

LITTLE WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th July 2016 in Little Witley Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Councillors Present

Mr P Cumming (Chairman)
Mr D Buggins
Mrs P Cumming
Mr D Lowe
Mr P Owen
Mrs F Sinclair
Mrs K Wilson

In Attendance

Mrs A Watson (Clerk), County Councillor Dr K Pollock, Mr G Brienza, County Highways Liaison Officer and parishioner Mr P Hill.

1. Public Participation

Mr Hill asked the council to consider a request for litter bins by the bus stops and a seat for the elderly in the bus shelter. Mr Hill also asked, that the Council formally acknowledge the contribution made by Mr H Kendrick towards the village Broadband project. The Chairman has already done this in his report for the parish news and at the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillors agreed to consider the request for litter bins.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies however the chairman stated that Cllr. Mrs P Cumming would be late due to another meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. Mr and Mrs P Cumming; Standing Declaration of Interest relating to all planning matters.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings of 5th May and 9th May 2016

The minutes of both these meetings were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Progress reports

There were no progress reports.

6. Confirmation of appointment of Clerk

The Chairman confirmed the appointment of Mrs A Watson as Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to Little Witley Parish Council and the contract of employment was signed.

7. Presentation on home security – business and rural crime co-ordinator

The Chairman reported that as the co-ordinator could not make this meeting, the presentation and advice on security will now take place at the next meeting on the 5th September.

At this point, due to the attendance of Mr Brienza, the Chairman brought forward Agenda Item 11 Speeding in Village.

The Chairman explained the problems with speeding on the main A443 and traffic taking short cuts through the village and asked what Mr Brienza could do regarding the speed limit. Mr Brienza stated that Little Witley is not part of the Community Concern project and advised that the Councillors would

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have to talk to the Safer Roads Partnership and put a case forward to them for speed signs and enforcement cameras.

Mr Brienza gave detailed information about VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs), the information they can provide and that Westcotec could normally supply them for approximately £2650 which would include batteries and fittings. In addition, the signs require 100m of visibility but need to be within a 40MPH zone in order to be maintained by a Lengthsman. Mr Brienza suggested that a joint purchase with another parish may be worth considering.

Councillors also discussed the merits of a speed survey cable by the bus stop on the A443. Mr Brienza agreed that this could be arranged and the Clerk is to email Mr Brienza with a request for this survey to take place during the 1st and 2nd weeks of September when the children are back at school. The Chairman thanked Mr Brienza for attending the meeting which he left at 8.20pm.

8. Finance

8.1 Update on current financial position

The Chairman reported on bank balances of just over £15,000 in the accounts and that the expenses for the year total £400 to date with Lengthsman's claims up to date at the end of March.

8.2 To ratify accounts for payment made between meetings:

8.2.1 Lengthsman for work during May £102.00 and Strimming £24.00

8.3 The following accounts were approved for payment:

8.3.1 Internal Auditor £50.00

8.3.2 Lengthsman for work during June £174.00 and Strimming £24.00

Proposed Cllr. Lowe, seconded Cllr. Sinclair.

9. Valuation and maintenance of Council assets

The Chairman reported that the insurance cover for the assets needed to be reassessed as it fell short of what would be required in real terms. An estimate for the rebuilding costs of the two bus shelters was required and it was noted that there is a preservation order on one of them. Councillors discussed maintenance and it was agreed that the Chairman will put an article in the parish news to make a request for volunteers to help form a working party, as there was already an offer from a parishioner to supply the paint. In addition, the Chairman estimated that the cost of litter bins from the District Council was approximately £400 and 2 would be required. It was suggested that a grant may be sought from the District Councillor and the County Councillor towards the cost.

Councillors also discussed repairs required to village signs and recent signage put up to promote a local walk. Cllr. Cumming will make a request to the appropriate person in Hallow for these to be removed.

10. Broadband Report

The agreement with Airband, which still has 4 years remaining, was discussed at length. The Chairman stated that he was due to receive regular updates and that there was a risk that the company would not wish to continue acting as a provider once the current agreement has ended. County Cllr. Pollock stated that the Parish needed to push for a better service and long term with BT and this was best done through contacts at the County Council. It was agreed that Cllr. Lowe will ask County Broadband Project Officer Robert Stepniewski for assistance.

11. Speeding in Village

Dealt with earlier in the meeting.

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12. Correspondence for information

12.1 A notice that Well Lane will be closed for 3 days in August for Severn Trent works.

12.2 The Chairman reported that Mr R Wood had telephoned with a request for trees in the village between Well Lane and the Village Hall to be cut back due do to large agricultural machinery entering the village being used for harvest. Councillors discussed the required clearance of 16' which will be looked at by the Chairman and Cllr. Buggins and owners notified if required. Councillors discussed recent Tarmac Lorries entering the village which had knocked branches off trees and Cllr. Lowe asked how often Church Lane was swept by the Council, the Chairman stated once a year.

12.3 Councillors discussed the stolen sign from the bus shelter, but no one can remember the exact wording and no claim can be made on the insurance.

13. Reports of meetings attended and items for future agenda

There were no reports.

14. District and County Councillors' reports

Cllr. Cumming had nothing to report on behalf of the District Council. County Cllr. Pollock asked if the recent work on footways was satisfactory and Councillors reported that they were happy but also requested that other footways be widened. Cllr. Pollock stated that this would not be financially viable and that work on unused footways could not be justified. Cllr. Pollock then reported on extensive surface dressing throughout the County, plans for Tesco to build in Tenbury and gave an update on Eastham Bridge since its collapse that work was progressing rapidly. Cllr. Pollock also stressed the need to keep the pressure on the County Council regarding Broadband provision which he supported. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Pollock for his report and he left the meeting at 9.15pm.

15. Planning

There were no applications.

16. Any other business and consideration of items for the next meeting (5th September)

There were no other items to consider.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

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