

The Minutes of Abberley Parish Council

Held at Abberley Village Hall Committee Meeting Room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th February 2020

Present: Cllr. Knight (Chairman), Cllr. Eden, Cllr. Eberlin, Cllr. Andrew, Cllr. Goodman, Cllr. T Nott.

In Attendance: (Carole Hirst) Clerk.

1 Member of the Public (Spouse of Cllr. Andrew) speaking on the planning application 19/01746 The Orchard, Apostle Oak; (+ during Public Questions Cllr. Andrew stood down as a Councillor to speak as a member of the public regarding 19/01746 The Orchard, Apostle Oak).

- Item
270 **Apologies** Cllr. Juckes, Cllr. Gibson, Cllr. Ballard, Cllr. Pollock WCC County Councillor.
- 271 **Declarations of Interest** Cllr. Eberlin declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 274 "Suffolk Lane and Jacobs Well – flooding issues". Cllr. Andrew and Cllr. Eden declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in Minute 277 Planning (19/01746 The Orchard). Cllr. Knight declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 277 (33 The Village). Cllr. Andrew declared a Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interest in Minute 280 (d) as a Trustee of the Earth Heritage Trust. Cllr. Andrew Declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 277 Planning (19/01746 The Orchard, Apostle Oak) in respect that her Spouse was the other Member of the Public also speaking regarding this planning application.
- 272 **Democratic Period/ Public Time** Cllr. Eden left the room during Public Questions and Cllr. Andrew stood down as a Councillor to speak as a member of the public regarding Planning Application 19/01746, The Orchard, Apostle Oak.
Kate Andrew commented that Planning notices have yet to be posted on the site, so only immediate neighbours have been notified. With the meeting held in half term many of those who would have objected in person are away.
She further discussed the impact on Abberley Common, Built Heritage, biodiversity, land stability, privacy, overlooking and light pollution, road safety, energy efficiency and sustainability.
The other member of the public added that this planning application was out of keeping with the surrounding development. He felt that demolishing the existing building when restoring the existing building would be more appropriate. Overlooking would be a problem since the nearest properties would be able to look down into the bedrooms from their gardens and windows and there would be increased noise from weekend activity.
- 273 **Minutes** Cllr. Andrew 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 15th January 2020. The Chairman duly signed them as a true record.
- 274 **Matters Arising** **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 15th January 2020.**
- Shavers End Litter problems - Cllr. Eberlin reported that she had been in touch with the Clerk from Astley and Dunley Parish Council who has forwarded the contact details for Shavers End. Astley and Dunley Parish Clerk commented that they have tried to address the litter problems at the entrance but without any co-operation.
 - Envirosort educational info. The Clerk spoke to Envirosort to obtain information and uploaded onto the Parish Council Website and Facebook. Councillors felt that this would benefit by being shared with Abberley Primary School. Cllr. Eberlin agreed to forward contact to the Clerk.

Chairman.....

Date.....

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- 275 **County and District Councillor Reports**
- 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.
- 276 **Progress reports from Parish Councillors/**
- A) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
- Cllr. Knight reported that due to the recent planning application received by MHDC Cllr. Andrew had taken the decision to step down as Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. Cllr. Knight thanked Cllr. Andrew for her tireless hard work on the plan to date. Cllr. Knight further reported that the first draft of the Abberley NDP was presented by David Nicholson to the Working Group on Jan 22nd, 2020
- It is a very readable, accessible document. Some amendments were made by the group. Two additional data sets on Biodiversity and Geodiversity are being prepared which will enhance and better inform the Plan.
- A set of photographs will be included in the draft.
- The Parish Council will receive the amended version which will go to David Clarke at Malvern at the end of February. This is a screening process where he will assess and advise on any amendments or additions to be made and will also tell us whether we need a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). We have been informed all along that this is highly unlikely but until we are actually told that we can assume nothing. All being well a five-week consultation period under REG 14 will ensue, the arrangements for which are yet to be confirmed. The draft will also be publicised on the Parish website.
- After that the draft will have to be submitted to Malvern District Council under REG 16 for further scrutiny.
- At this stage we will be told whether it is fit for purpose, and, if so, will be proposed for Referendum.
- An updated Terms of Reference had been prepared by the NDP Steering Group and distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr. Andrew Proposed and Cllr. Eberlin Seconded that the updated Terms of Reference be adopted. All in favour.
- B) Lengthsman
- See Finance Report Minute Reference 280 (C).
- The Lengthsman had a very busy January due to the storms and poor weather. He cleared debris from drains to allow the drains to flow and take off the surface water. He cleared road signs and reacted to work as directed during this period. The Clerk agreed to forward the Lengthsman's timesheets each month to Councillors for information.
- C)Footpaths
- Cllr. Eberlin noted that there had been many trees down since the recent storms and agreed to note these and report them.
- D) Broadband upgrade in Abberley
- Cllr. Gibson reported that he had been in contact with Robert Stepniewski at WCC regarding Broadband in Abberley. Based on his email there are 2 areas in red that would look to benefit from Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) and in Blue, Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC). FTTP is where properties significantly experience a drop in broadband speeds as they are more than a mile from the cabinet (12Mbps or less). FTTC premises can usually be guaranteed at least 15 to 20 Mbps and more the close to the cabinet. What WCC want to do is work on the areas in Blue and Red, I have agreed to work with Robert in the larger Red area, but we also need volunteers for the other red and blue. We will need to drum up attention of villagers in order to progress this.

Chairman.....

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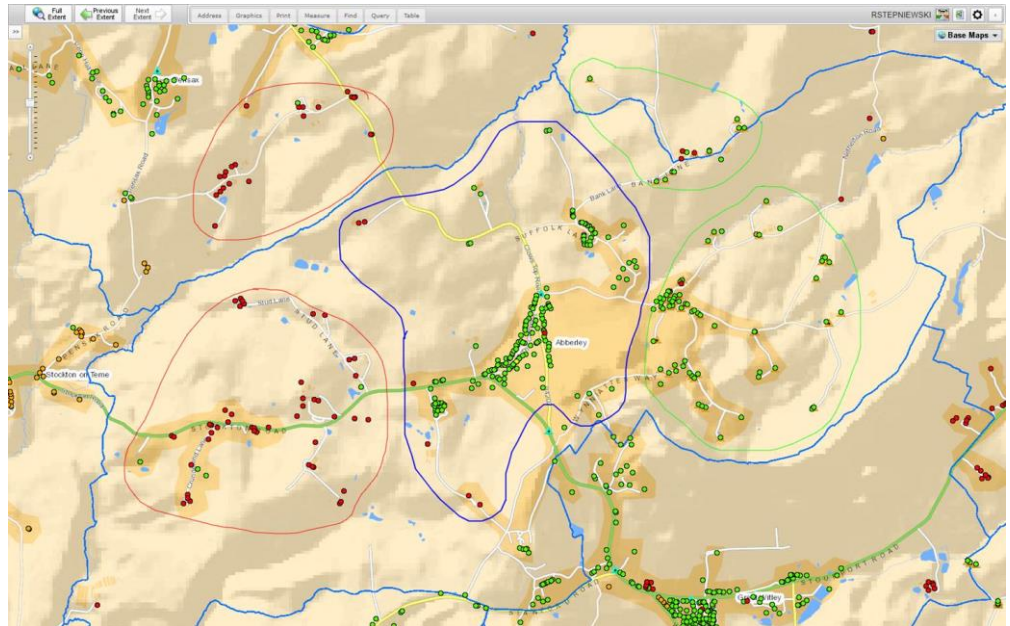
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E) Planning for S.106 provision within the Parish

Cllr. Ballard had tried to contact Jo Cross who Cllr. Cummings suggested but she has left MHDC. Cllr. Ballard has subsequently messaged Mark Hammond & Duncan Rudge of MHDC but had no response. Cllr. Cumming advises that Holly Jones will be the new contact. *Action: Cllr. Ballard to contact Holly Jones.*

F) Flooding on Suffolk Lane at Jacobs Well

Cllr. Eberlin reported that Suffolk Lane was again flooded and that this week she has made contact with Hannah Davies from WCC Highways to keep her updated and to see when any drainage improvements may be planned. The update was also sent to Jack Adams from MHDC Land Drainage. Cllr Eberlin has had discussion with Guy Neath about various mitigation measures that could be undertaken alongside complying with requests for disabled access on the footpath. Once the land has dried out he would be better able to assess the situation. It was noted that a sizeable amount of water from Thistledown was also contributing to the problem. Cllr Knight thanked Cllr Eberlin for her work on this and was pleased that Guy Neath had been so approachable.

277 Planning

- **19/01887FUL** – 33 The Village- Abberley- alterations and extension including ancillary work to outbuilding- **Comments submitted**
- **19/01882/FUL with associated reference 10/01883FUL** – Elms Lodge, Stockton Rd, Abberley- Extension and refurb of two lodge buildings for use as self-contained accommodation in association with the Hotel use. **Parish Council response submitted.**
- **19/01746.Ful- The Orchard, Apostles Oak, Abberley, WR6 6AD-** Proposed demolition of existing buildings and development of 11 new dwelling houses. CONSULTATION to 27th March 2020. Cllrs Andrew and Eden declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and left the room. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Eberlin would co-ordinate the response for submission to the planning application. This would be done initially with input from the rest of the Planning Committee less Cllr. Andrew who has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. This would then be brought to the Parish Council on the 18th March. *Action: Cllr. Eberlin to prepare response*

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and to contact Cllr. Pollock and WCC Highways to discuss various road and safety issues.

- **19/000674/RM- Land at the Common- Abberley** - Residential Development of 25 dwelling houses including 10 affordable units. Additional information received- **Response submitted.**
- **20/00144/HP- The Glebe, The Village, Abberley-** Conversion of existing garage and carport to provide new kitchen/utility, ground floor extension to reception1, 2no. roof lanterns to kitchen/utility, first floor dormer window to bedroom 3, 2 no. roof lights to bedroom 1/staircase, new detached double garage with room above, internal remodelling, new composite boarding to elevations and ancillary works. **Comments submitted 17th Feb 2020.**
- **19/01553/Ful- Meadow Cottage, Stockton Rd, Abberley-** Replacement dwelling and garage building- APPROVED 14th February 2020.
- **20/00081/HP-** Apostles Oak Cottage, Apostles Oak, Abberley- Proposed Kitchen Extension- Consultation to 10th March 20. It was agreed that Cllr. Knight and Cllr. Goodman meet to prepare the planning response.

278 Correspondence

- **24th Jan 2020- MHDC- Great British Spring Clean-** In 2020 will run from 20 March to 13 April. **NOTED.**
- **27/1/20- SWDP Review - Briefing for Parish and Town Councils-**Tuesday 31 March 2020, Guildhall, Worcester- 3.15pm OR 6.15pm- Cllr. Knight is attending. Other Councillors were interested and agreed to feedback to the Clerk.

279 Training

Defibrillator Training. Training is arranged for Saturday, 28th March in the Village Hall, arrive at 10.15 am for 10.30 start. It's a 2-hour Basic Life Support course and includes CPR, AED (defibrillator) and Recovery Position. This has been put on the website and Facebook. Five people booked on the course to date.
Councillor Training (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest etc) All Councillors to attend. The Clerk agreed to liaise with WorCALC to ascertain dates.

280 Finance

Finance

a) Payments and Receipts 19th Feb 2020

Carole Hirst Salary to 5th Feb 20		£ 388.80
HMRC Payment to 5th Feb 20		£ 97.40
C. Hirst expenses 15th Jan to 19th Feb 20		£ 39.37
IN2OUT - Lengthsman Jan 20		£ 180.00
Abberley Village Hall Jan Parish Meeting		£ 10.00
Abberley Village Hall Jan NDP Meeting		£ 10.00
Abberley Village Hall Feb Parish Meeting		£ 10.00
Droitwich AED - Defib pads		£ 35.00
Wyre Piddle PC shared paper cost		£ 4.79
Wyre Piddle Parish Council shared ink cost		£ 42.63
DJN Planning Ltd		£ 409.20
Worcs BRC		£ 95.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 1,322.17

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RECEIPTS up to February 17th not previously reported

WCC Lengthsman Scheme	£	180.00
WCC Lengthsman Scheme	£	192.00
HMRC Vat reclaimed	£	142.18

TOTAL RECEIPTS **£** **514.18**

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

- b) **Formal Bank Reconciliation to 6th February 2020.** Cllr. Nott 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 1st, 2020.** A Finance Committee was held on the 23rd January 2020 where discussions took place regarding the 2020/21 Contract for the Lengthsman due for renewal on April 1st, 2020. Cllr. Nott reported from that Finance Committee had agreed subject to ratification at the Parish Council meeting that from April 1st 2020 the Lengthsman hourly rate be increased to £14 per hour and that £356 of the Parish Council contingency fund be used if required to support this increase. Cllr. Nott Proposed and Cllr. Andrew Seconded that this be approved.
- d) At the Finance Committee on the 23rd January it was further approved that a Bio-Diversity report be obtained for the Neighbourhood Plan costing £92 (invoice received for £95) and also a Geo-Diversity Survey be obtained costing £150 from Earth Heritage Trust.
Cllr. Andrew declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as a Trustee of Earth Heritage Trust. Cllr. Knight Proposed and Cllr. Eberlin Seconded that these costs be ratified.

281 **Councillors
Reports and
Items for Future**

Cllr. Eberlin requested an item on the next agenda regarding MHDC Planned Change Emergency- Local Action.

Cllr. Goodman reported that Abberley Village Hall had recently had their AGM and that the key committee positions remain unchanged.

282 **Proposed Parish
Council Meeting
dates for
2020/21**

A list of Proposed meeting dates was circulated prior to the meeting and agreed for the 2020 and 2021.

2020. 18th March- 7.30pm; 15th April – 7.30pm; 20th May AGM in Main Hall and starting at 7pm not 7.30pm with Annual Parish Meeting followed by AGM of Parish Council;
17th June- 7.30pm; 15th July- 7.30pm; 16th September- 7.30pm; 21st Oct – 7.30pm
18th Nov- 7.30pm.

2021. 20th Jan- 7.30pm; 17th Feb- 7.30pm; 17th March- 7.30pm; 21st April- 7.30pm;
19th May AGM in Main Hall and starting at 7pm not 7.30pm with Annual Parish Meeting followed by AGM of Parish Council;
16th June- 7.30pm; 21st July- 7.30pm; 15th Sept- 7.30pm; 20th Oct- 7.30pm; 17th Nov- 7.30pm.

283 **Date of next
meeting**

The next meeting will be Abberley Parish Council scheduled for **Wednesday 18th March 2020** at the Village Hall.

The meeting was declared Closed at 9.05pm

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Appendix 1 WCC Councillor Report – Cllr. K. Pollock

Brexit

After 47 years as members of the European project, under various names, the UK left three weeks ago last Friday, the 31st of January. This enacted the result of the 2016 referendum, but the exact nature of our relationship with the EU is still to be determined during negotiations that will run for the rest of the year.

Whatever one's position on Brexit, we must all hope that these negotiations are successful for the UK, and that our former partners in the EU will also be content with the arrangements. In this regard, it is worth restating that, while the EU is our biggest trading partner, they have a £95 billion annual surplus in their trading with the UK.

Put another way that means they have a lot more to lose if trade is disrupted than we do, and that will no doubt be in their minds during the negotiations, no matter what public statements are made by the EU leaders.

At County we have an officer designated to handle any local matters affected by our leaving the EU, and he will be seeking the most optimal arrangements for local businesses, to guarantee economic success under the new regime.

Local matters

You will be aware of the extensive flooding in Tenbury last weekend. Many retailers and residences were flooded, often when the water level exceeded the height of the flood defence panels that has been supplied after the 2007 flood.

The clean-up process is well advanced with excellent cooperation from County and District crews, clearing the mud from the streets and helping to pump out flooded cellars. As I write it is unclear exactly what support might be forthcoming from central government but at County, we are determined to see some form of compensation for householders and retailers who have suffered loss as a result of the floods.

We are also acutely aware of the loss of life in Eastham, where a woman was drowned while her partner was saved, after venturing through flood water across the new bridge. It is a timely warning to anyone contemplating what may seem simple by can turn out to be deadly.

I note that you will be considering plans for new houses in parts of the village. While I have no say in these matters, my feeling is that Abberley has already approved a number of new developments and that, while the Orchard is a natural place to build, the other development behind the village hall has less to recommend it.

On a more positive note, I recently had the pleasure of helping Caroline Palethorpe at Tenbury High Ormiston Academy in conducting dummy job interviews with pupils on the point of leaving the school. I was one of many, including your mayor, and I would like to put on record that this was a truly encouraging experience. The pupils were all highly motivated and clear on what they wanted to achieve, although by no means all heading for an academic future.

It is very easy to criticise our schools and they are at times in need of such criticism. In this narrow area, however, THOA seems to be doing a very good job and I find that very gratifying.

County Matters

Last Thursday, the full Council met to approve the budget for the coming year. While income is restricted, meaning we need to adjust our expenditure in various areas, we still have a strong capital programme, and particular emphasis on improving roads and footways. These will attract substantial expenditure in the coming year, and we hope that their benefits will be noticed by all residents.

We now wait for the budget, scheduled for the 11th March, despite the replacement of local MP, Sajid Javid, as Chancellor by Rishi Sunak.

At Council, I had the opportunity of supporting our application for further funding the test the potential of 5G. This is a combined project involving Herefordshire and Shropshire, while being led by Worcestershire. The area around Tenbury was chosen because of its rural nature and the topography which will be valuable in assessing the use of 5G, as the radiation used is of relatively short range.

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It has two particular benefits. Firstly, it should improve mobile coverage in areas where it is traditionally poor, excluding residents in rural areas of the connectivity that we tend to take for granted. Secondly, the improved connectivity is intended to allow remote monitoring of vulnerable and old people who might normally expect a visit from a social worker.

If such technology allows a non-intrusive monitoring of such people, it might be able to reduce the amount and expense of social workers driving all over the county, often to find their visits were not needed. At a time when our ageing population is requiring more of such support, we are keen to see that the limited resources are deployed in the most efficient and effective fashion.

The experiment will last for two years and we should hear in the near future whether we have been successful. We expect it to be approved tomorrow, when it is understood that a senior minister from DCMS will be visiting Worcestershire, and we are hopeful that this means the application has been successful.

I hope by now you will all be aware that the new Worcestershire Parkway station will open on Sunday, 23rd February. We anticipate that it 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.

Trains to and from Paddington will stop there and Cross-Country trains between Cardiff and Nottingham will also stop, the first time Cross-Country trains have stopped for many years.

Appendix 2 - MHDC Councillor Report Cllr. Cumming.

Jack Hegarty, the first joint Chief Executive of Malvern Hills and Wychavon has announced that he will be retiring by July 2020. Representatives of the two Councils are shortly due to meet to plan the appointment of his successor. The plan of action in response to the climate change emergency announced by MHDC last July has now been submitted to Council. It is desired to cut the carbon production within the District by 50 % by 2030 and to achieve the government's target of being carbon neutral by 2050. Much of this is not directly within the control of the District Council but there are specific measures planned to reduce the Council's footprint due to its own activities.

This has already been reduced by 350T since 2010 to 1750T. Further reductions are planned through investment in more modern technology at the Splash and in regard to the Council's refuse collection fleet. It is expected by 2030, 473T pa will continue to be produced which is planned to be offset by tree planting.

It is unclear as to the amount of land required or cost, but this is to be examined further. A budget of £250,000 to facilitate the plan has been agreed.

This will be helped by a £2million upgrade of the Malvern Splash to be financed from revenue and capital reserves which will commence at the end of the year.

The boundaries commission have commenced a review of the ward boundaries in Malvern Hills with the aim of achieving equality in the ratio of number of councillors to electors across the District. Currently there are large variances that exist, with rural councillors tending to have larger populations. Once the desirable number of councillors has been established, the views of local residents and parishes will be sought as to where the new ward boundaries will be. MHDC are creating a schedule of historic buildings so that more account can be taken of them in planning applications. Input from Parish Councils is welcomed in identifying potential buildings.

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