

Little Witley Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th September 2015 at 8:00 pm

In the Chair: Cllr Hilgrove Kenrick

Present: Cllr Pam Cumming, Cllr Phillip Owen, Cllr Bob Jose and District Cllr Paul Cumming.

Apologies: Cllr Des Buggins

Minutes: Cllr Bob Jose

In Attendance: Two members of the public were in attendance.

1. **Apologies** – none.
2. **Declaration of Interest** – there were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of previous meetings.**
 - 3.1. The following clarification was noted on the previous minutes: that for the casual vacancies the Council needs to advertise the vacancies to see if there is interest and if not the Council can proceed with co-opting.
 - 3.2. Minutes of the meeting 25th August were therefore accepted.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - 4.1. Casual vacancies – No further interest has been expressed by any members of the public regarding Council positions.
 - 4.2. Standing orders were discussed and Cllr Cumming has reviewed the orders and has produced a draft of the proposed orders. Councillors were asked to read these in advance of the next meeting. Cllr Cumming would circulate an electronic copy of the standing orders.
5. **Planning matters**
 - 5.1. Existing planning applications – none
 - 5.2. New applications - none
6. **Local Issues**
 - 6.1. Broadband – Cllr Kenrick is attending an Airband meeting on 30th Sept at County Council where the service and support standards of Airband will be discussed with them as part of their staged funding..
 - 6.2. Transport and Highways – No update available. However Cllr Cumming provided an update on the work on Church Lane
 - 6.3. Footpaths and Rights of Way – It was reported that the finger sign post on Ockeridge Road near Field House requires repair and that the kissing gate in the entrance to Bulmer’s orchard off Ockeridge Lane is still not repaired. Also the hedge on the footpath from Well Lane to Church Lane required trimming back. The post for the footpath by Chapel Farm/Haven Nursery is missing. Finally it was suggested by Malcolm Lamb that a litter picking group is organised. No further action was taken on this suggestion.

6.4. Environmental matters – Nothing to report

7. Correspondence

7.1. None was received.

8. Police and Neighbourhood Watch matters

An incident was reported in Great Witley of a road accident in front of the Hundred House involving a bike and a vehicle but no further details were available.

9. County Council matters

A report was provided by Cllr Ken Pollack which was read out by the Chairman Cllr Kenrick. A full copy of the report is held on file and covered: verge cutting, footpaths and carriageways, Ketch roundabout work, Syrian Refugees and the County's rejection of a proposal to accommodate a dozen Syrian refugees in the county. The report also mentioned the divisional fund from which grants are available for small amounts for causes. It was noted that Cllr Jose objected strongly to the party political views expressed in the report as unnecessary and unwarranted.

10. District Council matters

District Cllr Paul Cumming reported the following. There is no truth in the news stories that Malvern Hills is accepting 50 Syrian refugee families. The council has agreed to work with other councils and bodies to accept some refugees, but none of the other organisations who would be needed for various aspects of the necessary care has agreed. In terms of cost, capacity and type of care needed the District Council is unable to take on such a role on its own, especially as Government funding currently only covers one year of five.

MHDC is to meet next week and the other two councils a week later, to approve some minor amendments to the SWDP required by the Inspector. There will then be a further consultation with comments going directly to the Inspector, before he should be in a position to sign of the Plan early in the New Year

11. Finance

- 11.1. Accounts for payment – No further invoices were received for payment
- 11.2. Cllr Cumming reported that the Lengthsman was unhappy with the delay in receiving payment. It was noted that cheques were being signed this evening in lieu of invoices approved at the previous Parish Council meeting. To overcome this delay it was agreed to pay invoices as received without prior Council approval and that the retrospective approval would be included in the next Parish Council meeting,
- 11.3. Change of Bank Signatories mandates – Paper for the signatories on the Lloyds Bank Account continues and Cllr Kenrick will be meeting with the Bank Manager to hand in the paperwork.
- 11.4. Reclaiming vat costs from County Council – this has been discussed and highlighted and District Cllr Cumming suggested a further contact within council to raise this issue. Cllr Kenrick will progress.
- 11.5. Bank Reconciliation – needs to be provided as part of the Parish Council report and Cllr Kenrick will provide details to Cllr Jose for the minutes.
- 11.6. The procedure for reclaiming the Lengthsmen costs from County Council was raised and further investigation is required

12. Meetings attended

- 12.1. Cllr Cumming reported that she is not receiving CALC meeting updates and this will be investigated.
- 12.2. No other meetings were attended

13. Clerk Position Update

No further update, as there has been no further interest in the position. It was agreed that we will re-advertise the position and place ads in the local post offices. Cllr Cumming expressed her opinion that we needed to appear to be more vibrant as a council in order to attract people to join. She also thought that the Council needed to be more inventive with how it goes about advertising the Clerk's position. She suggested that all Councillors needed to be more enthusiastic about what the Parish Council does.

14. Special Responsibilities

- 14.1. Village Hall – Activities are planned for October including a family Halloween party on Friday 30th. It would be good to see all of the parish councillors there. The hall is also looking for a new cleaning person as Lyn is stepping down.
- 14.2. Cllr Kenrick has been going through the Council's filing cabinet looking at the historic record which date back to 4th March 1972 when the parish councils were created. As interesting historic documents it was suggested that we contact the archivist in Worcester to see about donating the records, and affirming what is and isn't appropriate for donating. Cllr Jose agreed to make initial investigations

With no further business the meeting was closed at 8pm.

H Kenrick (in the Chair) 14/09/2015

Dates of next meetings:

Monday 9th November

Monday 11th January

Monday 14th March

Monday 9th May AGM and Annual Parish meeting

Appendix 1: Notes of the Public Question time held before the meeting of Little Witley Parish Council

Arnold Creaton and Peter Hill attended the meeting. Discussions on Airband offering as opposed to the BT broadband offerings were discussed. Mr. Creaton has a requirement to stream TV and videos and the discussion centred around how Airband has been able to provide this to many residents in the village although there were currently issues with the consistency of service being delivered which was being addressed in the upcoming meeting with Airband later in the month.