

Little Witley Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th August 2015 at 7:30 pm

In the Chair: Cllr Hilgrove Kenrick

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

Minutes: Cllr Bob Jose

In Attendance: No 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. Minutes from the meeting 25th May were accepted. Motion to accept proposed by Cllr Buggins and seconded by Cllr Cumming.
 - 3.2. Minutes of the meeting 9th March were accepted. Motion to accept proposed by Cllr Cumming and seconded by Cllr Buggins
 - 3.3. Minutes of the meeting 12th January were accepted. Motion to accept proposed by Cllr Kenrick and seconded by Cllr Jose
4. **Matters Arising**
 - 4.1. Casual vacancies – we understand that if we are able to find candidates for the vacant positions we will be able to co-opt them. There was time near the election when co-opting was not allowed, but we are not able to co-opt. We will approach a number of people in the community to see if they are interested.
 - 4.2. Standing orders were discussed and it was agreed that we would review the orders and carry forward this agenda item to the next meeting. Cllr Cumming would circulate an electronic copy of the standing orders.
 - 4.3. Web site hosting – We have received an invoice for web hosting from FastHost – this is a service which we no longer use and which should have been cancelled last year. Cllr Jose now reports that this service has been cancelled; however he was not able to secure a refund for this year.
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 in Sept at County Council where the service and support standards of Airband will be discussed with them as part of their staged funding. A number of residents have expressed concern and disappointment in the

service and we agreed to collate these and evidence as much as we are able. Cllr Kenrick will report these at the meeting.

- 6.2. Transport and Highways – Cllr Buggins reports that efforts continue to ask residents to cut back hedges and clear ditches which is the responsibility of landowners. Cllr Kenrick will include this in the parish magazine as well. It was also reported that work on Church lane was required to replace broken water pipes with new plastic ones
- 6.3. Footpaths and Rights of Way – No issues were reported by Cllr Owens.
- 6.4. Environmental matters – Nothing to report

7. Correspondence

- 7.1. A cheque was received from HM Treasury for the consolidated stock for £35.05

8. Police and Neighbourhood Watch matters

No report

9. County Council matters

No report was available

10. District Council matters

District Cllr Paul Cumming reported the following. Due to a national business rates appeal in relation to Doctors surgeries, it has been decided that the amounts paid over many years have been too high by a factor of some 70%. During the majority of the relevant period the rates were received by national government not Councils, but a couple of years ago there was a transfer of NNDR receipts to Councils. Although they did not receive the majority of the benefit, Councils are having to repay all the monies with the result that c£1.25m (about half of our revenue reserves) is being lost by MHDC as well as £150,000 in annual revenue. The NHS will receive the repaid money.

Representations are being made to Government through our MP and the LGA to produce a more equitable solution

11. Finance

- 11.1. Accounts for payment – the following bills were received for payment:

Worcester CALC subscription	£132.93
NALC subscription	£12.99
Malvern Hills bill for uncontested parish elections	£26.49
Internal Audit – Mr P Cumming	£50.00
Lengthsmen works for July 7 hours	£84.00
Gardening services C J Garden services	£24.00
FastHost domain name costs – paid by Bob Jose	£5.99
FastHost Web site hosting	£82.79
Little Witley Village Hall – Meetings 2014	£65.00
Little Witley Village Hall – Meetings 2015	£65.00

It was noted that the Village Hall Committee is not charging the Council for the use of the hall for the AGM or annual parish meeting.

Cllr Cumming proposed to accept payment of these invoices, which was seconded by Cllr Owen and passed unanimously.

11.2. 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.

11.3. Reclaiming vat – it was reported that we have not recovered vat from HRMC and it was suggested by District Cllr Cumming that Cllr Kenrick writes to the head of HRMC with details of our submission and to ask why we have not had a response.

12. Meetings attended

12.1. Parish Council Conference scheduled for 5th October at Malvern Hills 6-9pm – councillors were asked if they were able to attend.

13. Clerk Position Update

No further update. It was agreed that Cllr Kenrick would contact the two candidates who applied previously to reapply and we would look to readvertise the position in the CALC newsletter.

14. Special Responsibilities

14.1. Village Hall – Cllr Owen reported that the village hall committee was now made up of new members who were working hard to establish the committee. The organisational of the stock room is now complete, and work is being organised for the back door off the bar, and other repairs. It was reported that the notice board in the front of the building needs repair but the Village Hall Committee does not have a key for this and it appears that this is used exclusively by the Parish Council in the same way that the notice board on the other end of the village is used by the Council. It was suggested that Council and Village Hall Committee may look to co-fund repair or replacement of the notice board.

14.2.

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

H Kenrick (in the Chair) 25/8/2015

Dates of next meetings:

Monday 14th September

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

No members of the public were presents.