

# LITTLE WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Little Witley Village Hall at 7.45pm.

## Councillors Present:

Mr P Cumming (Chairman)  
Mrs P Cumming (from 8.55pm due to another meeting)  
Mr D Lowe  
Mr P Owen  
Mrs K Wilson

## In Attendance:

Mrs A Watson (Clerk)

### 1. Public Participation:

There were no members of the public present; however Mr P Hill had submitted questions to the Chairman in writing, which were discussed as follows;

Can anything be done to arrange the removal of the two cars on the side of the main road opposite Rock Cottage? *Councillors agreed that as these vehicles are on private land no action was required.*

The dangerous dip in Hockham's Lane has now been dealt with but it is only a patching job. *All agreed.*

Who will empty the new litter bin beside the bus stop; who holds the key? *Malvern Hills District Council.*

Great Witley are advertising for a new lengthsman; is Little Witley too or did Mr C Jones not do the job for Great Witley? *This is an agenda item 7.1 for discussion.*

Will LWPC be making any representations in respect of the planning application in Great Witley? Will this parish be affected by sustainability issues involved, e.g. transport, medical and education? How much Section 106 funding will be generated if planning permission is granted and how will it be spent? Is a S106 agreement in draft yet? *The Chairman stated that the Parish Council have not been asked to comment and the S106 information will come out in due course.*

### 2. Apologies:

Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Councillor Mrs F Wilson and County Councillor Dr K Pollock.

**Resignation of Cllr. Mr D Buggins:** At this point the Chairman confirmed the apologies of Cllr. Buggins and stated that he had regrettably accepted his resignation as a Parish Councillor. Cllr. Buggins has represented Little Witley in a positive and pro active way during a long period of service. Over the years his breadth of local knowledge has been called upon many times and Councillors agreed that he will be greatly missed. The Clerk will write a letter on behalf of the Parish Council and inform Electoral Services at MHDC.

### 3. Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs. Mr P Cumming and Mrs P Cumming; Standing Declaration of Interest relating to all planning matters. Cllr. Mr P Cumming vacated the Chair for the discussion of Planning Item 11.2.

### 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on the 09/01/17:

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### 5. Progress Reports:

- The Chairman stated that since the last meeting he had looked at the grant payments made to the Church since 2007 and reported that a grant payment for 2014 had been missed. Councillors agreed to add an additional £250 to Item 6.3 for the Church to cover this.
- Broadband – Airband is working and in addition the BT cabinet in Well Lane should be connected by the end of June.

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## 6. Finance

### 6.1 The following payments made during February and March 2017 were ratified:

6.1.1 Lengthsman for work during January 2017	£228.00
6.1.2 Clerks Salary February 2017	£173.34
6.1.3 Clerks Office Expenses February 2017	£20.00

### 6.2 The following payments, to be made electronically in April 2017, were approved:

6.2.1 Lengthsman for work during February and March 2017	£384.00
6.1.2 Clerks Salary March 2017	£173.34
6.1.3 Clerks Office Expenses March 2017	£20.00

6.3 Councillors considered and agreed to pay immediately, grants of £500 in total for the 2014 and 2016 Financial Years for the Friends of St Michaels Parish Church.

Proposed Cllr. Mrs K Wilson seconded Cllr. Mr P Owen.

## 7. Highways and Speed Survey.

7.1 A Letter of resignation had been received from Lengthsman, Mr C Jones who has retired from this role with all his parishes. The Clerk will advertise the vacancy on the website and write a letter of thanks to Mr Jones. The Clerk also confirmed receipt of Notification of the Lengthsman Scheme grant for 2017/2018 which remains at £1786 and information on the P3 scheme.

7.2 Councillors discussed the recent speed survey. The Clerk is to find out what the requirements are to have enforcement from the Safer Roads Partnership and also make enquiries regarding proper white speed gates.

7.3 Birmingham Velo; The Chairman gave information on the proposed road closures, including the A443 being closed for 9 hours, that are due to take place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017 due to this cycling event. The Chairman is to write to County Cllr. Dr K Pollock regarding the lack of consultation, whether each household will be informed by leaflet and to question if there will be any compensation for businesses.

## 8. Parish Council Assets

The Chairman reported that the litter bin was now installed by the bus stop and that the Notice board would be in place shortly. It was planned to arrange a working party to maintain the wooden shelter but Councillors agreed that due to the Health & Safety aspect of some products that may be used for these repairs, a professional quotation for the work was required. The Chairman is to also look at the insurance value of assets and to see if an increase is necessary.

## 9. Website

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council now had ownership of the website and domain name through him and Cllr. Lowe was kindly running and updating it.

## 10. Correspondence for information.

- Invitation to MHDC Parish & Town Council Forum on 24/04/17 at 6:00-8.30pm.
- Invitation to MHDC Health and Wellbeing workshop 17/03/17 at 10.30am-1.30pm.
- Update on MHDC new planning website service.
- Reminder that WCC Local Transport Consultation ends on 17th March 2017.
- South Worcestershire Development Plan – Supplementary Planning Document Consultations.
- Community Infrastructure Levy consultation.
- Clerk & Councils Direct March 2017 Issue 110
- Worcestershire CALC Spring Training schedule.
- MHDC Five Year Plan Consultation – ‘thank you’.
- Friends of St Michaels Parish Church – letter from Mrs D Hill, Treasurer.

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## 11. Planning

### 11.1 To note the new conditions attached to Approved Planning Application Number: 16/01018/FUL

The new conditions were explained by the Chairman.

**Cllr. Mr P Cumming then stated his D.O.I. and vacated the Chair for the discussion of Item 11.2 which was Chaired by Cllr. Mrs K Wilson.**

### 11.2 Planning Application Number: 17/00181/FUL

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).

**Chaired by Cllr. Mrs K Wilson, Councillors discussed this application at length.**

Councillors agreed to **Recommend Refusal** for the following reasons;

1. The location is highly visible and the development would be of significant harm to the character and appearance of the area by reason of the extent of hard-surfacing and the parking of vehicles.
2. Accordingly, the proposal would be contrary to Policies SWDP21 and SWDP25 of the SWDP, which collectively and amongst other matters requires development (that would include hard-surfacing) to be of a high design standard, complementing the character of the area and take account of the latest Landscape Character Assessment guidelines.

The Parish Council would also stress, that to allow an application of this nature to proceed in an 'open countryside location' would in effect "open the floodgates" to applications wishing to develop sites on agricultural land and may set a precedent should this application be approved.

### 11.3 Planning Application Number: 17/00166/FUL

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Clarke. Location: Land at Little Witley, WR6 6LN. Proposal: Poly tunnel to be used as livestock housing and general agricultural storage and the creation of a small area of hard standing to extend a pre existing yard area.

**Chaired by Cllr. Mr P Cumming;** Councillors discussed this application and agreed to submit the following comments they would ask the Planning Officer to take into account;

1. Having been granted permission for Application 16/00527/FUL in 2016 for a permanent building which stated "The proposal is for the erection of an agricultural general purpose building designed for cover and protection of crop, livestock and equipment with plenty of ventilation for the fodder and animals" – As this building has still not been built to date, why is it now necessary to apply for a polytunnel?
2. The Parish Councillors would also query whether the original plans have changed and what the reasons for this additional livestock housing are.

## 12. District and County Councillors' reports.

County Cllr. Pollock had kindly emailed his report which included an update on current finances, highways, the local transport plan and Tesco's in Tenbury Wells. This had been copied to Councillors and can also be viewed on the parish website.

District Cllr. Cumming reported on proposed changes to refuse collections from April 2018, a two week rotation and improvements to long term vehicle maintenance by using the site at Hartlebury.

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

13.1 The Chairman confirmed the date of the Annual Parish Meeting as Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.

13.1 The Chairman was sad to report the death of the Parish Council Internal Auditor, Mr D Pangbourne who will be sadly missed. Councillors discussed a replacement and The Chairman is to contact Mr P Galvin who does this work for the Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.40pm.