

Minutes of Meeting of Whitbourne Parish Council held on 11th November 2019

Attendance:

Present: R. James (Chairman); G. Cupper (GC); S. Knowles (SK); P. Davis (PD); C. Wier (CW); M. Clark (MC); T. Hunt (TH); J. Bromley (JB)

In Attendance: Ward Councillor N. Shaw (NS), K. Phillips (Clerk). 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from P. Wood (PDW).

2. To receive declarations of interest

RJ declared that although he had no pecuniary interest in item 8a, he still had a business relationship with Whitbourne Estate. He therefore declared that he would continue to chair the meeting but take no part in the discussion or vote. If a casting vote was necessary, the the vice chair would fulfil this role. The remainder of the Parish Council agreed with this approach. No other declarations were received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on: 21st October 2019

Proposed JB, seconded SK. All in favour. Approved.

4. Matters arising from above minutes

It was confirmed that the planning conditions override the licensing conditions as noted under item 4.

5. To receive report from Ward Councillor

The Ward Councillor's report covered the following:

- NS had raised the matter of flooding in several areas with BBLP. These seem to have been addressed.
- A consultation is now open for the Herefordshire Council budget. There is a target of a 4% precept increase. There is an online version of the consultation and an open event at Bromyard Public Hall on the 21st November will take place.
- Rosemore Grange. NS has once again raised the matter with the officer concerned, and his boss. NS is considering raising a formal complaint if a response is not forthcoming soon.
- S106 remaining budget. NS has queried the matter once again with the finance department who will look into it. NS has also raised the matter with internal audit.
- NS was delighted that the village will soon have a new bus shelter. He queried the possibility of the old shelter being used on Bringsty Common for children on the school bus run. This was met with approval by Councillors. The Clerk will speak with the contractor concerned and advise accordingly. NS will provide labour and transport to remove the old shelter.

6. To receive the Clerk's report

- The contract for the phase 1 S106 works has now been placed. The Clerk thanked PDW for his support in this matter.
- Grass cutting had now ended for this season. It was noted that the contractor had priced next year's cutting to be the same as this year's as well as investing in a new mowing machine with a mulching deck. This was met with approval by Councillors to continue for next year.
- The BT cable at the bottom of Church Bank had now been refitted correctly.

7. Financial matters

a) To approve bank reconciliations to 31st October 2019

Proposed CW, seconded GC. All in favour. Approved.

b) To approve Income and Expenditure reconciliation to 31st October 2019

Proposed MC, seconded GC. All in favour. Approved.

c) To approve accounts for payment.

Clerk Salary Oct/Nov, Clerk HMRC PAYE, Clerk Expenses, PWLB and grass cutting. Proposed TH and seconded JB. All in favour. Approved. Details of expenditure are contained in a table at the end of these minutes.

d) To review current 2019/2020 budget versus spend. No issues raised.

8. Planning

a) Planning Consultation 193647 - Crumplebury Farm. The issue of noise was discussed and many noted that for the moment it was a matter of wait and see. Remedial actions could be

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taken in the event of a transgression of the condition. After further discussion it was proposed (GC) and seconded (TH) to support this application. There were two against the proposal and the remainder in favour. RJ did not vote. Decided.

- b) Planning Consultation - 193258 - Lyncroft, Badley Wood. It was noted that the plan as submitted was not up to date in that there were buildings present that were not on the plan. Councillors also noted the objections raised (and further information required) by the Ecology consultant. Noting these points it was proposed (PD) and seconded (SK) that this application be supported. All in favour. Decided.

9. To receive report from the Playing Fields committee

The Playing fields Chairman delivered a report covering the current situation and future plans. The report is attached to these minutes for reference. The Playing Fields Chairman also tabled the current and future spend of the committee. This showed that the committee were not able to finance with any degree of certainty the appropriate insurance, hedge cutting and annual inspections. The Playing Fields Chairman also noted that grants were being sought for new football posts and a double swing. The acquisition of adult keep fit equipment was already underway and would utilise the appropriate part of the S106 monies. The Council Chairman thanked the Playing Fields Chairman for her report and taking on the role.

10. To review and approve Precept for 2020/20221.

The Clerk had previously circulated a draft precept for consideration. Each line item was explained in terms of its relation to this year's budget. It was agreed to add £1000.00 to the budget to cover expenses for the playing fields (insurance, hedge cutting and annual inspections, see item 9 above). This would make the precept £12000.00, the same as this year. Proposed GC and seconded CW. All in favour. Approved.

11. To review effectiveness of Neighbourhood Development Plan

Councillors agreed that the NDP was still providing good support. It was noted that the NDP is now over two years old and may need a revision at some point. There had been a recent briefing by Herefordshire Council on this very matter. The Clerk would seek any notes from the brief and circulate as appropriate.

12. S106 Projects

- a) To review progress on agreed projects.

The works on the bus shelter would commence soon. The new shelter itself is due to be delivered on the 3rd December. The old shelter would be removed and re-sited on Bringsty Common (see item 5 above).

- b) To determine next phase projects.

MC reminded Councillors of the current thinking on the phase 2 options. These were as follows:

- White lining through the village past the pub to create a pedestrian walkway that should to some extent moderate traffic speed in this area. This may include parking bays at the pub depending upon curtilage limits (landlord permission to be sought).
- A 'SLOW' sign painted on the road before the 30MPH sign as well as a sign indicating people in the road.
- A new crossing point from the new footpath (due in early 2020) and the village shop.
- A Speed Indicator Device (to show the speed of a vehicle as it enters the pinch point by the pub)

MC also advised on the potential costs, noting that grants may be available from the Police Commissioner for the speed indicator devices. This would be further discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

13. To receive reports from the Village Hall and Manorial Court

- Village Hall. CW reported on progress of the future development plan. This included painting the main hall, staging and kitchen, a 'high clean' of the ceiling and a deep clean of the floor. CCTV was being considered as there had been some light graffiti on the outside of the windows to the hall.
- Manorial Court. The AGM was held last month. The Manorial Court Chairman had delivered a report to the MC committee detailing that the submission of a grant application to Natural England was not successful. The fear is that now the common will revert to native woodland.

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The recent fatality on the A44 had also raised the issue once more of the speed limit across the Common.

14. To decide approach to pruning oak trees by village hall

It was confirmed that the oak tree by the bus shelter had a TPO placed on it, however, the tree to the right of the entrance to the hall did not. It would therefore be possible to prune this tree to remove the overhanging branches to allow for higher sided vehicles to enter the hall grounds.

15. To approve the replacement of existing litter bins

It was noted that one of the bins (by the bus shelter) could be funded from S106 monies. The other bin (by the Parish noticeboard) would be funded from the Parish precept. Detailed costs and fitting specifications would be tabled at the next Parish Council meeting.

16. To report village issues regarding road maintenance, clearance etc.

- A drain was blocked by the old shop.
- Potholes at the junction of the A44 were now a real danger for two wheeled vehicles.
- Split in the road on bottom lane close to the ford bank bridge. Road subsidence is suspected due to the heavy vehicles and farm traffic using this road.
- Overgrown hedges. To be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- It was noted that HGV's and farm traffic were widening roads in some places (i.e.driving on the verges) making it difficult for motorists to see the edge of the actual road.

17. Public participation

- A request was made to ensure that there is a red rumble strip at the entrance to the village by Ardley Meadows.
- There is good Parish feedback about the telephone kiosk book loan system.
- A query was raised about the current situation with the Wheatsheaf Inn.
- The Parish Council were advised that the bus shelter could be moved in one piece.
- The Parish Council were advised that speed indicator devices had proven very successful in other Parishes.
- It was noted that the Rosemore Grange determination was 14 months behind schedule. This was to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

18. Items for future consideration

- S106 next phase projects
- Litter bin costs and specification
- Local woodlands environment update
- Overgrown hedges
- Rosemore Grange

The meeting closed at 21:07.

Cheque No	Expenditure	Payment
300424	Clerk Salary (Oct/Nov 19)	£314.35
300425	Clerk HMRC (Oct/Nov 19)	£209.60
300426	Clerk Expenses (Sep/Oct 19)	£40.00
300427	Grass cutting	£350.00
Direct Debit	PWLB	£1748.13
Total		£2662.08

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Chairman – 11th November 2019