

LITTLE WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th September 2017 in Little Witley Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Councillors Present:

- Mr P Cumming (Chairman)
- Mrs P Cumming
- Mr P Owen
- Mrs F Wilson
- Mrs L Slater

In Attendance:

Mrs A Watson (Clerk), Worcestershire County Councillor Dr K Pollock and 10 members of the public.

1. Public Participation:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised, that due to the anticipated public participation, he would bring Item 5 forward to the start. After a brief discussion, Mrs Louise Slater was declared co-opted onto the Parish Council and signed the Parish Councillor’s Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman then responded to a number of questions he had received in writing prior to the meeting which he read out;

- Who was looking after the triangle in the village - a volunteer parishioner and the Lengthsman.
- Can the grass by the Bus Stop on the main road be cut - the Lengthsman will be asked if he can do this.
- Refilling of grit bins before winter - the Clerk is to check with Highways.
- Training of Councillors – the Clerk is to get the dates of the next CALC training courses and email to Councillors.
- Why has it taken so long for BT to connect the village – due to the failings of BT.
- Velo Road Closure – The parish has not been properly consulted.

The Chairman stated that he had first heard of the Velo in March 2017 and that both he and Cllr. Mrs P Cumming, as District Councillors, had complained on behalf of businesses and residents. Mr J Fraser, Head of Highways at Worcestershire County Council, who attended the last meeting had given assurance that all parishioners in Little Witley would be sent a leaflet, but this didn’t happen. Because of this, the Chairman organised a parish leaflet, then shortly afterwards the organisers sent one out. A discussion then took place and the Chairman invited County Cllr. Pollock to address the meeting and respond to parishioners concerns.

Cllr. Pollock responded to the Chairman’s comments about the leaflet and explained that the organisers had accepted responsibility for the hiccup and apologised for the incompetence, he then gave some background to how the Velo came about with the first approach to the County Council in May 2015. The original support in 2015 was given by the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways at that time for the event to go ahead although some individuals at the Council are against the event happening.

Cllr. Pollock stated that it was only correct to employ a professional firm to organise the Velo and CMS Active are a profit making company. Other than the time given by Council officers, particularly Jon Fraser and Ed Dursley, there has been no cost to the County Council. CSM are paying for all the signs, barriers, marshals, police and 458,000 letters that have been sent out. There have been a number of revisions to the route to try and mitigate all the problems and the County Council accepts that some individuals and businesses will be greatly affected.

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Cllr Pollock clarified that CSM nominate charities that the Velo participants may support and it is anticipated that these Charities will benefit from around £2 million pounds that will be raised. It is hoped that with 10% of the riders from Worcestershire, that there will also be an economic benefit to the County.

Birmingham City Council has signed up for 5 years but at this stage, Worcestershire County Council has given no commitment for the future. It is correct that people have put their names down already for the 2018 event however, the County Council had not anticipated the amount of opposition and if judged 'not good', it will not go ahead.

A heated discussion then took place and the following points were raised by Parish Councillors and members of the public;

- The Council needs to consult people properly and no decision on another event should take place for at least 3 months.
- There is huge concern that parishioners are going to be 'kettled' into their homes for the whole day.
- Emergency services, church services, paper deliveries, businesses, pubs, shops are all going to be affected and face losing valuable revenue with no compensation.
- An agreement is in place for the future, this is a done deal – the public are just not being told.
- This is not a charity race as people are charged to enter and there is no guarantee of what is raised for charity.
- The Council should ensure that CSM send out a leaflet stating how much has been raised and which charities have benefited after the event.
- Belbroughton parish have raised a legal argument.

Cllr. Pollock then stated that there will be a de-brief on the Friday after the event and then another meeting will take place sometime in October. He would like to hear from all those affected and people should respond immediately after the Velo has taken place, email KPollock2@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Cllr. Pollock hoped that the event would be supported by the public and emphasised the County Councils support for walking and cycling.

The Chairman confirmed that he will provide information in the parish news and ask parishioners to email him with their experiences at paul.cumming@malvernhillscdc.net

A short discussion took place regarding the Old Road/Lay By and Cllr. Pollock confirmed that this was a council asset and not for sale and hoped that agreement had now been reached between all parties involved. The Chairman thanked him for attending and he left the meeting at 8.45pm.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs K Wilson and Mr C Bexley.

3. Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs. Mr P Cumming and Mrs P Cumming relating to planning decisions for Item 11.5.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th July 2017:

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

5. Casual Vacancy for a Parish Councillor to be filled by co-option:

As Item 1, the Chairman declared that Mrs L Slater was co-opted and welcomed her to the role.

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6. Progress Reports:

6.1 Birmingham Velo – as per Item 1.

6.2 Old Road/Lay by on A443. The Chairman allowed Mr J Chaplin to report on his recent communications with Highways Liaison Officer Miss H Davies and also permitted Mrs A Drew to voice her concerns for parents using this area for dropping off and collecting children on the school bus. Mr Chaplin confirmed that the planting would remain however the no parking signs have now been removed.

6.3 Parish Website. Cllr. F Wilson reported that progress is being made.

6.4 Parish Council Assets. The Clerk will ask Parish Lengthsman, Mr C Bunn, to repair the tiles and the gutter on the roof of the bus shelter

6.5 Broadband. The Chairman reported that there was still no news on a date for installation in Little Witley, however Councillors agreed that Airband was working well at present.

7. Finance

7.1 The Chairman provided Councillors with a copy of the accounts to date and the following payments made during August and September 2017 were ratified:

7.1.1 Lengthsman for work during July 2017	£144.00
7.1.2 Clerks Salary July 2017	£173.34
7.1.3 Clerks Office Expenses July 2017	£20.00
7.1.4 Clerks Salary August 2017	£173.34
7.1.5 Clerks Office Expenses August 2017	£20.00
7.1.6 Lengthsman for work during August 2017	£144.00

7.2 To consider a grant for Nora Parsons Day Centre. The Chairman gave a summary of the Day Centre accounts and Councillors agreed to pay a grant of £150. Councillors are also invited to a 40th anniversary celebration at the Centre on the 14th October at 2.30pm. Cllr. Mrs P Cumming may attend.

7.3 The Clerk confirmed receipt of the External Audit Certificate and comments from Grant Thornton and Notice of Conclusion of Audit. The Chairman read out the External Auditor Report and comments regarding the high level of reserves were noted.

8. Highways

8.1 Quotations received for Village Gates. The Clerk provided a sample gate and quotations. Councillors agreed that due to the costs involved more research on the benefits was required. It was agreed to agenda this item for the next meeting and the Clerk is to ask County Cllr. Pollock if he would make a contribution from his divisional fund.

8.2 Lengthsman's additional work and relocation of grit bin. The Clerk is ask Highways about moving the grit bin on the triangle in the Village to the other side of the road, to also ask the Lengthsman, Mr C Bunn, to strim the triangles and repair the roof on the bus shelter.

8.3 Speeding and A443 Pressure Group. The Clerk read out correspondence from Mr S Workman regarding a meeting to form a speed pressure group. No Councillors were available to attend.

9. Risk Assessments

The Chairman reported these were being finalised and will then be circulated to Councillors.

10. Correspondence for information.

- MHDC- Five year plan consultation.
- MHDC – Local Requirements List Consultation.
- Draft South Worcestershire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Consultation.
- MHDC Parish and Town Council Forum Monday 23 October, 6-8.30pm in the Council Chamber.

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11. Planning

11.1 Malvern Hills District Council Decision Notice for Application 17/00181/FUL - Approval
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Hall. Location: The Paddocks, Ockeridge, Wichenford. WR6 6YR. Proposal: Change of use of a field from agricultural to equestrian use including an area of hard standing (retrospective).
11.2 Malvern Hills District Council Decision Notice for Application 17/00742/HP - Approval
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Slater. Location: Old Timbers, Little Witley, WR6 6LL. Proposal: Replacement of detached timber framed double garage building with detached double garage with home office/studio space above.
11.3 Malvern Hills District Council Decision Notice for Application 17/00844/HP - Approval
Applicant: Mr Oliver Clarke. Location: Woodland Rise, Little Witley, WR6 6LL. Proposal: Creation of semi-circular patio.
11.4 Malvern Hills District Council Decision Notice for Application 17/01074/HP - Approval
Applicant: Mr A Farrow. Location: The Butts, Bank Road, Little Witley, WR6 6LS. Proposal: Proposed extensions and alterations to existing dwelling and erection of a car port. <i>Little Witley Parish Council Response – Recommend Approval.</i>
11.5 Planning Application Number: 17/01279/HP
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. <i>Little Witley Parish Council Response – Recommend Approval.</i>

12. District and County Councillors' reports.

The Chairman gave an update on investigations into people living in mobile homes at the Lakes and confirmed that the Enforcement Officer was sending the owners a questionnaire.

A report from County Cllr. Pollock has been copied to Councillors and is available on the notice board and parish website.

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

13.1 Request to plant a Tree in Little Witley from Mrs S Coghill. The Clerk read out correspondence from Mrs Coghill. Councillors agreed to agenda this item for the next meeting in order to clarify with Worcestershire County Highways as to who would be responsible and any maintenance costs involved.

13.2 The dates of the following meetings were confirmed as; Monday 13th November and Monday 8th January 2018.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.32pm.