



Present: Cllr. Knight (Chairman), Cllr. Eden, Cllr. Andrew, Cllr. Goodman, Cllr. Nott, Cllr. Juckes, J. Gibson, Cllr. Eberlin

In Attendance: (Carole Hirst), Clerk; Cllr. P. Cumming MHDC; Cllr. Pollock WCC. 1 member of the public

The Meeting closed at 9.42 pm

Minute Reference	
399	Apologies. Cllr. Ballard (Working).
400	Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Goodman and Cllr. Gibson declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 408 (D) Ultrafast Broadband and left the meeting for the duration of discussions and did not take part in any voting. Cllr. Eberlin declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute reference 408 (F). The land in question where a section of culvert runs from the field causing the flooding is owned by Cllr. Eberlin. Cllr. Eberlin left the meeting for the discussion.
	Democratic Period/ Public Time – Public complaints regarding consultation on the double yellow lines on Shavers End Road. The Chair read out the following record from the November 2020 Minutes (Minute Reference 370(d)) <i>“WCC - C2276 Shavers End quarry, Dunley/ Abberley- proposed Experimental Traffic Regulation Order- The intention is to lay double yellow lines on both sides of the road, over the length stated. No signage is necessary in connection with this order. The proposal results from a request from the local Policing Team, who are concerned at obstructive parking that occurs on this narrow, rural route. Drivers parking here are gaining entry to Shavers End Quarry, without the owner’s consent. In addition to the obstructive parking concerns, there is illegal and unsociable activity taking place in this area. Making the Order experimentally will allow it to be monitored in operation and therefore its effectiveness to be ascertained ahead of a decision on whether or not it should be made permanent. Any written comments received during the initial 6-month advertising period will be taken into account and help to inform that decision.”</i> Cllr. Pollock explained that there are two stages to this experimental Traffic Regulation Order. The Consultation period followed by the experimental yellow lines where the yellow lines would be monitored. The Chair further explained that the experimental yellow lines were being seen by WCC Highways as less intrusive as no signage would be necessary. Should “Clearway” signage be used then signs would need to be set at intervals to be enforceable, would be more intrusive on the landscape and be subject to removal by vandals. There was also the opinion that this road was unsuitable anyway as a Clearway. Cllr. Pollock advised that the PC waits Hannah Davies’ response to questions regarding timings of the consultation periods and laying of the narrow yellow lines. The Clerk had already written to Hannah Davies this week asking for clarification
401	The Minutes



	Cllr. Goodman Proposed and Seconded by Cllr. Eden that the Minutes were a true record, and all agreed to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on the 17 th , February 2021. The Chairman duly signed them as a true record.																																
402	Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20mph speed signs on school approaches. Covered under Minute Reference 406 below.• WCC Road Closure Orders- Clerk to make contact with WCC regarding the positioning of road closure signs causing confusion. (Clerk made contact on 17th Feb 21).																																
403	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. The Chair thanked Councillor Pollock for his dedicated service to the Parish over the years. All Councillors agreed.																																
404	Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 22/2/21- WCC- Road Closure Order- to close that part of C2071 Abberley from its junction with U64409 Reynolds Lane to its junction with C2276 The Village for carriageway patching- Anticipated duration: 9 days Commencing: 8 March 2021.• 26/2/21- WCC- (C2276 The Village, Abberley) (Temporary Closure) Order 2021 to close that part of C2276 The Village from its junction with C2071 Apostles Oak to its junction with A451 Dunley- Carriageway Patching- Anticipated duration: 8 days Commencing: 11 March 2021. Noted.• 1/3/21- SWDP- South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Preferred Options Further Regulation 18 (III) Sustainability Appraisal Consultation, Monday 1 March to Monday 19 April 2021. Action: The Chair commented that the Parish Council should respond formally to the consultation. The Chair asked Cllr. Eberlin if she would respond to the consultation. Draft to be circulated prior to submission.																																
405	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) A Bank Reconciliation as of 2nd March 2021 was circulated and it was agreed that the accounts were reconciled.b) To approve Receipts, Payments up to 17th March 2021. <table border="1"><tr><td><u>Payments list March 17th 2021</u></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Carole Hirst Salary to 5th March 21</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 398.73</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC Payment to 5th March 21</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 99.60</td></tr><tr><td>Wyre Piddle PC</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 22.68</td></tr><tr><td>Carole Hirst expenses to March 17th 2021</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 24.50</td></tr><tr><td>In2Out- Lengthsman Jan</td><td></td><td></td><td>£ 196.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td><u>£ 741.51</u></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	<u>Payments list March 17th 2021</u>				Carole Hirst Salary to 5th March 21			£ 398.73	HMRC Payment to 5th March 21			£ 99.60	Wyre Piddle PC			£ 22.68	Carole Hirst expenses to March 17th 2021			£ 24.50	In2Out- Lengthsman Jan			£ 196.00				<u>£ 741.51</u>				
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	<u>RECEIPTS upto March 17th 2021 not previously reported</u>			
	WCC Lengthsman Nov			£ 203.00
	WCC Lengthsman Dec			£ 196.00
	WCC Lengthsman Jan			£ 203.00
	<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>			<u>£ 602.00</u>
	<p>Cllr.Knight Proposed and Cllr. Nott Seconded that all the above payments for the period to 17th March 2021 be Approved, and Receipts noted. All in favour.</p> <p>c). Summary of Receipts to Payments Report (Budget Report) to March 2nd 2021 was circulated and it was agreed that this was a true record. On March 2nd, 2021 there was £ 23,414.12 in the bank. Noted.</p>			
406	<p>Speeding Initiatives.</p> <p>20mph speed signs on school approaches. Cllr. Knight made contact with the Headteacher to discuss. The Clerk and Headteacher of Abberley PC Primary School on the 6th March, wrote to Hannah Davies WCC to request consideration for a traffic order to review speed limit outside the school on the Clows Top Rd to 20mph. Having discussed the request for the 20mph unfortunately the school does not meet the criteria.</p> <p>The response-<i>"I understand the signs outside the school are not working however our Engineers are currently working to get these fixed"</i>. Cllr. Nott was very disappointed with the response.</p> <p>Cllr. Pollock advised that it would be more beneficial to apply for an advisory 20mph speed limit during school opening and closing times outside the school and that he supported that. It was decided to reapproach WCC Hannah Davies asking for an advisory 20mph limit during school arrival and departure times outside the school. The Clerk to write to Hannah Davies to request this consideration.</p>			
407	<p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21/00282/HP Abbots Leap, Pool House Barns, Studd Lane, Abberley- Installation of an 16KW Air Source Heat Pump- Councillors agreed to respond to this application commenting that they had no objection. 			
408	<p>Progress reports from Parish Councillors:</p> <p>a). <u>Neighbourhood Plan Working Group-</u> by Cllr. Knight.</p> <p><u>David Clarke report regarding the examination process.</u></p> <p>Just to let you know that the Abberley NDP Examiner, Ann Skippers, advised me last week that there has been a delay in the examination due to Covid restrictions hampering site visits.</p> <p>I've subsequently spoken to Ann and I think she may now be a bit more hopeful that a site visit may not be necessary.</p> <p>If, possible, we would still like to hold the referendum in mid-June (previously 10th June had been muted as a possibility). I am checking with the MHDC electoral services</p>			



manager what date we would need to call a referendum for it to be held on 10th June and will then work backwards to determine what date we would need the Examiner's Report. I will email Ann later this week advising of the deadline we would need the Examiner's Report in order to achieve a 10th June referendum and will copy you in to the email. Hopefully, the deadline will be do-able, but if it's not then we can discuss the options available.

b) Lengthsman update.

The Lengthsman keeps reporting blocked drains. He notes the amount of roadworks and is trying to work around these.

c) Parish Footpaths Warden- Cllr. Andrew

Cllr. Andrew has been invited to attend the required day of training for potential volunteer footpath wardens - this is being run on 18th March on-line.

d) WCC Gigabyte scheme- Stud Lane to Crundell End Lane Community Ultra-Fast Broadband update -Cllr. Knight circulated a detailed report to Councillors prior to the meeting. A further update on progress since the report was circulated was discussed. Cllr. Knight strongly felt that she pursue further discussions at this time without making any decisions and to call an EGM should this be required and the number of scheme sign ups not be achieved. Cllr. Eden felt that another motion should be put forward now to protect the Parish Council financially.

Cllr. Eden Proposed and Cllr. Jukes Seconded that 'Abberley Parish Council strongly supports the proposal to extend Ultra fast broadband to areas in the Parish, on the condition that there is no financial liability to the Parish Council'. 3 voted in favour, 1 voted against and 2 abstained. Councillors Goodman and Gibson were not present for the discussions or vote.

The Chair agreed to contact Ian Platt and Robert Stepniewski to discuss this latest resolution.

e) Climate Change – Report written by Cllr. Eberlin.

Public sector projects

Cllr. Andrew has researched the issue of possible match funding for the Government funded Public Sector Energy Efficiency Fund (PEEP) for her diocese work.

40% of net capital is available under the PEEP scheme with current scheme set to end by end of September 2021, with the possibility of extension.

Cllr. Andrew mentions Salix loan for match-funding but this is a loan not a grant so for this to be viable without Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) income which stops on 31st March 2021 for non-domestic schemes any site will need match funding. Need to know more about the Green Recovery money.

We would need to see what the options are for our only contender for public sector, the school? Clearly having just gone back after Covid the school has more immediate matters to manage so the chances of defining and completing by September 2021 are nil. I suggest I find out more about match funding options first then write to school/governors to see if they would like to engage with the WCC energy audit team. Half the battle is working out what will work.

The main issue for the school will be replacing the oil as there is limited roof space for PV. A possible collaborative 3 phase PV scheme using the Village Hall roof could work as previously discussed.



It might be better for the school to get through this current crisis. I will try to find out more about what possible schemes might be around post September 2021. We need to know more about government plans to support commercial RHI when the current scheme stops.

Housing Energy Standards

As you know I've written to our MP and Housing department regarding the new Walshes development using LPG gas boilers with no challenge. As yet Elan haven't replied to Simon Rowles' query as to how they would adapt housing should they be caught mid development by the new regs.

Letter from housing minister mentions transition in 2021 but doesn't explain as to what these arrangements will be. Legislation will be mid 2022 before it is binding if approved in 2021. Both replies have over-looked the issue of off grid developments that rely on oil/LPG.

SWDP Sustainability Response

I think deadline for this is 31st March but we were told at the consultation event that we weren't supposed to be commenting on the content and that the SWDP would just keep up with current legislation. I'll have another look to see if we can comment on the process so that developers do a better job before planning permission is given.

Green Grant Vouchers

I think we should put out some facebook/community notices/website update to remind folks to apply. Minimum £5k available plus domestic RHI which will cover the bulk of Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) for example. The Government appear to be flexible on granting extensions given the limited capacity of the market to respond. What do people think? We considered a talk but decided to delay until Covid was no longer a restriction.

f) Flooding Suffolk Lane – Cllr. Andrew.

contractors are on site and further issues emerging as a result.

A large amount of work has been done to create new drainage gullies on the field side of Suffolk Lane to catch run off from the hill that flows down the track. A new route under the road senna to have been created with a much larger diameter pipe. Work is also being done around the manhole in the grounds of Jacobs well. Plant is still on site and various spray paint markings suggest further work is planned, hopefully to divert field run off more directly into the stream.

The road is open again.

Tree branches left on the verge and repeatedly complained about by the PC about 18 months ago have been cleared to allow this work to take place.

They found that the main 600mm pipe under the road was not connected to the manhole in the field belonging to Jacobs Well. The owner had repaired the pipe connection when they did the Sewage Treatment Plant connection not realising that further up had also collapsed. This was probably caused by the tree roots from the hedge. If they hadn't fixed this then the road would have eventually collapsed. This was also why there was a large sinkhole in this field.

It is also worth highlighting that the owner of the property Jacob's Well have since found out that their neighbour at Holy Acre does not own the track/road down to the entrance of Holy Acre. So, this looks like it is unadopted which should make it easier for Highways to eventually complete this drain and own the system into the future. It would be a good idea to inform Highways this as the public section of road is shown at the junction of Jacobs Well drive entrance. The owner of Jacobs Well rang Chris Kinne this morning as the manhole in the road has not been installed. They put one instead in Jacobs Well field where the drain had collapsed. They have however put a blanked 300mm drain out towards the road. They couldn't fit a 450mm pipe. This pipe can then be used at a future



	<p>date to run a second drain down the Holy Acre Road. Not owned- Chris Kinne suggested doing a search on this.</p> <p>Chris Kinne has also mentioned that the gully on the Holy Acre side designed to catch the runoff from the field has been set too high by the contractors which is why they have subsequently installed kerbs on the downhill side to try to catch the water. It is hoped that this works or might need modifying.</p> <p><u>g) Walshes Farm Development- Cllr. Andrew Report</u> 3 further brick samples have been proffered, photographed next to an actual Abberley-made brick wall and comments returned to the planning officer. I am concerned that all those suggested with variable surface finishes have these finishes applied post firing and the finishes are therefore likely to weather off quickly. The brick suggested with a uniform internal structure has a very machine-made finish. The colour and surface finish looks like Arden Red. Cllr. Andrew updated her report stating that the Developer had started work on site using a brick which had not been agreed. This was mentioned to District Councillor Cumming.</p> <p>Also noted that the site boundary has been pushed out further towards the road by about 1.5 to 2m further grubbing up the seedlings from the actual hedge which was removed without consent and cannot now be replanted from the original material. The hedge running east west across the site has also been further compromised. An area of Tarmac has been installed right next to the first existing house for site compound parking, this is also not on the plans. Site traffic is being instructed to turn left only and the verge opposite is being eroded. Most of these issues are development control rather than planning matters, so for Cllr. Paul Cumming's attention.</p> <p><u>h) Section 106 – Cllr. Ballard report.</u> Nothing to report.</p>
409	<p>Councillors reports and items for future agendas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr. Nott reported that chevron signs at the bottom of Suffolk lane are damaged and need replacing.• Cllr. Andrew reported that 4Rivers Churches are marking Palm Sunday and a plan to dress windows or front gardens to create a trail with anyone wanting to take part to put their name on a list so that their display could form part of the trail. Those interested would email the Clerk who would keep a list for Cllr. Andrew to set up the trail. The theme would be Easter, and the symbol of "Hope". For information Palm Sunday is 28th March. Cllr. Nott further reported that 4Rivers Churches were putting on services every day throughout Holy Week staged across their various churches.
410	Date of Next Meeting- 21st April 2021 at 7.30pm via zoom

**Appendix 1 Cllr. Cumming MHDC Report**

As last month there is little to report in terms of activity at Malvern - although we continue to get Zoom training sessions to tell us what we already know. The Council Tax increase was again £5 for a Band D and past close financial control continues to hold us in good stead. Most of my activity consists currently of dealing with issues affecting individual residents with planning and enforcement constituting most of this. An enforcement officer has visited the Walshes Meadow site and agrees that removal of the hedge should not have been carried out. Replanting will be required, and he has agreed that the Parish Council should be consulted on the details. Highways access approval, which should have been sought previously is now being processed.

Appendix 2 Cllr. Dr Pollock WCC Report.**National lockdown**

Everyone will be aware of the tensions resulting from the continued national lockdown, maintained at a time when, fortunately, the numbers of Covid cases, people going into hospital and deaths are all falling. While we can be very thankful for that, vigilance must be maintained, while vigorous discussion continues at the national level on how the rules might be changed.

In Worcestershire, our rates of cases are falling, with Redditch an exception. There the high rate is among the under 65 year old population, probably connected with the level of industrial locations in the borough.

This week the Prime Minister has announced a substantial investment in improving bus services throughout the country. This is partly to seek to reduce car travel and thence air pollution, as well as encouraging more healthy modes of transport like walking and cycling.

The problems of sparsity are recognised in the plans, so that more rural bus services may be supported, as well as helping community transport schemes. All these matters are well known to those in the Tenbury area, where we have the benefit of the Tenbury Transport Trust, and now the new scheme run by John Driver named Teme Wheels.

County Matters

Tomorrow, the 18th March, there will be the last Cabinet meeting of the session, before purdah starts next Monday in the run up to the county elections on May 6th.

Marcus Hart will be presenting a report on the first year of Worcestershire Children First, the independent company running children's services in the county as a wholly owned subsidiary of the County Council. It would be fair to say that it has gone quite well, and we are hopeful of being upgraded at the next inspection later this year.

I will be presenting three reports, two connected with new walking and cycling bridges, seeking to encourage more active travel at least for short journeys. One is the Hampton Bridge over the Avon in Evesham and the other is the Kepax bridge over the Severn, to the north of the city of Worcester. It will enable people to walk and cycle between the area of Gheluvelt Park on the east side and the Hallow road on the west.

In addition, I will be presenting a report on the development around the rail station in Redditch, designed to make that a transport hub for bus and rail users among others, encouraging the retail trade as well as commuting to and from Birmingham.

In all one might hope that these developments will put an end to the belief of some people that the County Council is only interested in catering for car users, and not alternative modes of travel. Not that the provision of the Kepax bridge is without comment. Some feel there should be more cycle paths to gain access to the bridge, while a letter in the Worcester News on Tuesday objected to another "cycling" bridge at all. Such is the nature of local politics.

Local matters

The village has been and will continue to be disrupted by various road works, concerned with drainage and carriageway patching. I trust the disruption will be short lived and the improvements permanent.



I appreciate the concern about speeding outside the school and an advisory 20mph limit would help. I have supported the same on the A443 in Great Witley, as the provision of such a system outside the secondary school in Tenbury seems to have been worthwhile.

Please bear in mind that the recent speed measurement in Great Witley demonstrated that the average speed during daylight hours was more or less exactly on the 30mph limit, with very few exceeding 35 mph. Perceptions of speed and risk may vary, but in reality vehicle speeds are generally not excessive.

I am aware of drainage problems on the A443 running past the shop and hope we will be able to improve matters there soon. Further up the hill towards the brow, work is scheduled to widen the footpath to the full extent possible. This will not be as wide as might be desirable but will be an improvement.

Bearing in mind the impact of the lockdown on the retail trade, may I repeat my request that we all seek to shop locally as much as possible to maintain our local retailers, on whom we depend so much over the full year.

I am pleased also to read of government encouragement for the use of pavements for outside tables and chairs, to encourage eating and drinking in the fresh air. Not likely to affect directly many in Abberley, but this has been a bone of contention for some concerned with Teme Street in Tenbury, but I hope the national support will allay the reasonable fears that have been expressed.