

## **The Minutes of the Meeting of the Little Witley Parish Council**

**Held at Little Witley Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Present:** Chairman, Cllr P Cumming, Cllrs P Owen, L Slater, Cllr. J Geach, Cllr. Pam Cumming.

**In Attendance:** C Hirst (Clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. K Wilson (on holiday), Cllr. Bexley (unwell).

2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Paul Cumming declared an Other Disclosable Interest on planning

**Public Question Time** – None present

3. **To consider any Application for a dispensation:** None.

4. **To approve the Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meetings of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023.** Cllr. Owen Proposed and Cllr. L. Slater Seconded that these be approved. All in favour.

5. **Councillor reports and items for future agenda:**  
None

6. **District and County Councillors Reports:**

**DC:** Report attached to the end of these Minutes:

**WCC:** Report attached to the end of these Minutes:

7. **Planning:**

- M/23/00784/FUL Winnall Cottage, Church Lane, Little Witley- Demolition of existing building and erection of replacement dwelling- WITHDRAWN
- M/23/00103/HP - Witley Park House, Worcester Road, Great Witley - Formation of a new vehicular access to replace an existing access which would be closed- APPROVED.
- M/23/01286/FUL The Laurels, Church Lane, Little Witley- Change of use of the holiday let back to residential accommodation for the main dwelling as annex accommodation and a side extension- APPROVED

8. **Finance:**

a) **Approval of the payment of Accounts up to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and note receipts received up to Cllr. Geach proposed and Cllr. Owen seconded that all payments be approved and receipts noted. All in favour.**

<b>Payment Schedule to Jan 24</b>		
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
BWP Creative Ltd	Website add-on	£ 132.00
C Hirst	Clerk Pay Oct	£ 139.25
HMRC	Clerk Tax Oct	£ 92.80
IN2OUT	Lengthsman Sept	£ 215.37
IN2OUT	Lengthsman Oct	£ 231.12
In2Out	Bus shelter repairs	£ 180.00
C Hirst	Nov clerk pay plus backpay	£ 210.31
HMRC	Nov tax	£ 140.00
IN2OUT	Lengthsman Nov	£ 181.12
C Hirst	Clerk Pay Dec	£ 149.61
HMRC	Clerk Tax Dec	£ 99.20
IN2OUT	Lengthsman Dec	£ 173.25
C Hirst	Clerk expenses to 8th Jan	£ 95.80
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,039.83</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
WCC	Lengthsman May	£ 173.25
WCC	Lengthsman June	173.25
MHDC	Precept 2	£2,500.00
WCC	Lengthsman July	173.25
WCC	Lengthsman Oct	181.12
WCC	Lengthsman Sept	165.37
WCC	Lengthsman Aug	173.25
WCC	Lengthsman Nov	181.12
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,720.61</b>

b) **Bank Reconciliation as at 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Noted.**

c) **Budget Monitoring Report to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Noted**

d) **New Waste Bins-**

Cllr. Geach would like to see a minimum of 2 general waste bins strategically positioned within the village. Potentially:

- Near Church entrance by path
- On or near triangle / blue bench close to the village hall

Cllr. Cumming Proposed that Cllr. Geach speak to MHDC to ascertain what the procedure is to obtain litterbins for the Parish Council to consider at the next meeting.

e) **Upgrade to Little Witley Village Hall and request for grant.** More information required from the Village Hall Committee to enable the PC to make any decision.

f) **To consider the 2024/25 budget and Parish Precept for 2024/25.** A proposed budget was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Paul Cumming Proposed and Cllr. Owen Seconded a 5% Increase on the precept to £5250 for 2024/25. All in favour.

g) **To consider investing funds not required in the short term with a higher interest account.** Cllr. Paul Cumming agreed to explore options for an agreement to made once a bank has been found. An agreement would then be sought by a suitable method such as email.

h) **To consider whether the Parish Council wants to use [www.ParishCouncilWebsites.org.uk](http://www.ParishCouncilWebsites.org.uk) for website hosting moving forward.** The cost for this would be £17.25 per month cost - £207 per year. Cllr. Paul Cumming Proposed and Cllr. L Slater Seconded. All in favour.

9. **Mud on the lanes. Report from Cllr. Paul Cumming:** Church Lane (and other areas are) often badly affected by lorry drivers who cannot drive and pull the spoil from the banks into the laned. Recent activity left what could be described as a dangerous situation, which has been highlighted on the village Facebook page. Clearing it is a hot potato between councils etc, so I hoped representations from the PC might help. It was noted at the meeting that some lane cleaning has taken place **Noted.**

10 **Correspondence for Information:** Circulated.

11. **To consider the Parish Council's Dark Skies Policy and the Parish Council's Risk Assessment/Management Policy.** Cllr. Paul Cumming Proposed and Cllr L Slater Seconded that the Dark Skies Policy be approved. All in favour.

Cllr. Cumming Proposed and Cllr. Geach Seconded the Risk Assessment/Management Policy be adopted. All in favour.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Little Witley Village Hall at 7.30pm

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm**

Signed .....

Date .....

Chairman: Cllr. P Cumming

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## LITTLE WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### Appendix 1 Worcestershire County Council Report – Cllr. David Chambers

1. The County Council, like virtually all other local authorities, is experiencing increasing costs in general and in three expenditure areas in particular. Adult Social Care, Child Care Placements and Home To School Transport are seeing costs escalate, resulting in budget pressures which the Cabinet are addressing as a priority.

The Council is determined to not only maintain key services but to continue to provide the enhanced services which it has committed to do. It doesn't help when the government fail to

maintain council grants in line with inflation and limit the increases that Council Tax can be increased by each year. For example, the Chancellor of the Exchequer can increase national taxes at will, to ensure “a balanced national budget”, but local authorities are limited to a 3% rise in Council Tax each year, at a time when inflation has been running at over 10%. I will keep you updated as the Council prepares its Budget for 2024/25.

2. The County Council has secured £1.1million to help speed up hospital discharges, boost social care provision and prevent avoidable hospital admissions. Local Councils with Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and identified by NHS England as experiencing challenges with urgent and emergency care, were invited to put forward proposals for access to a £40million government fund.  
Worcestershire County Council were successful and will use the additional money to buy more services aimed at keeping people out of hospital as well as more packages for care at home.
3. A new bursary to aid young people with special education needs or disabilities is being made available by the County Council. The £1,000 Supported Internship Bursary will be for those partaking in the Supported Internship Programme. The fund will aid learners in acquiring work essentials such as PPE, uniforms, IT equipment and travel support.  
The Supported Internship Bursary demonstrates the County Council's determination to fostering the growth and development of the county's future workforce and championing employment inclusion.

## **Appendix 2                      Malvern Hills District Council Report. (Cllrs Paul & Pam Cumming)**

A new Head of Planning has now been appointed, is due to start in February and should therefore be in place to steer the SWDPR through the Inspector's Examination. Meanwhile the Planning Improvement Group's suggestion that there should be a standing committee to monitor Planning performance has been rejected by the Executive in spite of support for the idea from Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is, however open to reconsideration in six months' time and in the meantime the PIG will continue its work with the same enthusiasm. The agreement to commencing a public consultation on a new CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) on new developments was sought at the last Council Meeting, but a decision was referred back to a subsequent meeting due to a feeling that further consideration of the details by councillors was needed. A total of £1.9 m has been received to date under the existing scheme and is supplemented by the £1m allocated for infrastructure from additional government grants. The Transport policy which will also support the SWDPR is still awaited.

The five-year Medium Term Financial Plan has been approved and it was revealed that the Council will have to find savings or additional income of £1.5m over that period to avoid cuts in services.

The first set of grants to rural businesses from funds provided by central government has been approved with successful applications from Astley Vineyard situated in the ward, plus the Save The Bell group which is supported by many local people.  
Finally, we should like to wish all villagers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.