



Present: Cllr. Knight (Chair), Cllr. Eden, Cllr. Field, Cllr. Jukes; Cllr. Eberlin; Cllr. Outwin; Cllr. Nott, Cllr. Ballard; Cllr. Tassell.

In Attendance:– Cllr’s Paul and Pam Cumming MHDC - 1 members of the Public.

The Meeting closed at 20:50pm

Minute Reference	
768	Apologies: , WCC Councillor David Chambers.
769	Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Knight declared a Disclosable Interest in item 763 (excessive light problems). Cllr. Nott declared an Other disclosable interest in Minute 773 d – As Chair of Abberley Village Green Trust Cllr. Eberlin declared a disclosable non-pecuniary interest – Minute 776
	Democratic Period/ Public Time – Abberley Hills Preservation Society (AHPS) comments: Manor Arms Community Asset registration – AHPS supports the Parish Council application for The Manor Arms to be listed as a Community Asset Re planning Application M/23/01620/FUL- Land At (Os 7562 6728), The Hill, Abberley- Erection of an agricultural building – REFUSED - Commented that an excellent letter was sent by the PC re this planning application and thanked the Parish Council for its support.
770	Approval of the Minutes Cllr. Eden Proposed and Seconded by Cllr. Knight that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Abberley Parish Council on the 17 th January 2024 were a true record. All in favour.
771	Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Listing of the Manor Arms; It has been decided to re-visit the submission again in the future as it needs additional support from the community as evidence. Some letters now received. The Parish Council is looking for around 21 letters. Cllr. Outwin is setting up a meeting with Matt Davies from MHDC to further discuss and progress and will report back. • Speeding Issues on Stockton Road recorded cars traveling at 45-50 mph. Ongoing. Speed enforcement has been happening at Apostles Oak. Clerk to follow up faulty 20MPH sign with WCC Highways. • Reports and request from Great Witley Parish Council regarding lighting issues at Abberley Hall School (Dark Skies Policy) Cllr. Field investigated and the Clerk wrote to Abberley Hall School Security who have responded positively. It was agreed that Cllr. Field keep a watching brief



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk has written to the parishioner at Brig-Y- Don regarding the hedge urgently requiring cutting this weekend following a report from a Parish Councillor. 																																	
772	<p>County and District Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr. Cumming MHDC – Appendix 2</p> <p>Cllr. Chambers WCC Report: Report attached as Appendix 1.</p>																																	
773	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) To approve receipts and payments for the period to 21st February 2024</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="360 613 1034 1200"> <tr> <td colspan="3">Payments list Feb 21st24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Hirst Salary Jan 24</td> <td></td> <td>£ 519.94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC Jan 24 HMRC in creditby 68.40</td> <td></td> <td>£ 61.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Village Hall hire Jan</td> <td></td> <td>£ 15.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IN2OUT Jan 24 lengthsman</td> <td></td> <td>£ 204.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Hirst Salary Feb 24</td> <td></td> <td>£ 519.94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC Feb 24</td> <td></td> <td>£ 129.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>£ 1,450.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">RECEIPTS upto Feb 21st not previously reported</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lengthsman Dec</td> <td></td> <td>£ 212.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>£ 212.62</td> </tr> </table> <p>Cllr. Eden proposed and Cllr. Tassell seconded that the payments be approved. All in favour.</p> <p>b) To note the Bank Reconciliation at 12th February 2024. Noted.</p> <p>c) To Note the Budget report at 12th February 2024. Noted.</p> <p>d) Abberley Village Green Trust grant request for £400. Cllr. Nott declared an Other Disclosable Interest in this item and left the room. Cllr. Outwin Proposed and Cllr. Eberlin Seconded that this be approved. All in favour.</p> <p>e) Impact on the Precept for Council Tax Band D for 2024/25. The precept for 2024/25 has been set at £12916. 2023/24 precept was £11,742. The Council Tax Band D figure for Abberley Parish will be £34.85 for 2024/25. In 2023/24 the precept for parish was £32.94. This means Council Tax Band D has increased by £1.91 per year.</p>	Payments list Feb 21st24			C Hirst Salary Jan 24		£ 519.94	HMRC Jan 24 HMRC in creditby 68.40		£ 61.40	Village Hall hire Jan		£ 15.00	IN2OUT Jan 24 lengthsman		£ 204.75	C Hirst Salary Feb 24		£ 519.94	HMRC Feb 24		£ 129.80			£ 1,450.83	RECEIPTS upto Feb 21st not previously reported			Lengthsman Dec		£ 212.62			£ 212.62
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	<p>f) To consider applying for the MHDC King’s Coronation Community Funding towards an orchard. MHDC have written to say that they would welcome our application and that it does not conflict with our Section 106 funding. To be progressed by the Section 106 sub-group.</p>
<p>774</p>	<p>Planning –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M/23/01620/FUL- Land At (Os 7562 6728), The Hill, Abberley- Erection of an agricultural building – REFUSED. • M/24/00124/HP The Pleck, The Village, Abberley- Ground and first floor rear extension, new windows/doors, loft conversion, decking, internal remodelling and ancillary works including landscaping. New windows/door, roof lights, installation of photovoltaic panels and internal remodelling to the existing annex- Consultation to 14th March 2024 on the portal. • Cllr. Tassell and Cllr. Field to undertake a site meeting and report back to the Planning Sub-Committee.
<p>775</p>	<p>Section 106 Piper Homes Update: The Clerk circulated an email from MHDC on the King’s Coronation Community Funding for Orchards having clarified with MHDC that the PC were eligible.</p> <p>Cllr. Eberlin wrote to WCC asking for links to apply for a survey and/or grant for land recently purchased by the Parish Council which would benefit from expert advice and grant contributions. The link is to the Worcestershire County Council Natural Networks Fund.</p> <p>Cllr. Ballard reiterated that as had been agreed the field would be left for a year in order for surveys and assessments to be carried out prior to carrying out any enhancement schemes.</p> <p>Cllr. Knight said that it would be important to meet as a sub-group as soon as possible. Note: A meeting will be arranged.</p>
<p>776</p>	<p>Update from Cllr Eberlin as to how to continue to inform about climate change measures. Climate Change evening took place on Tuesday 20th February attended by approximately 30 local residents from Abberley and nearby parish of Little Witley. This was held at the village hall and led by Cllr. Eberlin.</p> <p>Cllr. Eberlin to send a summary for the Parish News and Parish Council website.</p>
<p>777</p>	<p>New Development at The Orchard, Apostles Oak, Abberley – Email from MHDC regarding request for PC to consider street names.</p> <p>Various street names were discussed with Cllr Jukes suggesting the most popular name</p> <p>Cllr. Knight proposed the street names of Lower Orchard and Upper Orchard. Cllr. Field Seconded. All in favour.</p>
<p>778</p>	<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>



	Cllr. Eberlin is waiting to be instructed whether any action is required.
779	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Review. (Update from Cllr. Knight) I have spoken to both Andy Ford, at Wychavon DC, who has responsibility for overseeing Neighbourhood Plans and to our consultant, David Nicholson.</p> <p>Although our plan is robust as it stands it was felt that we should do a review but that we have a year in hand before we would consider starting the review process. As usual timing is everything so it would be sensible to wait until the SWDPR is ratified and that is due to be done at the end of this year 2024. This would mean that we can assess any potential contradictions with our policies and adjust accordingly.</p> <p>Now that the NPPF has been amended our plan is robust for five years from when it was made ie until July 2026. The two-year rule with reference to Planning is negated and we have the full five years. However, it should be noted that once the SWDP has been ratified then it has more weight than our plan hence the need to check our policies against theirs.</p> <p>The single biggest factor is whether we meet housing need and the latest figures which form part of the SWDPR from Sep 2022 show that there is no outstanding housing requirement for the designated area in which we stand.</p> <p>Reasons for doing a review are to make sure we are compliant with NPPF and SDWP policies and that we reflect any changes to the Parish of Abberley. For instance, we would want to include our newly acquired land and we might want to include more key views or different ones. That would be for the Parish to decide at a later date.</p> <p>Grants will be available and that if the Parish Council decides to do a review then it should employ a consultant as before.</p>
780	<p>Councillors reports and items for future agendas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter on the Clows Top Road.
781	Date of Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be on 20th March 2024 at 7.30pm at Abberley Village Hall.

Appendix 1 Cllr. David Chambers WCC Report.

1. As I mentioned last month 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, Childcare Placements and Home To School Transport are seeing costs escalate, resulting in budget pressures which the Cabinet are addressing as a priority. The Budget for 2024/25 was presented to a full meeting of the Council on 15th February and approved.

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel which I chair, has been scrutinising the budget concerns with regards to Childcare Placements and Home To School Transport. I am satisfied that budget concerns are being addressed regarding Childcare Placements, that will have no detrimental effect on the safety and care of any child within the care system in Worcestershire. At the moment over 1,000 children are within the care system in the county.



There remains however, much work to do to overcome the budget deficit with regards to Home To School Transport. The cost of providing school transport for children without any care needs is within budget, it is the cost of providing transport to school, for children with Special Education Needs that is extremely expensive, and the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide whatever means of travel is necessary, including individual taxis.

The Budget is a “balanced budget” but it will require the use of the County Council’s Reserves in order for this to happen. The Budget is/will be available on the County Council’s website for anyone who may wish to view it.

- 2. The Director of Public Health who works at Worcestershire County Council, together with Trading Standards have done an excellent job in recent months with regards to challenging the use of vaping in the county, particularly by children aged 11 to 17. The BBC has acknowledged that Worcestershire has undertaken more surveys than the rest of the UK put together. WCC has lobbied the government to ban disposable vapes and the news “this week”, that the government has announced it intends to do so, is welcomed.

Since the end of 2021 Trading Standards Officers have seized almost 24,000 illegal e-cigarettes from across Worcestershire. Campaigns are ongoing in schools to raise the concerns of vaping by young children.

Appendix 2 CILrs. Paul and Pam Cumming MHDC Report

At the last Full Council meeting held in January, the Council approved a new CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) for public consultation. The Levy is designed to cover the infrastructure costs of the SWDPR proposals.

The proposal is to charge a much lower rate in the North of the District than the South and our amendment to examine the evidence and reconsider this was outvoted, although few arguments against our resolution were put forward.

The current majority of speculative applications are in our area, which clearly suggest that these attract a greater profit for landowners and therefore there should be scope to match the CIL charge for the rest of the District. A reduced charge will provide an incentive to develop more in our villages than other areas, as well as reducing the amount of money that Parish Councils receive from their share. Unsurprisingly the developers and agents are in favour of the lower levy.

The local infrastructure requirements are also unknown in respect of transport requirements as the promised modelling to inform site allocations has still not been carried out, despite the final sites being identified in the review. The Leader of the Council did offer the view that the planned railway halt at Rushwick would help with such transport difficulties and was offered a map to assist in knowledge of the area.

Being aware of local concerns on speeding and rural crime. Paul spent a morning accompanying the local police to observe their activities including speed awareness checks and security at farms. The Police and Crime Commissioner also attended part of the morning and members of the public were appreciative of the police presence dealing with such issues.

The government has now introduced changes to increase the validity periods of Parish Neighbourhood Plans in planning terms, to five years. Unfortunately, it now seems that the small print conditions may mean that some Plans will not qualify.



On specific issues, the Council has now recognised that the s106 agreement to fit out the pub at the Hundred House in Great Witley has not been adhered to and is engaging with the developer. It seems that terms with an operator to run the pub are being discussed and a timetable arranged.

The Planning Inspectorate have informed the Councils that the updating of some of the evidence behind the SWDPR is needed before the Examination hearing will take place. This includes the Transport Model.

The effect on the previous timetable suggests that the new Local Plan will not now be adopted until next year.