

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Witley Parish Council  
Held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.45pm in Little Witley Village Hall

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Present: Cllr Paul Cumming (Chair), Cllr Kay Wilson (Vice Chairman), Cllr Colin Bexley,  
Cllr Jonathan Geach,

In Attendance: Two members of the public, County Councillor Dr Ken Pollock, Clerk

**051 Democratic Period.** No items were raised

**052 Apologies.** Apologies were received from Cllr Slater (Child Care), Cllr Owen (Leave), Cllr Cumming (meeting).

**053 Declarations of Interest.** There were no interests declared

**054 Minutes.** The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th September 2018 were approved.

**055 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports.**

- a. County Councillor Dr Ken Pollock delivered his report, which would be made available on the Parish Website and on request from the Parish Clerk.
- b. District Councillor Paul Cumming reported on the SWDP Review and the potential implications for Little Witley and the surrounding parishes. A variety of consultations and policy reviews are in progress along with a county wide “Call for Sites” for new developments. Sites in the village itself and in nearby parishes have been put forward, although matters are at a very early stage.

The Council requested that District Councillor Cumming act as co-ordinator to link parishes together to lodge protests against the “build first/infrastructure later” approach which continued to create so many traffic movement problems in the area.

**056 Staffing Matters.** The Parish Clerk was confirmed in the role following the successful completion of the probation period.

**057 Updates.**

- a. SMART Water event 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Delivery of the remaining kits was underway with various councillors and the few spare kits were being advertised to local residents through the Parish Council’s web site and via the Parish magazine. Smart Water signage would be put up around the village as soon as the remaining two large signs were delivered to the Clerk.
- b. South Worcestershire Development Plan  
The Chairman had responded both to the Methodology Review and the wider review following the regulation changes.
- c. Community Litter picks  
Paul Cumming would be meeting with the MHDC co-ordinator to discuss the inconsistencies in the Footway/No Footway policy application. The Council

indicated that they would like to organise a litter pick with local volunteers in the Spring of 2019.

d. Bus Services

Cllr Bexley updated the meeting on his work in this area, including completing the recent Bus Services Survey and talking to local residents to gain an understanding of the issues they face in using public transport services. He was thanked for his work to date and was asked to keep a watching brief on developments.

e. Community Speed Watch Initiative

The Clerk read out an email (04/10/18) from the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator for Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police rejecting the proposal for local volunteers to mount a Community Speed Watch on the A443.

The Council instructed the Clerk to write and request information from Safer Road Partnerships on their plans to curb speeding on the A443.

f. Recruitment of Parish Path Warden

The Clerk advised that a local parishioner had applied to Worcester County Council to take on the volunteer role of Parish Path Warden. The Council instructed the Clerk to write and thank the volunteer for coming forward.

g. New / updated documentation

The Parish Council confirmed the Freedom of Information Policy and Publication Scheme along with all associated documentation. A decision on the proposed Financial Regulations document and the Grants Policy with Application form were to be bought before the Council at January 2019's meeting.

**058 Planning.**

Councillors had previously received information on the Permission In Principle (PIP), a new type of application for housing-led developments and Cllr Cumming briefly ran through some of the ways in which PIP was designed to speed up the Planning process.

There were no new planning matters to discuss.

**059 Highways.**

Ditches. Councillors were asked to inform property owners in their areas to keep all their ditches/drainage clear of weeds and debris in order to reduce the amount of flooding or potential flooding in the village.

Jetting along the A443, within the Parish boundaries had taken place in early November. A jet and trace request had been submitted to WCC's by the Highways Engineering Liaison following a site visit to problem areas along Bank Lane.

Re-locating of Parish owned grit/road salt bin. Cllr Wilson was to contact private landowners to see if a more suitable location could be found for the Parish Council bin. Salt in private storage. Access arrangements were to be made with Cllr Owen on his return and Cllr Wilson reported that her son had offered to assist with moving the grit mix is needed.

The Lengthsman had reported that all Council Grit Bins (S415 Well Lane, S237 Triangle bottom of Well Lane, S169 Village Hall Car Park, S377 A443 by Phone Kiosk) were full ready for the coming winter months.

County Councillor Pollock was asked for his assistance in looking at the relocation of S237 to the side of the road. The Clerk observed that S415 was in danger of becoming overgrown.

**060 Finance.**

Budget Preparations. Councillors presented their ideas for projects for the financial year 2019-2020, which focussed in the main on re-assessing the current asset portfolio, expenditure on restoring assets and looking to support parish community socialising opportunities. The Chairman and the Clerk would put together the draft budget ready for Council to discuss.

The Clerk had previously circulated the Parish maintenance planning recommendations for the financial year 2019-2020 and this was discussed in the context of putting together the budget proposal for the coming financial year. Due to the turn in weather much of the 2018 planned maintenance would not become active projects until Spring 2019. Funds could be rolled forward into the new financial year to assist with budget planning.

The Notice Board in Well Lane needs rebuilding as the back panel is rotting away beyond repair. Council would consider the removal of this board from service as the newer board on the Village Hall was more cost effective in terms of maintenance and easier to access for the public. This would also enable Grit Bin S415 to be pulled clear of the hedge making it easier and safer to access when needed.

A request for a grant had been made by the Friends of St Michaels and was presented to the Council. The Council agreed the sum of £250.00 would be awarded with conditions. These conditions included that the monies would only be used for community events, as detailed in their application.

Payments as per previously circulated list (2018\_11) were authorised and receipts were noted.

**061 Correspondence.** Event dates previously circulated by the Clerk - **Noted.**

**062 Consultations and other similar items.** Library Transformation Programme - **Noted**

**063 Lengthsman.** The Lengthsman was asked to continue his work around the Parish.

**064 Urgent Decisions since the last meeting.** The £20.00 expenditure on Clerk's training (authorised by Chairman and Vice Chairman) - **Noted**

**065 Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.** The opportunity of introducing new items on the website was to be explored at a future meeting.

Cllr Bexley is to explore the potential to develop a collaboration across local Parish Councils to pursue projects for the benefit of residents, where efficacy may be achieved on a bigger footprint than Little Witley alone.

**066 Next Meeting.** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at The Village Hall commencing at 7.45pm. As all business had been successfully transacted, the meeting was closed.