

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 8th November 2012,
at 7.30 pm, in the Old School Room, Charlton

PRESENT Cllr B B Browne (Chairman)
Cllr R L Davies
Cllr S M Eggleston
Cllr E G Grazier
Cllr Mrs B W Jack
Cllr Mrs R A Powell

In attendance: County Cllr Liz Eyre
Clive Bostle, Footpath Warden
Roger Gurney, Clerk to the Parish Council

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC FORUM

(One member of the public was present. Mr David Stratton reminded the Parish Council that he had checked on his land ownership, following the matter being discussed at the previous meeting. He confirmed that the land between Brookfield and Merry Brook is not owned by him, but he does have a right of access across it. Also he does own the land opposite the Cemetery. The Chairman thanked him for this information).

112/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted from Cllr Wood.

113/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

114/12 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2012

The draft minutes had been circulated previously. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Grazier, and resolved, that the Minutes be signed as a true record.

115/12 PROGRESS REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- 1. Footpath Warden.** Clive Bostle was invited to speak. He reported that he had done some maintenance work on footpaths near the Green and off Boston Lane. WCC will provide a new stile on FP511; trees need to be inspected on FP506; WCC had acted quickly to remove pollarded trees on FP524; and WCC is investigating the recently ploughed and sown field, which is obstructing FP502. The Chairman thanked Mr Bostle.
- 2. Lengthsman.** Steve Gwilliam was not in attendance and his worksheet for September was circulated with the agenda. It was noted that the land between the Church and The Dovecote has been cleared.
- 3. Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall.** Cllr Mrs Powell has not been invited to meetings and there was no report. It was noted that a firework party is being held on 10th November to celebrate the opening of the refurbished hall.
- 4. Workman Trust/Old School Room.** The AGM has been held and there are plans for work to be done on the roof.
- 5. Registration of The Green and Cemetery.** The Clerk reported that he has almost completed the application for registering the Cemetery with Land Registry. He will then complete the application for The Green.

6. Payments deferred at September meeting. The Clerk reported that he has confirmed details of the invoice for the Old School Room with David Brown and has agreed that an additional invoice for 2011/2012, for consideration later in this meeting, will mean that the PC is up to date. Regarding the invoice for the Wychavon Games Cllr Davies had followed up the previous enquiries by the Clerk. The entry for the Games was made by a former resident, without any reference to the PC. As this person has now moved away there is little chance of this being recovered from him. It was agreed that, as this payment was not approved by the PC, the PC is not liable for the paying the invoice. The Clerk was asked to write accordingly to the Secretary to the Wychavon Games.

7. Telephone kiosk. The Clerk has responded to the information from WDC, but has not received a reply. He was asked to write again to WDC, reminding them that there is still a power supply to the kiosk, and requesting WDC to ensure that the kiosk is not a danger to residents.

8. Provision of dog bins. The Clerk is waiting details of dog litter bins, cost, arrangements for emptying, etc, from WDC. County Cllr Liz Eyre suggested that the Clerk speaks to Kevin Beasley, Clerk to Broadway PC, on this matter.

116/12 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Cllr Liz Eyre commented that WDC currently has a problem with the housing land supply, as there is no up to date plan and, therefore, there is a presumption in favour of permissions being granted. WDC also has a finance problem, due to cut backs and the small population of the Council.

WCC is making attractive sites in good locations available for businesses, with the aim of attracting high profile companies. The bid for quicker broadband in Worcestershire is progressing well. A pilot scheme for changes to day care centres for those with learning disabilities is now being tried. Some highway services are planned to be commissioned. WCC is still hoping to resolve the badger issue on Canada Bank. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Richard Coles, Clerk to Fladbury, regarding speed warning signs, with a suggestion that they could be borrowed from time to time.

District Councillor Tom McDonald's sent his apology and there was no report.

117/12 FINANCE

1. Receipts and Payments Account: 03.09.12 – 03.10.12

This was circulated with the agenda and was accepted.

2. Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jack, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed, that

(a) the following accounts be paid:

R D Gurney	net salary, 01.10.12 – 30.11.12	£451.00
	expenses, 01.06.12 – 31.10.12	£ 51.00
Staples UK Ltd - photocopying, stationery (September/October)	£17.76 + £3.55 VAT (2 invoices)	£ 21.31
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (October)	£405.00 + £81.00 VAT	£486.00
Steve Gwilliam (October)		£220.00
N Power Ltd	£158.40 + £9.80 VAT	£168.20
Joseph Baker Workman Trust (for room hire, 2011/2012)		£110.00
Land Registry - for the Cemetery		£ 30.00
Land Registry – for the Green		£ 30.00

(b) the accounts paid on 18.10.12 be confirmed:

Steve Gwilliam (September)	£132.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (September)	
£280.00 + £56.00 VAT	£336.00
Essential Tree Services	£260.00

In view of the new information being circulated regarding the making of the budget and setting the precept it was agreed that a meeting of the Finance Working group be held, probably on Thursday 13th December.

118/12 NEW HOMES BONUS, FLOOD ALLEVIATION AND TREE PLANTING

Cllr Davies reported that weeds had been cleared from the Brook by some local residents. This was well received by many residents and enabled recent rainwater pass through the village very quickly. Discussions have been held with the EA and it is suggested that some trees be planted alongside the brook, which would help to keep water in the brook running clear. Advice as to suitable species is being sought from the EA and Cllr Davies was asked to submit an application to WDC for payment of the New Homes Bonus. The EA has drawn attention to the possibility of silt accruing in the wider stretched of the brook and suggests introducing new pebbles in these areas. Cllr Davies commented that the survey by the EA of the properties flooded in 2007 has almost been completed.

119/12 HIGHWAY AND FOOTWAY MATTERS

The Clerk circulated a leaflet regarding the effects of the closure of Evesham Bridge on traffic. There has been no response regarding the repair to potholes in Ryden Lane and Boston Lane.

120/12 JUNCTION OF THE TRACK AND CANADA BANK

There is concern regarding the lack of adequate visibility at the junction of the track serving the properties on the Green with Canada Bank. Suggestions were made as to how this problem may be overcome, eg mirror or additional signage, and it was agreed that the Clerk asks WCC Highways for advice on the matter. The display of a sign relating to the use of the driveway was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

121/12 LAND OFF THE STRAND

The Clerk received confirmation that this land opposite the Cemetery is not owned by WCC. The maintenance of this and the adjoining areas is to be pursued with WDC.

122/12 PARISH PLAN

Cllr Davies reported that this is now almost complete and there was some discussion regarding how much information should be included in the Plan. It was agreed that the Plan should include actions in response to the matters raised

123/12 AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS/CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chairman explained that the new Code of Conduct requires the Council's Standing Orders to be amended. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed that the Standing Orders be amended to read as follows:

- “26. The proceedings of the Parish Council shall be in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 12th July 2012, Minute no. 80/12.”

The Chairman referred to advice received from CALC regarding the grant of a general dispensation for all Parish Councillors in order for them to prepare the budget and set the precept. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed that:

“Dispensation be granted up to the next ordinary election to all Parish Councillors who live within the Parish, to enable them to participate in any discussions or vote on any matter concerning the setting of the Council’s budget and annual precept.”

124/12 REPORTS OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee on 20th September 2012 and 18th October 2012, which were enclosed with the agenda, were noted.

125/12 ITEMS FROM CALC

The CALC training bulletin was circulated with the agenda. Cllr Davies expressed a wish to attend the Neighbourhood Planning course on 27th November 2012. This was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Eggleston, and agreed.

The Chairman reported that CALC will need to retain its grants over the next few years, in order to meet its current budget requirements. The Chairman also drew attention to the possibility of Parish Councils being capped.

126/12 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was noted:

1. WDC – Land Drainage Act, confirmation of satisfactory completion of work, Boston Lane
2. WDC – Register of Electors, 2012-2013 (enclosed)
3. WDC – notice of Precept required by 11th January 2013
4. Community First – AGM on 14th November 2012 in Worcester
5. WCC – Minerals Local Plan, First stage consultation
6. Worcestershire’s Heritage Gardens – application form for 2013
7. SWDP – consultation meeting, 3rd December at Pershore.

127/12 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

1. Budget and precept

128/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This is scheduled for Thursday 10th January 2013, at 7.30 pm.

10th January 2013