

Item  
284

**Apologies**

**Declarations of Interest**

**Minutes**

These will be approved at the next formal Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council discussed their Adopted Standing Orders in relation to Draft Minutes and procedure to follow moving forward. All Councillors were reminded at the meeting of the procedure they should follow in recording amendments to the Draft Minutes.

**Matters Arising**

**Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**

- Shavers End Litter problems - Cllr. Eberlin received correspondence from Dunley Parish Council and was arranging a meeting.
- Cllr. Ballard to contact MHDC regarding advice on Section 106.
- Cllr. Eberlin noted that there had been many trees down on the Parish Footpaths since the recent storms and agreed to note these and report them.

**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.

**Progress reports from Parish Councillors/**

A)  
Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Cllr. Knight reported that the draft screening opinion has been sent to the statutory environmental bodies and this consultation runs until 9<sup>th</sup> April. It is not expected that we will have to do a further survey but we have to wait until the end of the consultation process when we will receive a letter from MHDC hopefully confirming that outcome. After that Abberley Parish Council will formally sign off on the plan before it goes out for the six-week Public Consultation. We will discuss these next steps at the next NDP meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March. NB The Parish Council will have the opportunity along with the public to decide during this time whether any amendments are required. The signing off is simply so that we can get it into the public arena. Copies are available for Councillors to look at on enquiry to Carole. It is not for wider dissemination at this stage.

B) Lengthsman

Cllr. Nott reported that the Lengthsman has not done the footpaths on Suffolk Lane and Netherton Lane but he will do so.

C)Footpaths

Cllr. Gibson reported that he feels he should stand down from the role as Footpaths Officer. His work commitments mean that he no longer has the time that is required.

Chairman.....

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- D) Broadband upgrade in Abberley Cllr. Gibson reported that the Address's have been inputted to BT. He is now awaiting a quote and when this is received he will send this to WCC.
- E) Planning for S.106 provision within the Parish Nothing received from Cllr. Ballard.
- F) Flooding on Suffolk Lane at Jacobs Well Cllr. Eberlin reported that we are trying to progress regular flooding on Suffolk Lane in Abberley and also property flooding to Jacobs Well garage, Thistledown, and flooding of private road to Holy Acre Farm on a regular basis over the last 13 years. There is currently a request for the road drainage to be improved with the highways team- we are awaiting a response although they have agreed that something needs to be done to improve the drains and capacity.
- g) Village Event 2020.
- Planning Cllr. Knight and Cllr. Gibson discussed arranging a village event for 2020 and thought that this year the event could be led by the community rather than the Parish Council.
- **19/01746.Ful- The Orchard, Apostles Oak, Abberley, WR6 6AD-** Proposed demolition of existing buildings and development of 11 new dwelling houses. **Response for submission to be approved by Parish Council.**
  - **19/00959- 65 The Common, Abberley-** Proposed new dwelling on land to east of No.65 The Common and amended access and parking. **APPROVED 4/3/20**
  - **Planning Procedure for Planning Committee** **circulated on 21<sup>st</sup> March.**
- Correspondence
- **21/2/20-** West Mercia PCC Road Safety Strategy- launch of draft Road Safety Strategy for consultation- Survey for completion by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. **Noted.**
  - **26/2/20- SWDP- Review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan** (SWDP), the South Worcestershire Councils are conducting a Call for Sites inviting landowners and / or their agents / developers to submit land for potential large-scale renewable and low carbon energy projects.
  - 2/3/20- WCC Highways- to close part of C2071 Abberley from its junction with U64409 Reynolds Lane for a distance of 270 metres in a south-westerly direction to Install Verge Masters by WCC- **Anticipated duration: 4 days commencing 6 April 2020- Noted.**
  - 8/3/20 – **email from Resident- Parking on the Common – Pedestrians having to squeeze past or walk in the road**, Cars turning in from A443 often find themselves head on with vehicles leaving the Common. This happens daily. Resident would like it to go in the Abberley Magazine monthly or signs be erected. The Clerk has written to Vanessa Snape to ask for WMP stance on this issue. Response as follows. **"IF** a vehicle is causing an obstruction, call 101 with all the relevant information, an information log will be created. If it's 'antisocial' parking, then send an email to the team here

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Training

with a photo; we can send a generic letter to the registered keeper of the vehicle.”

**Defibrillator Training.** Training is arranged for Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March and 15 people enrolled but since then it has been postponed due the Corona Virus. It will be rescheduled at a suitable time.

**Councillor Training (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest etc)** All Councillors to attend. Further dates were circulated. The Clerk will circulate the dates that the village hall is free. Please let the Clerk know which dates you are available.

Councillor Knight has requested that all Councillors report any training needs to the Clerk from the list sent by MHDC. Circulated with the agenda.

Finance

**Finance**

**a) Payments and Receipts 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Carole Hirst Salary to 5th March 20		£ 389.00
HMRC Payment Nov to 5th March 20		£ 97.20
Carole Hirst expenses 19th Feb to 18th March 20		£ 28.00
IN2OUT - Lengthsman Feb 20		£156.00
Abberley Village Hall March NDP Meeting		£ 10.00
Abberley Village Hall March Parish Meeting		£ 10.00
DJN Planning Ltd		£2,100.00
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>		<b><u>£2,790.20</u></b>

**RECEIPTS upto January not previously reported**

WCC Lengthsman Scheme £ 180.00

**TOTAL RECEIPTS                      £ 180.00**

**All Payments to be Approved at the next Full Parish Council meeting**

- b) **The Clerk was asked to ascertain from the Parish Council Internal Auditor what the bank reconciliation requirements are for monthly meetings.** The Internal Auditor responded that “it is not necessary for the monthly bank reconciliation statement to be included in the agenda papers for your monthly Parish Council meetings. I would however expect the monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement still to be produced each month and to be signed off by the Chair or Vice Chair of the Parish Council. You will

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*appreciate a monthly Financial Statement must be submitted to the Parish Council every month/time the Council meet and that all the important figures in the Bank Reconciliation Statement will also be included in the Financial Statement.”*

The Bank Reconciliation to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 was signed by the Chair.

**MHDC Planned  
Change  
Emergency- Local  
Plan**

Cllr. Eberlin.

Solar farm in the middle of Abberley? Don't think that's a good use of agricultural land.

We should discuss this though as it could arise and is a feasible proposition- there was a recent solar farm in Teme Valley which got rejected as it was in AONB and nowhere near any industrial high usage. Solar is best when used by a local consumer as there is no payment for export now and the grid doesn't want excess energy at midday in the summer. Large scale would need to be near a local sub-station or 3 phase connection.

However there is a call for support from the government by advisory bodies such as CIBSE for community energy projects, particularly for onshore wind energy and solar farms where the energy is used by the community so this could change from the current policy of permitting only off-shore wind. The aim of this is to engage local communities so that they benefit from having solar structures or wind turbines in their villages.

In the early days where FITs were available community solar farms were funded by shares issued and paid for by charging for energy and receiving the tariff.

The village hall roof could for example be covered in PV if 3 phase supply is feasible and use all the energy free and sell surplus to charge cars generating some income for the village. With schemes funded by the bank or third party then usually there is a fee agreed for selling electricity to the user at below market rates with the excess being sold to the grid on a PPA agreement. Ownership can then be transferred after 10 years.

Councillors should be aware that landowners who perhaps don't see planning being permitted for housing might go down the route of offering land for solar farms on the basis of selling the energy on a PPA scheme.

We are a village of oil and gas users including the school and converting to low carbon is going to be difficult and will depend on the funding made available. Village hall could be run on heat pumps for example powered mostly by PV. But this approach requires capital to be borrowed with paybacks of typically around 8 years. Some villages have built eco village halls and gone down this route when tariffs were available. We have a lovely village hall but there may be an opportunity to fund improvements including renewables with any funded extension.

**Preparation for  
the AGM and  
Annual Parish  
Meeting**

draft agendas and a list of groups to request reports from was sent to the Chairman to ask whether there were any additions and contact details.

**Councillors  
Reports and  
Items for Future**

No meeting took place.

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**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting WOULD be scheduled for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020. No meeting is expected due to COVID 19. However, the Clerk will circulate notes of the period covered and request reports as usual to ensure everyone is kept up to speed with the Parish Council business.

**APPENDIX 1 Paul Cumming District Councillor Report.**

MHDC is to commence a consultation on upgrading its local heritage list. This would allow any person or organisation in the District to nominate “heritage assets that are valued as distinctive elements of the local historic environment”. Inclusion would mean that in any decisions on planning applications, the impact of the development on assets included would have to be taken into account.

The Council has agreed to allocate £100,000 towards flood relief, in addition to the money provided by the Government. This will take the form of additional Council and Business rate relief and other measures identified as being useful.

The latest Council Tax bills included tips from MHDC for saving the planet and money. First was the suggestion that residents should “eat more fruit and veg and reduce the amount of meat and dairy in your diet”. Whilst on a global basis there is a point in this, it is surprising in our rural area that the Council should encourage us to eat less of some locally grown products without the warning that some of the fruit and veg in supermarkets is flown in from all over the world. Last week without any real effort I observed sources from Mexico, South Africa, Guatemala, India, Kenya and Egypt and meat brought from France, Italy and Spain. A suggestion to eat local food products would have made much more sense.

The joint appointments committee with Wychavon, on which I sit, has completed its work on appointing a new joint Chief Executive to replace Jack Hegarty, who is to retire in July. After a series of tests and interviews it has recommended to both Councils that Vic Allison, the current Deputy Chief Executive of Wychavon be appointed to the position.

**Appendix 2 Cllr. Pollock WCC Report.**

**1. Flooding**

Over the last month, Tenbury has been at the centre of a lot of national news coverage of the flooding. Tenbury suffered worse flooding than in 2007 and a number of the flood defenders supplied by MHDC after that event proved ineffective. This seems to have been because the rubber or plastic seals have deteriorated over time or that the water overflowed the barriers.

You will be aware of the danger of flooding on the A443, just to the east of the Elms. While cars have been stranded there, it is usually possible to pass with care. I am confident the highways officers will cure the problem this year.

During a number of visits to Tenbury area, I have been impressed by the fortitude and resilience shown by residents and retailers alike. There has been an admirable community spirit among the townspeople, despite high financial losses and huge inconvenience.

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Tenbury Town Council itself has experienced flooding of the Pump Rooms, and needed to meet in the High School last week. The High School should be praised for running an evacuation centre at the height of the flooding, with generous support from Tesco's and the Coop that I know of. That is not, I am sure, an exhaustive list. WCC set up a flooding hub in Tenbury library for residents and businesses to register, in order to receive money from central government, the District Council and the County Council. At County, we have allocated £250,000 for flood alleviation, to be directed at those who have suffered loss.

In addition, the Rev Sian Harris of St Michael's Church, Tenbury, set up the Tenbury Church Out-Reach Fund for people to make donations to assist in the flood relief. It has so far accumulated some £12,000 and is still open to receive funds from those who might wish to help.

You may recall that the Environment Agency plan to protect Tenbury town would then have cost about £5 million and was judged not to be cost effective. It may be that new calculations in the light of the recent events will see that decision revised.

Your local MP, Harriett Baldwin, has been very vocal on the matter. Since 2007, around six different schemes for flood protection have been implemented with her active support. Only Severn Stoke and Tenbury remain untouched. In the former case there are local problems, but for Tenbury, the difficulty is devising an effective scheme at a sensible cost.

I would be pleased to hear of any local experiences that may help us avoid further problems in the future.

## 2. Local Matters

I am aware of the controversy over housing developments in the village. Clearly this is a District Council responsibility, but the County has to comment on highways matters and I would be keen to hear of any matters that you might think are not being properly represented.

## 3. County Matters

You will all have heard that the new Worcestershire Parkway station was opened on Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. This is the first such station to open in the county for 100 years and has been generally welcomed. There are 500 car parking spaces, and there already seemed to be about 250 cars there when I visited just after it opened. Note there are also secure cycle racks, spaces for EVs to charge and plenty of disabled spaces. The infrequent X50 bus service calls at the station, and we are negotiating for more bus services as well.

Note you can now catch trains running between Nottingham and Cardiff, as well as the London services. We are working hard to improve the speed and frequency of the London service, which will require further dualling of the line, in particular between Pershore and Evesham.

You may expect that there will be continued congestion along the Southern Link Road, leading to Carrington Bridge. In case you have heard to the contrary, the work on dualling that section between the Ketch and Powick roundabouts has not exacerbated the flooding that always occurs in that area where the Teme meets the Severn.

Just over three weeks ago, we welcomed Matt Warman, MP, Minister of State in DCMS, to Worcester for him to confirm the allocation of £3.3 million to Worcestershire

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to run a two year experiment with Shropshire on the efficacy of 5G to improve connectivity in rural areas. This will be based in Tenbury, given its rural nature and the topographical features in the area, and that probably includes Abberley. The intention is to see how much mobile coverage can be improved and also remote monitoring of those in need of care from social services. The idea of assistive technology is that the social workers can monitor activity remotely, without the use of cameras, to check that those in need of assistance are behaving normally. This may mean that routine visits can be scheduled more efficiently, prioritising those most obviously in need of help, rather than completing a round of visits where many may prove unnecessary.

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