



Present: Cllr. Knight (Chair), Cllr. Eden, Cllr. Eberlin, Cllr. Field, Cllr. Jukes (1 vacancy)  
In Attendance: 2 member of the Public.

**The Meeting closed at 20:24pm**

Minute Reference					
722	<b>Apologies: Cllr. Outwin; Cllr. Nott, Cllr. Ballard,</b> WCC Councillor David Chambers. Cllrs Paul and Pam Cumming MHDC				
723	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> Cllr. Eberlin declared a disclosable non-pecuniary interest – Minute 732.				
	<p><b>Democratic Period/ Public Time –</b></p> <p>Planning Appeal relating to <b>M/22/00321/OUT</b> (site around the Village Hall) to be heard on 21<sup>st</sup> November at 10am – could be an all-day meeting. A Parishioner offered any help that he could to support the Parish Council in this matter.</p> <p>A second Parishioner raised the concerns about excessive light on the village square causing problems for wildlife etc and impacting on the Dark Skies Policy of the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Parishioner also reinforced the importance of the response to the Planning Appeal and lent her support.</p> <p>She also raised concerns over <b>M/23/01281/DEM The Orchard, Apostles Oak, Abberley-</b> Proposed demolition of The Orchard, Apostles Oak, Abberley and noted that the PC had sent in a response to object to this application.</p>				
724	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes</b></p> <p>Cllr. Field Proposed and Seconded by Cllr. Jukes that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Abberley Parish Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were a true record. All in favour.</p>				
725	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Listing of the Manor Arms; it was requested for a volunteer to take this on as lead Councillor. It was agreed to circulate the link to the required forms to ascertain what work will be required.</li> <li>• Update on parking issues on Clow Top Rd. Nothing further to report.</li> </ul>				
726	<p><b>County and District Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Cumming MHDC Report:</b> Report attached as Appendix 2.</p> <p><b>Cllr. Chambers WCC Report:</b> Report attached as Appendix 1.</p>				
727	<p><b>Finance</b> <b>a To approve receipts and payments for the period to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="360 1832 954 1904"> <tr> <td data-bbox="360 1832 715 1904"><b>Payments list Oct 18th 2023</b></td> <td data-bbox="715 1832 751 1904"></td> <td data-bbox="751 1832 788 1904"></td> <td data-bbox="788 1832 954 1904"></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Payments list Oct 18th 2023</b>			
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Chairman.....

Date 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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



	Lengthsman Sept		£ 212.62
	Village Hall invoice		£ 15.00
	C Hirst - Clerk Expenses to 18th Oct		£ 36.03
			<b>£ 263.65</b>
	<b><u>RECEIPTS upto October 18th 23 not previously reported</u></b>		
	MHDC Precept 2		£ 5,871.00
	WCC Lengthsman		£ 212.62
	<b><u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u></b>		<b><u>£ 6,083.62</u></b>
	<p>Cllr. Eden proposed and Cllr. Knight seconded <b>that the payments be approved. All in favour.</b></p> <p><b>b) To note the Bank Reconciliation at 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.</b> Noted.</p> <p><b>c) To Note the Budget report at 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.</b> Noted.</p> <p><b>d) To approve</b> funding/budget of £1500 for a planning consultant for the planning appeal: M/22/00321/OUT at Land At (OS 7474 6805) Apostles Oak, Abberley. Cllr. Knight proposed that Mike Parker of PKR Planning be appointed as a planning consultant to prepare a representation for the parish council on this appeal with a budget being agreed of £1500 for his services. Seconded by Cllr. Eberlin. All in favour.</p>		
<b>728</b>	<p><b>Planning –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>M/23/00773/FUL - Meadow Cottage, Stockton Road, Abberley-</b> Replacement dwelling and garage outbuilding (including the demolition of the existing structures) – APPROVED.</li> <li>• <b>M/23/00934/HP - Broken Hill, Stockton Road, Abberley-</b> Erection of three car garage with residential annex over, following demolition of existing garage and shed – APPROVED.</li> <li>• <b>M/23/01281/DEM The Orchard, Apostles Oak, Abberley-</b> Proposed demolition of The Orchard, Apostles Oak, Abberley- CONSULTATION to 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023- Rejection Response Submitted.</li> <li>• <b>M/23/01323/CLE- Brookend, Abberley-</b> Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of land as residential garden incidental to associated dwelling house- CONSULTATION to 23<sup>rd</sup> October – response sent. No objection.</li> <li>• <b>M/22/00321/OUT at Land At (OS 7474 6805) Apostles Oak Abberley-</b> Outline application (all matters reserved except access) for the construction of up to 14 entry-level affordable dwellings- APPEAL – All representation to be received to the Planning Inspectorate by 3<sup>rd</sup> November 23 – See finance item 727 (d).</li> </ul>		



	<p><b>The meeting is being held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November for the planning appeal meeting. A response will be circulated. Cllr. Knight has delegated powers to agree the response on behalf of the PC.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Meeting at Great Witley Village Hall. Bloor Homes development at Great Witley. Meeting to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> October at Great Witley. A Councillor has agreed to attend.</li> </ul>
729	<p><b>To discuss any plans for 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day, June 2024 and whether the Parish Council would like to consider any remembrance statues in the Parish.</b> Deferred to the November PC meeting.</p>
730	<p><b>Section 106 Piper Homes and CiL Update: Report by Cllr. Ballard</b></p> <p>The 'land purchase working group' met on the 4th October to compare notes which we had each made on the deeds, title plans and geological, chancel, drainage and highways surveys as well as any of the previous conveyances.</p> <p>We concluded by agreeing we would all individually seek out various parcels of land which have been purchased by a village in a similar way and to seek ideas and council from those involved. The two sites which were highlighted were Menith Woods' Millenium Field and Bull Meadow, Claines.</p> <p>I would, of course, alert the land purchase team of any developments when it comes to hearing back from the solicitor.</p>
731	<p><b>To note the resignation of Cllr. Andrew from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Notice of Resignation sent to MHDC.</b></p> <p>Cllr. Andrew resigned on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 and a notice was sent to MHDC to make public announcement. Cllr. Knight asked that a record of thanks for Cllr. Andrew's hard work be noted as it was in the September minutes.</p>
732	<p><b>Update from Cllr Eberlin as to how to continue to inform about climate change measures.</b></p> <p>Cllr. Eberlin reported that an article had been put into the parish magazine and onto the parish website. The event is being held at Abberley Village Hall on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm. Cllr. Eberlin to chase the community transport to make sure they will be attending.</p>
733	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan Review.</b></p> <p>Until the Levelling Up Bill has been approved, hopefully by the end of this year, the review will be in abeyance as this will clarify the time frame within which it should take place.</p>
734	<p>Speeding Issues - Stockton Road - cars traveling at 45-50 mph. The Clerk to investigate the Parish Council becoming an Operation Snap area. Following this we could publicise Operation Snap to start data collection.</p>
735	<p><b>Councillors reports and items for future agendas.</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lights in The Square – Has Manor Arms consulted the public? The Parish Council to consult with the local community and then to the Manor Arms to discuss this.</li> <li>The Parish Noticeboard has been damaged and now has a crack. The clerk to report to the company to get a cost and then contact the insurance.</li> <li>Noise problems were reported at Crundel End Lane, but after Councillors had been down to investigate possible sources it was felt that new stock fencing had been and was being installed which could account for the noise. A second visit ascertained that the fencing had been completed. The Parishioner who had concerns has been informed.</li> <li>Sewerage Plant on Clows Top Road was reported as being excessively smelly. The Clerk to report to Severn Trent.</li> </ul>
<b>736</b>	To Consider the Clerk salary remuneration and hours with affect from 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2023. Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. Jukes Seconded that the clerk pay be raised to SCP 25 £16.64 per hour and the clerk hours be reduced to 8.5 hours per week. Effective from October 1 <sup>st</sup> 2023. All in favour.
<b>737</b>	<b>Date of Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm at Abberley Village Hall.</b>

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

1. Worcestershire County Council are in the process of producing a revised Environment Improvement Plan which will bring together several separate policies including the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Biodiversity Action Plan. The new plan will be driven by the Cabinet Member for the Environment and considered by the Member Advisory Group which is a cross Party group of Councillors.

Within the Corporate Plan the council pledged to plant 150,000 trees. 50,000 of these have now been planted.

The County Council is working with Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency to address the outflow of polluted water into our rivers and streams.

The County Council continues to work with the Environment Agency to progress their flood defence schemes in Tenbury, Bewdley, Severn Stoke and Worcester.

Worcestershire County Council has been shortlisted in the “National Council/Local Authority of the Year” category, for a National Energy Efficiency Award, in recognition of its commitment to sustainability.

2. Following recent reports of identifying RAAF concrete in buildings, the County Council has conducted and continues to conduct further investigations and studies. As Chairman of the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee I called for a report on RAAF in Worcestershire schools. I can report that no RAAF has been identified in any of the schools operated by the local authority including Community, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation



schools. Academies, Voluntary Aided and Independent schools are reporting directly to the Department for Education (DfE) and the DfE is not sharing this information with the Council.

- 3. I have recently expressed concern regarding vaping by children aged 11 to 18 years and will be bringing these concerns as a future agenda item on the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Vaping is a good thing if used by adults who are trying to give up smoking, it is not however, something we should be encouraging for general use by adults let alone children.

Sadly, many people do not realise that vapes contain nicotine and in some cases more nicotine than in cigarettes. They are also available in a variety of coloured tanks and fun flavourings, which are particularly attractive to young children. Despite efforts by Worcestershire Trading Standards and Worcestershire Public Health, vapes are being both sold to children and acquired by children under 18 years.

- 4. Consultation regarding changes to Division boundaries within Worcestershire are well under way. The County Council (with cross Party agreement) has submitted its recommendation. There are no changes recommended for the Tenbury Division, the electorate however is expected to increase by 900 by 2029. All Town and Parish Councils, community groups and individuals can submit recommendations to the Boundary Commission. The new boundaries will come into effect in the May 2025 elections.
- 5. At a recent meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee of Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority it was agreed that all employees would be required to undergo DBS checks.
- 6. I was recently informed that a Public Footpath crosses the grounds of one school in my Division and that the school tried unsuccessfully in 2018 to have the footpath diverted. I have visited the school and have myself tried unsuccessfully to have the matter reassessed. This is a further issue that I shall bring forward to the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee as I am concerned that public footpaths take priority over the safeguarding of school children.
- 7. I have made a formal request to Worcestershire County Council to procure the building of a new pedestrian bridge over the river Teme at Tenbury. The current bridge is no longer fit for purpose due the continued risk to pedestrians safety from vehicles mounting the footpath on both sides, whilst being used by pedestrians.

I am suggesting that the new pedestrian bridge be build alongside or near to the existing bridge. The existing bridge would then be prohibited to pedestrians. I am further suggesting that each of the two footpaths be reduced in size by 50% thereby increasing the width of the carriageway. Bollards could then be placed along the length of both reduced footpaths to prevent vehicles from driving too close to the bridge railings.

The boundary between Worcestershire and Shropshire is along the centre of the river Teme and as such I am suggesting that funding is provided by both Worcestershire County Council and Shropshire Council, with additional funds if necessary coming from central government.

**Appendix 2 Cllrs. Paul and Pam Cumming MHDC Report**

At last, two and a half years behind schedule, the Local Plan has now been submitted.



We now await the appointment of an inspector to carry out the Examination and Officers believe that the Plan should be ready for adoption by the end of 2024. At that stage, the District should regain a greater degree of control over planning decisions.

That is the better news although we are still awaiting details of a transport policy to establish how the road network will be able to accommodate cars from the additional 1100 houses currently in the pipeline for the area of north-east Malvern Hills District to the River Severn at Stourport. Many of these will wish to cross the river daily using the congested bridges at Stourport and Holt. In addition to this there are a further 2,500 houses already approved at Broadheath which will add to the problem.

The issue of local school places is also being raised at planning meetings and the need for educational contributions from developers is now being taken more seriously.

On a positive note, the government is proposing changes to streamline the process for future Local Plans as well as other measures which should give more assistance to councils.

Interviews for a new Head of Planning are due to take place this month and there will be representation from Baldwin Ward on the selection panel.