupted, that the Velo was extremely unpopular and that small businesses would have a tremendous dent in their profits due to losing Sunday trade that day. Cllr Wilson also queried if they would receive any rebate or compensation. Cllr. Pollock stated that he had received no reaction or complaints from any business in the Baldwin Ward and that Fields Garage had a record day. He asked Cllr. Cumming for the names of businesses that have been affected.
- Mr P Hill complained that the Stewarding of the event was poor and not organised properly.
- Cllr. Pollock accepted that this was a problem, mainly because of the company employed, and that the planned access to pubs at Holt Fleet did not go according to plan as Stewards were not told, so it did not happen.
- Cllr. Bexley reported that as a competitor it was a remarkable thing to take part in, however, some things were not done very well, and that he was unsure it was a great opportunity to promote Worcestershire.
- The Chairman stated that a lot of people turned out to support the Velo in Bewdley and that the alternative route is somewhat limited. However, the County Council should be looking at leaving the two Severn crossings out of the route in future.
- Mr P Hill asked how the Charities benefit and that any accounts should be published to allay concerns. Cllr. Pollock stated that it will take time to get this information but amounts raised will be published and made available.

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- Cllr. Pollock defended the decision to go ahead with the Velo and stated that in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Economy we need to encourage more people to visit the County, although he accepted that some people will be inconvenienced by the event for a day. He also stated that the name 'Velo Birmingham' was not acceptable to Worcestershire.
- The Chairman stated that the County Council should make a small variation to the route, which would mean that it would not have to come through this way.

The Chairman then invited residents of the Old Road/Lay-By to speak and Mr O Clarke reported on anti-social behaviour, 'kids' driving around at night and confrontations with lorry drivers. Mr J Chaplin stated that photos and CCTV had been sent to Highways, although things had improved, asking for a solution to the problem. Cllr. Pollock stated that he had no statement from Highways and suggested that he continue the discussion with residents outside the meeting.

The Chairman thanked parishioners and Cllr. Pollock for their attendance and they left the meeting at 9.05pm.

7. Finance

7.1 The Chairman presented Councillors with a copy of the accounts to date and the following payments made since the last meeting and due to be paid were ratified:

7.1.1 Lengthsman for work during September 2017	£144.00
7.1.2 Clerks Salary September 2017	£173.34
7.1.3 Clerks Office Expenses September 2017	£20.00
7.1.4 Data Protection Renewal	£35.00
7.1.5 Nora Parsons Day Centre Grant	£150.00
7.1.6 Clerks Salary October 2017	£173.34
7.1.7 Clerks Office Expenses October 2017	£20.00
7.1.8 Lengthsman for work during October 2017	£144.00
7.2 Receipt of second half of Precept Payment for 2017/2018	£2500.00

8. Highways

8.1 Consideration of Village Gates and correspondence from parishioner Dr I Inglis. Following a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk will obtain a new quotation for gates and investigate the cost of speed signs and the Chairman, who will respond to Dr Inglis, shall arrange for a leaflet to go out to parishioners on this matter and the Smartwater scheme.

Before leaving the meeting at 9.20pm, Cllr. Slater provided information from Severn Trent on a text and call service to notify residents of water problems in their area if they register with Severn Trent for updates.

8.2 Speeding and A443 Pressure Group. No new information was available at this time.

8.3 Lengthsman's additional work. Cllr. Bexley confirmed that he had met with Chris Bunn.

9. Risk Assessments: The Chairman will email a draft copy to all Councillors prior to the next meeting.

10. Correspondence for information.

- Malvern Hills Community Awards 2017.
- Information on 'Be Winter Ready' campaign.
- Data Protection Registration Certificate from ICO and information on Data Protection Officer.
- Information from Mr R Fullee of Rural Highways Worcestershire.
- SWDP – Notification of Consultation on Revised Statements of Community Involvement.
- Worcestershire County Council's Planning Validation Document Review.
- Worcestershire CALC AGM 6.30-8.30pm Wednesday 15th November 2017 at County Hall.
- Christmas collection calendar for refuse and recycling collections.
- Letter from Broadwas Sports Association regarding request for funding which was declined.

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11. Planning

11.1 Appeal Decision for APP/J1860/W/17/3172423 RE: Application 16/01018/FUL – Appeal Allowed
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Applicant: Mr & Mrs Hall. Location: The Paddocks, Ockeridge, Wichenford. WR6 6YR.

11.2 Malvern Hills District Council Decision Notice for Application 17/01279/HP - Approval

Applicant: Mr Oliver Clarke. Location: Woodland Rise, Little Witley, WR6 6LL.

Proposal: Replacement of wooden by-fold doors with wood grain effect PVC doors and removal of existing French doors with wider doors.

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

12.1 To consider request to plant a Tree in Little Witley from Mrs S Coghill. The Clerk has consulted Worcestershire County Council Highways officers and learned that the responsibility would come under the Parish Council; however they do not consider a Walnut Tree a suitable species. Councillors agreed that this was not something the Parish Council would wish to take on and the Clerk will inform Mrs Coghill.

12.2 Worcestershire CALC training for Councillors – Cllrs: Mr C Bexley and Mrs K Wilson to attend.

12.3 Report from Clerk’s Gathering and update on Transparency Code and Audit. The Clerk provided information on the new system for the audit and self certification of Parish Councils for 2017/2018.

12.4 Update on MHDC Parish and Town Council Forum held on the 23/10/17. The Chairman and Cllr. Bexley gave a brief report on their attendance and discussions with other Councillors at the forum.

12.5 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Monday 8th January 2018.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.04pm.

Little Witley Parish Council