

## MINUTES

Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2023

Present; Cllr. Knight, Cllr. Andrew, Cllr. Ballard, Cllr. Eden, Cllr. Field, Cllr. Outwin

In Attendance: Cllr. Cumming MHDC,

Meeting ended at: 8.25 p.m.

Minute Reference	
679	Apologies: Cllr. Nott, Cllr. Jukes, Cllr. Eberlin, Cllr. D. Chambers
680	Declarations of Interest: None
681	<p><b>Democratic Public Time:</b></p> <p>A parishioner addressed the meeting on the subject of the installation of double yellow lines on the Clows Top Road. She explained she had been in contact with a Road Safety Expert and requested the Council make no decision until his report is received at which time she would welcome the opportunity to address the Council again. She mentioned alternatives including the removal of the middle chevron at the junction encouraging drivers to be more cautious and the zone around the area being restricted to 20 mph.</p> <p>Another parishioner asked if the Council would confirm the acquisition of land. In response the Chair advised that this matter was an Agenda item and would, therefore, be dealt with at that time.</p> <p>Lisa Walker, on behalf of the Abberley Hills Preservation Society, advised that she and Sarah Crabbe had attended a meeting in February at which the proposed extension of the Malvern Hills AONB was discussed. She and Sarah Crabbe had been involved in the initial discussions back in 2015. Malvern Hills Joint Advisory Committee are spearheading the project with the support of adjoining parishes and under the umbrella of Natural England.</p> <p>At this time, however, members of the NFU who will most directly be impacted by any decision are being consulted.</p> <p>Mrs Walker indicated that various items on this proposal had appeared in the local press.</p> <p>Carolyn Coles, Chair of the Abberley Hills Preservation Society advised that further information relating to the AONBs could be found on the Gov.uk, Malvern Hills and Defra websites. She advised that grants are to be made available to farmers. At this time there are 34 AONBs and 10 National Parks.</p> <p>Lisa Walker, in concluding, advised that currently 15% of the country are covered by AONBs with the Government aim to increase this to 30% with the aim to improve mental health throughout the Country</p>
682	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Eden</b> under item 669 indicated that the proposer and seconder names had been omitted. This is now rectified. Proposed by Cllr. Nott &amp; seconded by Cllr. Eden.</p> <p>Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. Eden Seconded that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Abberley Parish Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 were a true record. All in favour.</p>
683	<b>Matters Arising not cover elsewhere on the Agenda</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brig-y-Don</b> – Update on hedge following change of ownership. The council were advised that the new owner would organise for the hedge to be cut back and maintained in the future.</li> <li>a. <b>Update from WCC Highways re Parking by School –Update from WCC Highways re Parking by School – Cllr. Knight</b> referred the meeting to the comments made by WC Cllr. Chambers “<i>A consultation is taking place regarding yellow lines in the vicinity of the school. This process will take some time</i>”.</li> <li>b. Cllr. Andrew had previously suggested and re-iterated her suggestion that two parking bays be taken out of the Village Hall Car Park which would allow drivers to circulate around the car park <b>Update from Cllr. Chambers re Pavement on Tenbury Road</b> Considerable discussion took place regarding the ongoing state of the footpath. Cllr. Andrew stated that it was unsafe and that the Contractors had taken no action to widen the path between the entrance to the site and the Shop. This is especially unfortunate having had the hedge removed for this purpose. Cllr. Knight advised that she had looked at the applications relating to this development and could find no reference to the path running east from the site. After attendance at a Site Meeting a letter was sent to the developers outlining the issues discussed to which there had been no reply. Cllr. Andrew said she would revisit the three planning applications pertaining to this site and would circulate any discoveries made with reference to the path, by letter, to the rest of the Council prior to sending to Cllr. Cummings.</li> <li>• <b>Have your say on Planning – Information circulated by the Council</b></li> <li>• <b>Nora Parsons Day Centre AGM 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 at NP Centre</b></li> </ul>												
684	<p><b>County and District Councillor Reports</b>  <b>Cllr. Cumming MHDC Report.</b> Appendix 1  <b>Cllr. Chambers WCC Report</b> circulated prior to the meeting attached as Appendix 2.  <b>Cllr. Cumming advised that Cllr. Pam. Cumming had been appointed to the MHDC AONB Committee.</b>  Cllr. Field asked Cllr Cumming when the partially felled tree in Rosedale could be removed. It was stated that work was halted when it was thought a pigeon had nested in the branches. This appears not to be the case. Cllr. Cumming suggested that MHDC be contacted as they already maintain the green space.</p>												
685	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>a) To Consider Receipts, Payments from 17<sup>th</sup> May to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="416 1720 1007 2029"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3" style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Payments list June 21 2023</u></b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">C Hirst May Pay</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£</td> <td style="text-align: right;">475.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">HMRC May tax</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£</td> <td style="text-align: right;">118.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">IN2OUT litterbin install</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£</td> <td style="text-align: right;">75.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b><u>Payments list June 21 2023</u></b>			C Hirst May Pay	£	475.07	HMRC May tax	£	118.60	IN2OUT litterbin install	£	75.00
<b><u>Payments list June 21 2023</u></b>													
C Hirst May Pay	£	475.07											
HMRC May tax	£	118.60											
IN2OUT litterbin install	£	75.00											

	IN2OUT LENGTHSMAN MAY		£ 212.62
	C Hirst June Pay		£ 475.07
	HMRC June tax		£ 118.60
			<u>£ 1,474.96</u>
	<b><u>RECEIPTS upto Jun 21st 23 not previously reported</u></b>		
	WCC Lengthsman		£ 210.00
	<b><u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u></b>		<u>£ 210.00</u>
	<p><b>Cllr. Eden Proposed and Cllr. Knight Seconded that the payments be approved. All in favour.</b></p> <p><b>To note the Bank Reconciliation at 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Noted</b></p> <p><b>To note the budget update report of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Noted.</b></p>		
686	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>M/23/00672/HP Elm Lodge, The Common, Abberley- Erection of Boundary Fence - CONSULTATION to 26<sup>th</sup> June 23</b> Cllr. Nott and Cllr. Field had visited the site. The hedge has been removed and a fence in its place. Cllr. Field stated that owner wishes to re-instate the hedge but Highways are insisting the fence remain as well for visibility.</li> <li>• <b>M/23/00379/HP Bowling Green Cottage, 86 Stockton Road, Stockton-</b> Erection of two-storey side extension, double garage and boundary wall- CONSULTATION to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Cllr. Knight and Cllr. Field will arrange a visit to the site.</li> </ul>		
687	<p><b>Village Hall Management Committee</b></p> <p>Cllr. Field kindly agreed to be the Parish Council representative for the next 12 months.</p>		
688	<p><b>Section 106 Piper Homes &amp; CiL Working Group</b></p> <p>For the benefit of members of the public attending the meeting Cllr. Ballard advised that as a result of developments within the Village we have been apportioned some Section 106 money. The restrictions on how this is to be spent are very prescriptive. According to the limitations on the use of this money it can be spent on the purchase of land. To this end the Parish Council are in negotiation for the purchase of a field. The field in question runs from the Clows Top Road public footpath to the top of Suffolk Lane and includes the land running up towards and including part of the woodland. This purchase still has to go through conveyancing, surveys and other legal processes.</p>		
689	<p><b>Update for information only on AONB application</b></p>		
690	<p>Cllr. Eberlin was unable to attend the meeting so this item is to be re-listed on the next Agenda. <b>Climate Change</b></p>		
691	<p>The relisting of the <b>Manor Arms as a Community Asset</b></p>		

	<p>Cllr. Andrew advised that the listing of the Manor Arms as a Community Asset has expired and drew the Council's attention to this fact. Cllr. Andrew also recommended that we look at the possibility of the inclusion of the playing fields and swimming pool at Abberley Hall School in light of its impending closure.</p> <p>Cllr. Cumming advised that there are strict guidelines regarding Community Assets; it is insufficient to say we want to keep it we must provide evidence regarding use and the fact that the Community relies on the facility. Cllr. Andrew agreed to fill in the application form and circulate to Councillors before sending to Malvern.</p> <p>Cllr. Field advised that it would be courteous to advise the Manor of the Council's intentions. This was agreed.</p>
692	<p><b>Councillors reports &amp; Items for Future Agenda</b></p> <p>a) Cllr. Outwin requested that the Council consider "Bleed packs" to be included in the defibrillators</p> <p>b) Cllr. Outwin following a meeting of the Village Green Committee had been asked to re-visit the request from a parishioner regarding provision of a footpath between the Abberley Common and Abberley Village.</p> <p>c) Report from Abberley Hills Preservation Society</p> <p>d) Cllr. Andrew requested that restoration of the Church Clock be discussed.</p>
693	<p><b>Date of next Ordinate Meeting of the Parish Council will be Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 at Abberley Village Hall</b></p>

#### **Appendix 1 Cllr. David Chambers WCC Report.**

1. The County Council has recently undergone a three-week OFSTED inspection. Findings should be announced late June or July.
2. Following the recent murder trial of a young child in Coventry, the mother has been found guilty of manslaughter and her partner of murder. The murder itself took place in Worcestershire. Now the trial is over there will be a process of investigation, which West Mercia Police and Worcestershire County Council will both undergo.
3. The Boundary Review for Divisions within Worcestershire is underway. Once the Boundary Commission have concluded their work and following public consultation, the new Divisions will come into effect at the elections in May 2025.
4. The County Council is undertaking a number of "Road Shows" across the county over the summer. Details can be found on the council's website.
5. Following early success derived through the Bromsgrove on Demand (BoD) Service, WCC has launched a second Pilot in South Malvern for increased provision of sustainable and efficient Demand Response Transport (DRT) in a rural location. The service will initially focus on Upton and Kempsey.
6. There is to be an increase in the cost of Home to School Transport rates for Vacant Seats. The increase will only effect those not eligible for free Home to School Transport, where vacant seats are available. The increase will only partly offset the increased cost incurred by WCC. WCC has not raised prices for several years and prices remain below those of our neighbouring counties who offer similar schemes.
7. Grass cutting is currently underway across the county, in partnership with the District Councils. A depth of approximately one metre is cut to allow for biodiversity.

8. At a recent Full Meeting of the County Council, Councillors unanimously agreed a revised Code of Conduct for Councillors following work done by the Local Government Association and a consultation process by WCC's Standards and Ethics Committee.
9. Local Matters:
  - c. A consultation is taking place regarding yellow lines in the vicinity of the school. This process will take some time.
  - d. There is no progress regarding the pavement along the Tenbury Road as I have not yet heard back from the Parish Council regarding conditions imposed by MHDC's Planning Committee, in respect of works the developer will need to complete, to make good the impact on the pavement following completion of the site. Once the developer has completed its obligation, I will ask the County Council to upgrade the remaining stretch of the pavement.

## **APPENDIX 2 MHDC Report**

The Council has started its new term under new ward boundaries, but events from pre-election still influence matters and once again chiefly in the area of planning. The June council meeting has now been cancelled due to lack of business, but we remain busy behind the scenes clearing outstanding issues - not least on planning enforcement issues.

There have been planning appeals at Astley, mainly within Baldwin Ward, where 145 houses opposed by MHDC on the edge of Stourport were granted outline permission, in addition to a further 50 at Martley primarily because of the lack of a five-year land supply in the District. Such decisions emphasise the need for the SWDPR review to be completed. We will be pursuing this point, stressing that it creates further pressure on the already overstretched Severn River crossings which need addressing in the transport policies of the revised plan.

On a more positive route we have continued to press for the £1.2 additional one-off grant from the government to be earmarked for infrastructure needed under the new plan, rather than be put in general reserves and are pleased to say that a recommendation is now going to the Executive Committee to achieve this.

Our specific individual roles at Malvern for the immediate future are now clarified with Pam focussing on the environment and Paul on planning and economic development.

We are pleased and grateful to have been returned as members of the new ward and thank residents for their support which we intend to justify.