

The Minutes of Abberley Parish Council  
Held at Abberley Village Hall Committee Meeting Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

---

Present: Cllr. Knight (Chairman), Cllr. Eden, Cllr. Eberlin, Cllr. Ballard,  
Cllr. Andrew, Cllr. Gibson, Cllr. Goodman.

In Attendance: Cllr. Cumming (District Councillor) (Carole Hirst) Clerk.

Item 256	<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr. Juckes, Cllr. Nott. Cllr. Cumming MHDC.
257	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	Cllr. Eberlin declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Minute 260 and "Suffolk Lane and Jacobs Well – flooding issues". Cllr. Andrew declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 268 as a Trustee of Earth Heritage Trust.
258	<b>Democratic Period/ Public Time</b>	No Parishioners were in attendance.
259	<b>Minutes</b>	Cllr. Eden Proposed and Seconded by Cllr. Goodman that the Minutes were a true record, and all agreed to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on the 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2019. The Chairman duly signed them as a true record.
260	<b>Matters Arising</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shavers End Quarry- Cllr. Eberlin reported that littering was becoming more common and a nuisance and agreed to chase this up.</li><li>• The Clerk wrote to the Clerk of Astley and Dunley Parish to clarify the Landowner's position about Shavers End Quarry security measures and to ask whether there is anything else that can be done. A response was received stating that the Parish Council had spoken to the Landowner without a positive response.</li></ul>
261	<b>County and District Councillor Reports</b>	Cllr. Cumming MHDC Report circulated prior to the meeting attached as Appendix 1. Cllr. Pollock WCC Report circulated prior to the meeting attached as Appendix 2. Reports Received.
262	<b>Progress reports from Councillors/</b> A) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group	Following a meeting with David Clarke of Malvern Hills DC about the Call for Sites, the potential impact on the Abberley NP and timing of adoption of the SWDP, David Nicholson, our NP consultant was asked to work on the first draft of the NP ready for the next meeting of the steering group which is on Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2020. The draft NDP Plan was received this week and will be presented to the meeting next week along with all the queries and requests for information and evidence sent by David Nicholson.
	B) Lengthsman	Cllr. Nott updated the Clerk that the Lengthsman was carrying out a great job keeping up with all the work that the current flooding has caused. A finance Committee meeting is being scheduled to discuss the Lengthsman's Contract for 2020/21 with pay rates.
	C)Footpaths	Cllr. Gibson agreed to look at the Encroachment Procedure in regard to hedges which border farmers' fields on public footpaths and write an article for inclusion in the Parish News.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Parish Website. <http://www.abberleyparish.org.uk>

Parish Clerk. Parish Office, 1a Church Walk, Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire. DY13 0AL

email [clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk)

The Minutes of Abberley Parish Council

Held at Abberley Village Hall Committee Meeting Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

---

D) Planning for Section 106 provision within the Parish

Cllr. Eberlin met with the Head Teacher of Abberley Primary School to discuss the possibility of using the school field to develop a Section 106 Public Open Space project.

Concerns were raised by the school regarding opening up the school field to be used as a community facility. In Summary, the Head Teacher commented that he was eager to improve provision for children in the community. However, he does not feel it is in the best interests of the community or the school for the current school field to be involved in the planning or consideration for this unless further land can be acquired to offset this or if somehow the Parish Council are materially improving the facilities which are available for children at the school.

Cllr. Eberlin responded to the school to see whether any compromise could be achieved. The Parish Council agreed to contact the school to organise to attend a meeting with the School Council to discuss ways in which we could move forward together. A discussion took place at the Parish Council meeting on lighting for the field that may be required should it be opened for community use and concerns on light pollution and bat corridors that this may affect. Cllr. Ballard to contact MHDC regarding advice on Section 106.

E) Flooding on Suffolk Lane at Jacobs Well

Furth to the November Minutes Reference 248E

Cllr. Eberlin reported that an update report had been requested from Hannah Davies at WCC. Cllr. Eberlin is hoping to also meet with the owner of the adjacent field with the land drainage engineers.

263 Planning

- 19/00451/RM- Land At (Os7452 6790), Clows Top Road, Abberley- Reserved Matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following a grant of planning permission 16/00816/OUT for the erection of 26 dwellings and access. **APPROVED.**
- **APP/J1860/X/18/3219273-** The Cherry Ash and Cherry Ash Annex, Bank Lane, Abberley WR6 6BQ. - Certificate of Lawfulness Decision- **Appeal Allowed.**
- 19/01676/AGR- Netherton Farm, Abberley- Agricultural notification for an agricultural building for storage of Agricultural products, supplies and equipment. **REFUSED.**
- SWDP Planning response submitted to SWDP Consultation. It will be a question of waiting to see how this will progress.
- **19/00674/RM** – Consultation response and Addendum sent to MHDC 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020. Concerns were raised at the Parish Council meeting regarding Planning Conditions and Cllr. Knight agreed to discuss this with Cllr. Cumming to see whether any further correspondence would be needed to support this.

264 Correspondence

- **17/12/19- WCC- Broadband funding for parishes-** Cllr. Gibson discussed local broadband speeds and Cllr. Knight asked Cllr. Gibson if he could investigate this on behalf of the Parish Council. *Action: The Clerk offered to forward email contact to Cllr. Gibson for him to contact WCC to see if they would come to the Parish Council to a Parish Public meeting which was suggested as the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2020.*
- **18/12/19- WCC- Ticket to Ride- Event on Wednesday 22 January, 9:30am-1pm** in the **Council Chamber** (WR14 3AF) to provide an important

Chairman.....

Date.....

Parish Website. <http://www.abberleyparish.org.uk>

Parish Clerk. Parish Office, 1a Church Walk, Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire. DY13 0AL

email [clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk)

The Minutes of Abberley Parish Council

Held at Abberley Village Hall Committee Meeting Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

update and to work together to help shape and develop the actions. **Noted by Councillors.**

- **20/12/19- WCC- Open4community** – online funding portal. The Clerk reported that this information was now on the Parish Council website and would be a useful tool for local groups seeking funding.

Cllr. Goodman has been in contact with Heartstart regarding dates which he will follow up this next week. He suggested a Saturday morning in March giving time for advertising the training to the community.

265 Defibrillator Training

266 Elected Member Code of Conduct

The Clerk circulated an updated Proposed Member Code of Conduct Policy supported by Local District Councils and Worcestershire CALC to Councillors prior to the meeting to allow time for them to digest it. Councillors supported the new Policy and Cllr. Andrew Proposed that the Parish Council adopt the policy. Seconded by Cllr. Eberlin. All in favour.

**Finance**

267 Finance

**a) Payments and Receipts 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020**

Carole Hirst Salary Nov to 5th Dec 19		£ 389.00	BACS
HMRC Payment Nov to 5th Dec 2019		£ 97.20	BACS
Carole Hirst expenses 20th Nov 19 to 15th Jan 20		£ 63.45	BACS
IN2OUT - Lengthsman Nov		£ 192.00	BACS
Abberley Village Hall Nov Parish Meeting		£ 10.00	BACS
Abberley Village Hall NDP Meeting		£ 10.00	
BWP Creative Ltd		£ 19.90	BACS
Carole Hirst Salary Nov to 5th Jan 20		£ 389.00	BACS
HMRC Payment Nov to 5th Jan 20		£ 97.20	BACS
IN2OUT - Lengthsman Dec		£ 180.00	BACS
ICO		£ 35.00	DD
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>£ 1,482.75</b>	

**RECEIPTS up to January 2020 not previously reported**

WCC Lengthsman Scheme £ 180.00

**TOTAL RECEIPTS £ 180.00**

Cllr. Goodman Proposed and Cllr. Knight Seconded that all Payments be Approved. All in favour.

- b) **Formal Bank Reconciliation to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020.** Cllr. Knight Proposed and Cllr. Goodman Seconded that the reconciliation was a true and accurate record and that it reconciled. All in favour.
- c) **Review the Lengthsman hourly rate for 2020/21 contract commencing April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.** Discussions took place regarding the 2020/21 Contract for the Lengthsman due for renewal on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Cllr. Nott asked that the Parish Council consider a rate per hour increase on the commencement of the new contract. The Clerk asked that this discussion be deferred to the Finance

Chairman.....

Date.....

Parish Website. <http://www.abberleyparish.org.uk>

Parish Clerk. Parish Office, 1a Church Walk, Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire. DY13 0AL

email [clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk)

The Minutes of Abberley Parish Council

Held at Abberley Village Hall Committee Meeting Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

---

Committee and that a Finance Committee meeting be called. Date to be agreed.

268 **Councillors  
Reports and  
Items for Future**

Cllr. Andrew raised that she had applied for funding on behalf of the Earth Heritage Trust for new signage on the Worcestershire Way with Cllr. Pollock. At present no firm decision had been given. Cllr. Gibson asked Cllr. Andrew to forward details to him as the Parish Footpaths Officer to see whether he could apply any weight to this. Cllr. Knight mentioned that Cllr. Cumming also had a MHDC Grant fund that could be applied for. Cllr. Andrew noted this. Cllr. Andrew asked the Parish Council whether they could consider a contribution to the overall budget which was £2100.00. The Clerk agreed to add this to the Finance Committee Agenda for the forthcoming meeting.

Cllr. Goodman reported that a group of Parish Councillors had recently attended a visit to EnviroSort at Hartlebury. Councillors agreed that it was a very interesting tour and included a film. It was thought that the film would be a useful educational tool for schools and that EnviroSort would be keen for Parish Councils to spread the word about recycling etc. The Clerk agreed to investigate this. It was also noted that schools could apply for a grant towards transport to enable schools to organise educational visits to the site.

269 **Date of next  
meeting**

The next meeting will be Abberley Parish Council scheduled for **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020** at the Village Hall – Cllr. Gibson and Cllr. Ballard submitted their apologies for the next meeting.

The meeting was declared Closed at 9.15pm

**Appendix 1 WCC Councillor Report – Cllr. K. Pollock**

**The New Year**

A lot has happened since I last reported to your Parish Council back in November. The General election result should mean a stable government for around five years, during which time we will leave the European Union, and institute a new relationship with them, covering a variety of matters that affect us all.

We are expecting a new Budget from the Chancellor, Sajid Javid, the MP for Bromsgrove, in February and the signs are that there will be more money for a variety of causes. We hope to see Adult Social Care properly financed, rather than on an *ad hoc* basis year by year. We would like to think rural authorities would receive a better settlement, relative to our urban/metropolitan cousins, to ease funding pressures for County Councils that are reflected in council tax settlements.

Agriculture will be watching closely to see how it might be supported when the CAP is no longer relevant. I hope the farmers' representatives will do a good job in ensuring the sort of support that has effectively funded our cheap food policy since WWII. While this may move to an environmentally beneficial system, it will need to be feasible, capable of repetition year on year, and to command general support.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Parish Website. <http://www.abberleyparish.org.uk>

Parish Clerk. Parish Office, 1a Church Walk, Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire. DY13 0AL

email [clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk)

We know that the government has pledged to bring forward ultrafast broadband coverage, especially in rural areas, with a view to helping social workers monitor their charges remotely, as well as helping farmers and school children use the internet for their needs.

Needless to say, we will be monitoring these matters closely at County Hall, and we are very keen to hear of any concerns by other councils that might reflect problems that are being overlooked or ignored.

So, with that cautious assessment of where we are at present, may I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

### **Local matters**

I am aware that the continuing drainage problem at Jacob's Well is under active consideration, and I hope a sensible solution can be found soon. I believe that the county drainage officers are aware of the needs of the area and will be able to help as far as possible.

Hannah Davies, your highways liaison engineer, tells me she has had a successful visit to the area to review cleared footways, although we are all aware that many of these are too narrow to accommodate mobility scooters and double buggies. I trust the usual channels will prove effective in ensuring that maintenance I kept up to date.

Kate Andrew has written to me about the poor state of the information boards along the Worcestershire Way. Given that these are only about 10 years old, it is disappointing the read that they have either been lost, destroyed or weathered so badly as to be useless. I hope that sufficient funds can be found to replace them with more durable examples, as this is a very valuable route for tourists seeking to appreciate the beauty of the county.

### **County Matters**

The first full council of the New Year will be held tomorrow, Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January. A number of decisions already made will be reported on by the leader, Simon Geraghty, including the Passenger Transport Strategy, the Kepax Bridge, various aspects of the education system and childcare, as well as preparation for Brexit. In addition, the leader will be summarising the year in his annual report, covering all aspects of the Council's work.

Of particular relevance to your parish council is a Notice of Motion drawing attention to the significance of roadside hedges, especially where they may overhang footways and obstruct progress by walkers and those using mobility scooters and buggies.

Often the hedges are owned by the adjacent landowner and they can sometimes be slow or reluctant to trim back the hedges. Procedures for county officers to affect such trimming and receive reimbursement are slow and can be ineffective. The motion calls for a better scheme, maybe involving parish councils, to ensure the footways are kept open properly to the benefit of all.

You may be aware that the new Worcestershire Parkway station did not open in December, as originally planned. We anticipate that it will open later this month, once approved by the Office of Road and Rail, and will then prove a useful access point to the rail network, particularly for residents in rural Worcestershire, who would prefer not to have to drive into the city to catch a train.

### **Appendix 2 - MHDC Councillor Report Cllr. Cumming.**

The SWDP consultation date has now passed and the many comments will now be examined, and work continues on the Climate Change Emergency although the deadline set for an action list to go to Council has now passed.

It was identified prior to the May elections that there is a large discrepancy in the number of residents per councillor between different wards - Woodbury has one of the largest. The new Council has accordingly requested that the Boundary Commission carry out a boundary review of District Council Wards to even out the ratio. This is also likely to result in a reduction in the total number of District Councillors at the next elections. I would anticipate that the new ward containing Woodbury will grow slightly and that the biggest changes will be in the urban parts of the District. As leader of the opposition Group, I am due to discuss the matter with the Commission at the end of the month and will

Chairman.....

Date.....

Parish Website. <http://www.abberleyparish.org.uk>

Parish Clerk. Parish Office, 1a Church Walk, Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire. DY13 0AL

email [clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk)

The Minutes of Abberley Parish Council

Held at Abberley Village Hall Committee Meeting Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

---

be supporting the principle of single member wards wherever possible as I believe this produces the best democratic accountability, having previously also served as a councillor in a multi-member ward.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Parish Website. <http://www.abberleyparish.org.uk>

Parish Clerk. Parish Office, 1a Church Walk, Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire. DY13 0AL  
email [clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@abberleyparish.org.uk)