

Minutes of Meeting of Whitbourne Parish Council held on 4th November 2020

Attendance:

Note: Attendance was by remote video conferencing as necessitated by the Covid-19 lockdown.
Present: R. James (Chairman); S. Knowles (SK); P. Davis (PD); C. Wier (CW); T. Hunt (TH); J. Bromley (JB); P. Wood (PDW); M. Clark (MC)

In Attendance: Ward Councillor N. Shaw (NS), K. Phillips (Clerk). 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

G. Cupper (GC)

2. To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on: 7th October 2020

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

4. Matters arising from above minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. To receive report from Ward Councillor

The Ward Councillor's report covered the following:

- Herefordshire had been placed in Tier 1 of the regional Covid restrictions. There had been an increase from 114 to 184 cases per 100,000 but Herefordshire still remains the 8th lowest among the 56 Unitary Authorities. The case rate for the over 65's is of concern. Currently there are 131 deaths due to Covid-19 within the county, registered by the end of October.
- The Herefordshire Transport strategy review was published earlier this week (some 328 pages). NS is currently reviewing the document.
- The Crumplebury application has now been scheduled on the Herefordshire Planning committee for the 10th November 2020. There has been a site visit of Herefordshire Councillors on the 3rd November 2020. NS reviewing the planning officer's report in preparation for the meeting.

RJ noted that there were concerns about the new road restrictions within Bromyard and the planters placed in the road. NS responded that these were temporary measures (max 18 months) to allow pedestrians to pass safely whilst social distancing. There is also a 20mph speed limit in operation. PDW asked if NS was now a full-time member of the Herefordshire Council planning committee. NS responded that this was only from time to time as necessary. Upon further questioning NS also confirmed that in his opinion he was in favour of the Highways objections concerning the Crumplebury application 'on the balance of harm'. NS had also pointed out sources of noise (other than from internal to the building) to other Councillors during the above mentioned site visit.

6. To receive the Clerk's report

- The VAT reclaim had now been paid stemming from the playing fields equipment purchase and Zoom subscriptions.
- The Clerk had been in touch with the local CSPO who had agreed to attend Parish Council meetings from time to time.
- The Parish Council ICO certificate had now been received.

7. Financial matters

a) To approve accounts for payment.

Clerk Salary Oct/Nov 2020 & Clerk HMRC PAYE, Clerk Expenses Sep/Oct 2020, PWLB

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

Details of expenditure are contained in a table at the end of these minutes.

b) To approve bank reconciliation to 31st October 2020 and,

c) To approve Income and Expenditure reconciliation to 31st October 2020. Proposed PDW and seconded TH. All in favour. Approved.

d) To review current 2020/2021 budget versus spend. No issues raised.

e) To decide precept/budget for FY 2021/2022. The draft precept/budget showed keeping the Precept at the same level as previous years. Proposed PDW and seconded CW. All in favour. Decided.

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8. S106 Projects

a) To review progress on agreed projects.

PDW reported that the work for the Ardley Meadows footpath extension would commence on 9th November 2020. All stakeholders had been informed and suitable permissions obtained (including appropriate licences from Herefordshire Council).

b) To determine next phase projects.

A review of the remaining S106 monies indicated that there may not be sufficient left to commence other projects. It was suggested that the Parish Council waits until the above works were completed to determine the remaining funds.

9. To receive report on NDP review

JB reported that the next meeting would take place on the 11th November 2020.

10. To receive reports from the Village Hall, Playing Fields and Manorial Court

- **Village Hall.** CW reported that the Village Hall was once again closed due to the second lock-down caused by Covid-19. Eight windows had been replaced. Fire extinguisher checks had been carried out.
- **Playing Fields.** TH reported there had been bids for grants submitted. There would be no Lottery grants awarded at the moment due to Covid-19. An updated risk assessment was in the process of being created due to the second nationwide Covid-19 lock-down. RJ noted that it may be cheaper to get the playing fields hedges trimmed at the same time as those on Church bank.
- **Manorial Court.** SK reported that the AGM was held on the 10th October 2020. There have been new nominees. The next meeting will be on the 11th November 2020.

11. Bringsty Common. To decide approach to:

- a) Speed enforcement measures. The Parish Council were in favour of supporting these measures
- b) Reducing speed limit to 40mph. The Parish Council were not in favour of this measure, partly due to lack of evidence.

The above approaches in a) and b) were proposed by MC and seconded by PD. All in favour. Decided. The Parish Council were also in favour of extending the 50mph speed limit to the county boundary past the Wheatsheaf pub.

12. To receive report regarding the Glebe/woodlands

PD reported that there seems to be very little interest by the Trust to become involved in the maintenance of the area. There does appear to be a high turnover of staff at the Trust. PD had provided photographic evidence of the overgrowing hedges as requested and will chase up soon. The situation is becoming more urgent as a tree surgeon had informally noted that some of the trees on the land are in a precarious condition. PD suggested that this item remain on subsequent Parish Council meetings.

13. To determine approach to verbal/racial abuse within the village

It had been drawn to the attention of the Parish Council that a parishioner had suffered some verbal abuse, which was considered to be racially motivated. On the day in question there had been a door-to-door salesman who had also become aggressive with householders not wishing to purchase goods. It was this same individual that had racially abused the parishioner. In this instance the abusive behaviour was from a person outside of the parish. In other instances the parishioner had received abuse from within the village, which the Parish Council condemns in the strongest possible terms. It is beyond the remit of the Parish Council to redress such behaviour and it is strongly recommended that parishioners call the local Police as this is a serious offence.

14. Zoom video conferencing

- a) To review approach to recording Zoom meetings. It was felt that recording and saving the Zoom video conferences was helpful. PD noted that for future Zoom meetings a statement should be made that the meeting is being recorded. Currently the recordings are stored on the Clerk's computer and it was proposed (JB) and seconded (PDW) that the Parish Council should purchase an external hard drive to store them on. All in favour. Approved. A further review would take place in May 2021.

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b) To decide approach to annual subscription. It was noted that meetings other than full Parish Council meetings take place using Zoom. These included the NDP Working group and Extraordinary Parish Council meetings for planning consultations. It was proposed (CW) and seconded (PDW) that an annual subscription to Zoom is taken out. All in favour. Decided.

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

RJ noted that the Parish Council had been asked to arrange the trimming of Church bank earlier next year before the primroses begin to appear. CW reported that a farmer had cautioned about the stones outside the cottages next to Poplands. The occupants could be liable for any damage to vehicles that happen to strike them. He also noted that the culprit that had stolen some goods from The Live Inn had been caught and given community service. The pub landlord was looking for ideas to help in the manner in which these community hours could be discharged to the benefit of the parish. The Clerk noted that several verge markers towards Whitbourne Ford bridge were no longer in place. MC noted that more were missing alongside Finchers farm.

16. Public participation

The Chairman of the Playing Fields committee thanked the Parish Council for their continued financial support. She re-iterated that under the current circumstances it was very difficult to raise money.

A parishioner raised the following points :-

- Wheatsheaf. It seems that potential purchasers of the Wheatsheaf are not allowed to view the property.
- Gigaclear. After a question about Gigaclear NS noted that they were still in the area and he would check with the Fastershire manager to determine the status.
- Lorry movements through village. Although there had been a substantial number of lorry movements through the village and across Badley Wood, NS noted that unless there was a 7.5T limit in place, such vehicles were allowed to pass and repass without hindrance. Nonetheless, there was concern about the condition of the road across Badley Wood.
- Crumplebury planning consultation. It was asserted that not all of the 22 employees quoted were related to the new development.

17. Items for future consideration

There were none noted

The meeting closed at 21:11.

Cheque No	Expenditure	Payment
300462	Clerk Salary (Oct/Nov 20)	£536.13
300463	Clerk HMRC (Oct/Nov 20)	£357.20
300464	Clerk Expenses (Sep/Oct 20)	£68.78
Direct Debit	PWLB	£1748.13
Total		£2641.46

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Chairman – 4th November 2020