

MINUTES

FLADBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Fladbury Parish Council held on Monday October 17th, 2022 at Sports Pavilion, Fladbury at 7pm.

PRESENT: Chairman I Southcott, Vice Chairman G Mills, Cllr D Day, Cllr A Hughes Cllr S Insall, Cllr N Manser, Cllr M. Neilan and Cllr P. Palmer. District Cllr T. Rowley and Mr A Ford (Wychavon District Council).

1. **APOLOGIES** - were received from County Cllr E Eyre.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Mills - SWDP
Cllrs Hughes and Palmer – Agenda item 11 – PCC Trees
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Minutes from the meeting of 26th September 2022 were approved – proposed Cllr Insall, seconded Cllr Neilan – all in favour

PRESENTATION ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN's by Andrew Ford (Wychavon District Council) – AF gave a brief update on the position regarding the consultation process of the updated SWDP, with a view of final adoption expected towards the end of 2023. With regard NPs, he advised it could take up to two years from the start to final adoption by the local authority, referring to the level of consultation with the local community, engaging help from consultants and funding available. The difference between a Village Plan and NP is that a VP holds limited weight as a 'planning tool' with the local authority whereas the NP is used as a formal Policy during the planning process. As well as identifying specific sites for development supported by the parish council and community, a NP can also make reference to other areas, including design of any new development.

Chair Southcott asked if we could focus on housing development only to enable a shorter process. AF confirmed that this was an option, but would still require full consultation with the community.

4. **COUNTY & DISTRICT CLLR REPORTS** – County Cllr E Eyre's report is annexed to these minutes.

District Cllr Rowley reported:

- SWDP Reg. 19 was scheduled to go to full Council for approval within the next few days before going back out for consultation
- A new Director of Planning had been appointed
- Broadway Lane - an appeal had been submitted by the developer - Cllr Hughes wondered whether the parish council should consider seeking professional advice. Cllr Southcott agreed that this was an option but it would incur a cost.

5. FINANCE:

(a) Payments for approval / authorisation (made since **July**):

Pavilion Gas	4.91
Clerks Salary	421.52
Clerks Expenses	37.00
Pavilion Water	43.27
Pavilion Gas	19.72
Pavilion Electric	58.22
Pavilion Cleaning	190.00
Website Domain	17.99

Grasscutting	195.60
Lengthsman June	168.00
Lengthsman July	168.00
Sanitary Services	111.60
Office Expenses	21.76
Clerks Salary	421.52
Clerks Expenses	37.00
Pavilion Water	43.86
Pavilion Gas	6.36
Pavilion Electric	52.27
Pavilion Cleaning	235.00
Playground Maintenance	170.00
Audit Fees	240.00
Grasscutting	391.20
Lengthsman August	168.00
Clerks PAYE	4.20
Pavilion Gas	12.82
Cheque Cancelled	
Gate - Pavilion	650.00
Clerks Salary	421.52
Clerks Expenses	37.00
Pavilion Water	43.86
Grasscutting	195.60
Community Transport	349.50

Approval of payments proposed Cllr Insall, seconded Cllr Hughes – all in favour

Account balances: Current Account: £44,398.96 / Deposit Account: £20,279.37

- (b) External Auditors Report 2021/22 – now received and no issues or areas of concern identified
- (c) External Audit 2022/23 - an invitation to parish councils to seek their own External Auditor – it was considered that there would be nothing to gain from this, but a lot of the Clerk's time would be required. Cllrs were in approval to stay with the existing process.
- (d) Street Lighting – *deferred to next meeting*
- (e) Neighbourhood Planning Training – approval was given for Cllrs Hughes, Neilan and Palmer to attend a training session at £30 per person. Clerk to organise

PARISHIONERS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – *there were no parishioners in attendance*

6. PROGRESS REPORTS

- a) Lengthsman – working to schedule and satisfactorily. Conker debris has been cleared.
- b) Handyman – Works at Pool Garden have been completed.
- c) Defibrillator Scheme – Nothing to report
- d) Conservation Area – Nothing to report.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - already covered

- 8. **POLICING:** Contacts are PC Martin Kennedy and PCSO's Karen Kempton / Andrea Beech (03003 333000. 999 emergencies and 101 less urgent crimes) – eveshamsrw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Cllr Hughes to organise police presence to stop traffic for Remembrance Day parade

- a) Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report
- b) Community Speed Watch – Cllr Neilan reported that he had been in contact with the CSW team and been advised that volunteers may need to be re-trained. He had put a request out to parishioners for new volunteers.
- c) 20's Plenty – Cllrs were asked to consider supporting an initiative to adopt a 'blanket' 20mph speed restriction throughout the village – the clerk had circulated papers regarding this new initiative and after lengthy discussion, Cllrs were asked to vote on whether to support, or not. A show of hands identified that of the eight Cllrs in attendance, five were in favour to support the 20's plenty initiative and three Cllrs abstaining. Cllr Hughes advised he would make contact with the 20's Plenty co-ordinator.

9. PLANNING :

- 21/02924 – Land at OS9939 4588, Broadway Lane. This had been refused and the parish council are aware that the developer has 'appealed' this decision – refence to Cllr Rowley's report above
- 22/01971 – Land adjacent to Broadway Lane Cottages, 2 self-builds - *awaiting decision by WDC*
- 22/00641 Anaerobic Digestion Plant and Premises - *awaiting decision by WDC*
- 22/02043 - Pugh Haulage Contractors, Change of use from agricultural to mixed use Class Eg (offices, research and development, light industry) and Class B8 (storage and distribution) – *this application was discussed by Cllrs and it was considered that further information was required before any final comment would be made. Cllr Day to draft comments before the Clerk submitting to WDC*

Planning / Enforcement Issues: Barn on the A44. The landowner has now been identified and WDC Enforcements are progressing this

Glasshouse Liaison Group: Nothing to report – Cllr Southcott would investigate the delay in the planning process

Crematorium: Nothing to report

SWDP – Nothing additional to report

10. SECTION 106 MONIES

- Sports Pavilion – no further update.
- Pool Garden – nothing further to report
- Canoe Club – Combining these monies with the Recreation Ground allocation to be investigated.

11. FOOTPATHS / TREES

- Trees:
 - ✓ Trees at Pavilion / Wharf - Planning applications had been submitted for approval to carry out tree work at (i) the pavilion car park – this has been approved and works completed, and (ii) the Wharf - we still await approval from WDC for works to be carried out
 - ✓ The replacement tree on the land opposite Old Rectory Green- awaiting to hear back from WCC

2022/29

- ✓ PCC Request for financial support for grass cutting / tree maintenance in churchyard and Millennium Wood – this was discussed at length, and it was agreed that a donation of £200 per annum be paid towards the cost of maintenance. This would replace the current donation paid to the VH (who benefitted from substantial Covid grants from WDC). However, the parish council considered that they were unable to support any contribution to the significant tree work at this time.

- Footpaths – nothing to report

12. RECREATION GROUND/PAVILION:

- Tennis Club Lease – remains outstanding.
- Boiler – the new boiler was scheduled to be installed in the week following the meeting.

13. LAND AT THE NAIT – the Chair reported that discussions continue between Executors and solicitors.

14. RIVER AVON POLLUTION – Chair Southcott reported that there was yet to be a meeting with the Environment Agency but testing of water samples continue

15. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT – A meeting had been held with representatives from Fladbury, Charlton, Crophorne, Wyre Piddle and Lower Moor parish councils. There was enthusiasm for a weekly trip from the five villages to Pershore and this is being costed. There are currently 25 parishioners from Fladbury who have signed up to the current scheme although just 5 or 6 actually use the service. The trial period had now come to an end but Cllrs were in full agreement that it should be extended until the end of the year before re-visiting again in January 2023.

16. CORRESPONDENCE: All relevant correspondence had been circulated to Cllrs

17. OTHER MATTERS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE DISCUSSION:

- Four new tubs had been purchased and located on verges at Millbank
- Poppy Wreath had been purchased – cost price of £20 and an additional £30 as a donation to the cause sent

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 21st November, 2022 at 7pm in the Pavilion.

Cllr ELIZABETH EYRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Fladbury, October 2022.

County Issues

The Pershore Area Review consultation findings and recommendations are being presented to Worcestershire County Council Cabinet on Thursday 27 October 2022. In summary, the paper recommends that Cabinet agrees on a commitment to support a collective change of age range to align schools in the Pershore Education Planning Area (EPA) **to a single, two-tier (primary and secondary) system of education. I have asked Children’s First to spell out the building implications for Fladbury First School.**

This decision is subject to a number of conditions including confirmation of a successful business case to HM Treasury by the Department of Education, which proposes funding an expansion at Pershore High School to accommodate all Year 7 Pershore pupils being included in the Schools Rebuilding Programme. If the conditions can be met, and decisions for change are made, the earliest date changes to First Schools will start is September 2024, with all changes being implemented in September 2025. Worcestershire Children's First remains committed to working with you on the issue of age range changes in the Pershore area.

Avon Pollution – full briefing from EA sent to Chairman of the three villages - but no meeting offered. I have however managed to get the subject on the WDC Rural Panel agenda 16 January 2023 at 2.30 pm in the Conference Room, Civic Centre, Pershore. Agencies will be asked to attend. I will update again after its meeting.

Active travel: Disappointingly Active Travel England, a government inspectorate and funding body, responsible for making walking, wheeling and cycling, did not agree with the County Council’s self-assessment, of its progress in this area (Level 1- they had made progress citing the A38 Bromsgrove Route Enhancement Programme (BREP), Worcester Canal Towpath improvements and other small improvements to cycle paths across the county. The County spends more than £20m per year on active travel measures. Active Travel England gave the Council a ‘zero rating’ implying no leadership and support, no plans in place, and only delivery of lower complexity. This now cuts the

County off from funding opportunities. The County has written to the new Secretary of State at the Department for Transport to voice its concern at this assessment, asking her to see the plans and the difference increased funding could make. I understand the new government is not happy with Active Travel and some changes have happened so watch this space, however, we in Fladbury and Charlton are not happy with the lack of progress on the Hampton to Pershore Cycleway – land purchase, as we have not had an update.

WCC's new more user-friendly public-facing Report It Dashboard is now live. It encourages customers to provide more detail so that we get a better understanding of the issue, its location and whether we've received other reports on the particular issue. e.g. drainage and flooding., an area which will undoubtedly be well used as we head towards the cold winter months. Our customers can now select which drainage feature is causing an issue (drains and gullies, kerb drainage, ditches, and culverts etc) and we help with this by providing photographs showing each of these features with a brief description of their purpose and where they are commonly located. Cllrs will be able to see our optimum inspection and cleaning regime and details of when these were last emptied or cleansed. This does not, of course, mean that we will not attend an asset outside of this time where issues are reported. We will then consult our database to gather intel and carry out a site visit where appropriate. We hope this is a significant step forward and reassures the public that we have robust and consistent cleansing regimes.

5-year land supply – both Tony and I have replied. Unfortunate but we are where we are.

Enterprising Worcestershire has a variety of support programmes to help

- start-up individuals
- early-stage businesses in Worcestershire including 12 hours of bespoke business coaching, to SMEs less than five years old.
- Consultancy support for high-growth Worcestershire SMEs, less than two years old through the High Growth Activate programme.
- One-week start-up club workshops delivered across the county.
- Grant funding to help businesses less than three years with investments.

Google Worcestershire Council's website: Home, Business, Support for Business, Enterprising Worcestershire Start-Up Grant

Sent out on Facebook last Friday

Highway issues

Enquiry 137 - Water leak - Station Road/Weston Orchard – seems to have worsened and there seems to have been a burst main on 5-7 October. The contractor closed Farm Street to A44 – 1st diversion did not meet WCC requirements so 2nd diversion was organised – only became aware on 7/10 – a proper procedure was not followed by the contractors, lot of inconvenience for residents. Hopefully, the leak at Station Road is sorted, not sure about Weston Orchard's original leak.

Enquiry 2447 A leak adjacent to the pumping station location reported by Cllr Eyre will chase up.

Replacement tree on the land opposite Old Rectory Green. The clerk is to contact Barry Barnes to ascertain what figure he might be prepared to fund. The PC quote was ca. £1500.

Enquiry 1312 - Station Road –reconsidering the siding out proposal and an advisory has gone out for reconstruction in the next year 2023, as siding out based on prior inspection may reveal a failed section of the carriageway or deterioration of the footway. BB is still not advised on timing.

Furze Hill – 3-day closure for electricity cable (junction with C2117 - Hill Furze) Jan 2023.

Footway (Nait) asked Broadway to send forms to Ian in case you need to register for the definitive map. Hopefully done. Let me know if not.