



Present: Cllr. Knight (Chair), Cllr. Eden, Cllr. Field, Cllr. Jukes; Cllr. Nott, Cllr. Ballard; after minute 756 Cllr. Tassell.

In Attendance:– 2 members of the Public.

The Meeting closed at 20:38pm

Minute Reference	
753	Apologies: Cllr. Eberlin; Cllr. Outwin, Cllrs Paul and Pam Cumming MHDC WCC Councillor David Chambers.
754	Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Knight declared a Disclosable Interest in item 763 (excessive light problems). Cllr. Tassell declared a disclosable Pecuniary interest in Minute 760 - M/23/00672/HP
	Democratic Period/ Public Time – Kate Andrew – Re: 21/01267/FUL- The Orchard, Apostles Oak, Abberley, Worcester, WR6 6AD- Proposed demolition of existing buildings on site and development of 9 new dwellinghouses- APPROVED. <i>Kate Andrews wrote to the Parish and District Council to express her concerns regarding this application and the fact that work had commenced prior to approval. This was conveyed to Planning Enforcement on 2 occasions. The Enforcement Officer wrote to say the parishioner should keep notes, dates, times, events and report directly to the Planning Officer.</i> Pavement next to Piper Homes remains in a dangerous condition. Eden Homes Developer.
755	Approval of the Minutes Cllr. Knight Proposed and Seconded by Cllr. Eden that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Abberley Parish Council on the 15 th November 2023 were a true record. All in favour.
756	To consider Co-option to the vacancy as Parish Councillor for Abberley. Only one applicant received – Libby Tassell. Cllr. Knight Proposed and Cllr. Nott Seconded that Libby Tassell be appointed to the Parish Council. All in favour.
757	Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Listing of the Manor Arms Having sent out letters requesting support for this no further progress had been made. However, on re examining the application form it was ascertained that specific support was not necessary and the Parish Council had the right to request the listing having filled in all the necessary documentation. This will now be sent to the appropriate agency. • Update on parking issues on Clow Top Rd. Nothing further to report. 20mph sign not working.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding Issues on Stockton Road recorded cars traveling at 45-50 mph. Cllr Ballard reported findings of speed review of the Stockton Road which the clerk then duly sent to the appropriate agency as part of their data collection • 80th Anniversary of D Day, June 2024 – a Brass Band had been booked for Sunday 9th June 2024 for an event at the Village Green 2pm to 4pm. This event is not now taking place and the band will be cancelled as there appears to be very little support. • It was decided that if Parishioners wanted to organise something themselves they should contact the Parish Council to see if we could help in any way. However, Cllrs Nott and Outwin will be scattering poppy seeds on the Village Green to create a living memorial to the war dead, on behalf of the Parish Council 																																																
<p>758</p>	<p>County and District Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr. Cumming MHDC</p> <p>Nothing to report since December update which is Appendix 2. Very few District Council meetings have taken place.</p> <p>Cllr. Chambers WCC Report: Report attached as Appendix 1.</p>																																																
<p>759</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) To approve receipts and payments for the period to 17th January 2024</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="360 1093 1034 1861"> <tr> <td colspan="3">Payments list Jan 17th 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Worcs CALC</td> <td></td> <td>£ 96.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Hirst Salary Nov + back pay</td> <td></td> <td>£ 757.38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC Nov + employer NIC</td> <td></td> <td>£ 215.22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IN2OUT Lengthsman Nov</td> <td></td> <td>£ 212.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abberley Village Hall 23/24/065</td> <td></td> <td>£ 15.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Hirst Salary Dec</td> <td></td> <td>£ 519.94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC Dec</td> <td></td> <td>£ 129.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IN2OUT Lengthsman Dec</td> <td></td> <td>£ 212.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Hirst - Expenses to Jan 17th</td> <td></td> <td>£ 81.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HCR Solicitors - land purchase and legal costs</td> <td></td> <td>£180,318.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ICO - GDPR</td> <td></td> <td>£ 35.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>£182,594.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">RECEIPTS upto Nov 15th 23 not previously reported</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WCC Lengthsman sept</td> <td></td> <td>£ 212.62</td> </tr> </table>	Payments list Jan 17th 24			Worcs CALC		£ 96.00	C Hirst Salary Nov + back pay		£ 757.38	HMRC Nov + employer NIC		£ 215.22	IN2OUT Lengthsman Nov		£ 212.62	Abberley Village Hall 23/24/065		£ 15.00	C Hirst Salary Dec		£ 519.94	HMRC Dec		£ 129.80	IN2OUT Lengthsman Dec		£ 212.62	C Hirst - Expenses to Jan 17th		£ 81.91	HCR Solicitors - land purchase and legal costs		£180,318.52	ICO - GDPR		£ 35.00			£182,594.01				RECEIPTS upto Nov 15th 23 not previously reported			WCC Lengthsman sept		£ 212.62
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	MHDC S 106 for land purchase		£198,772.08
	WCC Oct Lengthsman		£ 220.50
	WCC Lengthsman Nov		£ 212.62
	HCR Legal- refund of legal expenses		£ 90.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		£199,507.82
	<p>Cllr. Eden proposed and Cllr. Juckes seconded that the payments be approved. All in favour.</p> <p>b) To note the Bank Reconciliation at 2nd January 2024. Noted.</p> <p>c) To Note the Budget report at 2nd January 2024. Noted.</p> <p>d) To consider Councillor Training for the whole Council. A quote of £140 plus travel has been received. It is envisaged that all Councillors attend and will be based at the village hall. Cllr. Knight Proposed and Cllr. Ballard Seconded. All in favour.</p>		
760	<p>Planning –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M/ENF/23/0305- The Orchard Apostles Oak Abberley Worcester WR6 6AD- alleged breach of planning control – 4 December received. Cllr. Knight to prepare a response to be sent to the Developer (Darren Cutler) and Lee Walton with concerns. Clerk to send email to both. M/23/01620/FUL Land At (Os 7562 6728) The Hill, Abberley- Erection of an agricultural building- CONSULTATION to 28th December 23 response sent. Appeal Ref: APP/J1860/W/23/3326243 Land at (OS 7474 6805) Apostles Oak, Abberley - The development proposed is outline application (all matters reserved except access) for the construction of up to 14 entry-level affordable dwellings. APPEAL DISMISSED. 21/00896/S106- Land At (Os 7452 6790), Clows Top Road, Abberley- Application under Section 106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to alter provision of 6 No. social rented dwellings which form part of the overall affordable housing obligation- Application WITHDRAWN. 21/01267/FUL- The Orchard, Apostles Oak, Abberley, Worcester, WR6 6AD- Proposed demolition of existing buildings on site and development of 9 new dwellinghouses- APPROVED. <i>Parishioner, Kate Andrews wrote to the Parish and District Council to express her concerns regarding this application and the fact that work had commenced prior to approval. This was conveyed to Planning Enforcement on 2 occasions . The Enforcement Officer wrote to say the parishioner should keep notes, dates, times, events and report directly to the Planning Officer.</i> M/ENF/23/0305- The Orchard Apostles Oak Abberley Worcester WR6 6AD- Acknowledgement of receipt of planning enforcement – 21/12/23 		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M/23/00672/HP- Elm Lodge, The Common, Abberley, Worcester, WR6 6AY- Erection of boundary fence- REFUSED 22/12/23 • M/23/00747/HP- Brig Y Don, Suffolk Lane, Abberley, Worcester, WR6 6BE- Two storey rear extension and replacement porch – APPROVED 22/12/23 • M/23/01323/CLE- Brookend, Abberley, Worcester, WR6 6BU- Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of land as residential garden incidental to associated dwelling house- APPROVED • The use of agricultural building – Planning (Cllr. Knight to give a verbal report)
761	<p>Section 106 Piper Homes Update: <i>‘The Parish Council are enormously pleased to announce that, as a village, we are now the proud owners of circa 11 acres of land which we hope will be enjoyed by all.</i></p> <p><i>We were able to purchase the land by utilising section 106 money which was provided to the Parish following the recent housing developments. Section 106 has many conditions about how the money can be applied for and spent. In our case, as Abberley Parish Council did not have ownership of any land the money was to be spent on acquiring some public open space for the Parish. Fortuitously, some land came up for sale in an idyllic setting and we started our process.</i></p> <p><i>The land is situated centrally, connecting both sides of the village. There is already a footpath, well used, which goes through the land; you gain access through a grass passageway opposite Churchfield Terrace. The initial, large field is what we now collectively own.</i></p> <p><i>For the next 12 months, we intend to turn the field into a grass meadow to see how the Parish utilises the space before making any longer-term plans.</i></p> <p><i>We will post updates on progress as and when it happens.</i></p> <p><i>Of course, we need to christen our newly acquired plot and we would welcome any name suggestions to be emailed to me:</i></p> <p>jack.ballard@abberleyparish.org.uk</p>
762	<p>Update from Cllr Eberlin as to how to continue to inform about climate change measures.</p> <p>Climate Change Evening - Tuesday 20th February at 7.30pm at the village hall. Cllr. Eberlin has sent this to the parish mag which should be out for Feb issue.</p> <p>Tenbury Trust again invited and hopefully will have a reply soon on community transport options.</p> <p>Cllr. Eberlin will advertise evening around the village on posters and perhaps do some leaflets in new estate areas.</p> <p>Same format as previous evenings but will try to have less lecture time and more sharing and chatting.</p> <p>Update on heat pumps, energy savings, Update on dark skies</p>
763	<p>Climate Actions for 2024 – Cllr. Eberlin was unavailable to give an update. Deferred to February Meeting.</p>



764	<p>Concerns about excessive light spillage on the village square causing problems for wildlife and neighbouring houses etc and impacting on the Dark Skies Policy of the Parish Council. Reported by Cllr. Eberlin.</p> <p>An update was circulated prior to the meeting.</p>
765	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Review. Nothing to report</p>
766	<p>Councillors reports and items for future agendas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. Field asked that a Councillor be appointed as a new representative for the Village Hall Committee. Cllr. Tassell agreed to become the representative on the Village Hall Committee. • Lighting at Abberley Hall Preparatory School – red lights at the hall. Great Witley Parish Council has asked for support in this matter. Cllr. Field to ascertain the situation and report back.
767	<p>Date of Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be on 21st February 2024 at 7.30pm at Abberley Village Hall.</p>

Appendix 1 Cllr. David Chambers WCC Report.

1. The County Council, like virtually all other local authorities, is experiencing increasing costs in general and in three expenditure areas in particular. Adult Social Care, Child Care Placements and Home To School Transport are seeing costs escalate, resulting in budget pressures which the Cabinet are addressing as a priority.

The Council is determined to not only maintain key services but to continue to provide the enhanced services which it has committed to do. It doesn't help when the government fail to maintain council grants in line with inflation and limit the increases that Council Tax can be increased by each year. For example, the Chancellor of the Exchequer can increase national taxes at will, to ensure "a balanced national budget", but local authorities are limited to a 3% rise in Council Tax each year, at a time when inflation has been running at over 10%.

- There is an additional 2% which is ring fenced for Adult Social care.

I will keep you updated as the Council prepares its Budget for 2024/25.

2. The County Council has secured £1.1million to help speed up hospital discharges, boost social care provision and prevent avoidable hospital admissions. Local Councils with Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and identified by NHS England as experiencing challenges with urgent and emergency care, were invited to put forward proposals for access to a £40million government fund. Worcestershire County Council were successful and will use the additional money to buy more services aimed at keeping people out of hospital as well as more packages for care at home.
3. A new bursary to aid young people with special education needs or disabilities is being made available by the County Council. The £1,000 Supported Internship Bursary will be for those partaking in the Supported Internship Programme. The fund will aid learners in acquiring work essentials such as PPE, uniforms, IT equipment and travel support.



The Supported Internship Bursary demonstrates the County Council's determination to fostering the growth and development of the county's future workforce and championing employment inclusion.

Appendix 2 Cllrs. Paul and Pam Cumming MHDC Report

A new Head of Planning has now been appointed, is due to start in February and should therefore be in place to steer the SWDPR through the Inspector's Examination. Meanwhile the Planning Improvement Group's suggestion that there should be a standing committee to monitor Planning performance has been rejected by the Executive in spite of support for the idea from Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is, however, open to reconsideration in six month's time and in the meantime the PIG will continue its work with the same enthusiasm.

The agreement to commencing a public consultation on a new CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) on new developments was sought at the last Council Meeting, but a decision was referred back to a subsequent meeting due to a feeling that further consideration of the details by councillors was needed. A total of £1.9 m has been received to date under the existing scheme and is supplemented by the £1m allocated for infrastructure from additional government grants. The Transport policy which will also support the SWDPR is still awaited.

The five-year Medium Term Financial Plan has been approved and it was revealed that the Council will have to find savings or additional income of £1.5m over that period to avoid cuts in services.

The first set of grants to rural businesses from funds provided by central government has been approved with successful applications from Astley Vineyard situated in the ward, plus the Save The Bell group which is supported by many local people.

Finally, we should like to wish all villagers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.