



Present: Cllr. Tassell (Chair), Cllr. Field, Cllr. Eden; Cllr. Eberlin; Cllr. Jukes, from Minute 851 Cllr. Birchall. 2 Vacancies.

In Attendance: –4 members of the Public.

**The Meeting closed at 20:35pm**

Minute Reference	
847	<p><b>Note Apologies:</b></p> <p>WCC Councillor David Chambers; Cllr. Paul Cumming (MHDC Councillor; Cllr. Pam Cumming (MHDC Councillor); Cllr. J. Ballard.</p> <p>Absent: None</p>
848	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None</p>
	<p><b>Democratic Period/ Public Time –</b></p> <p>Re <b>M/23/01620/FUL- PLANNING INSPECTORATE REF:- The Hill, Abberley, APP/J1860/W/24/3348141- Erection of an agricultural building- Planning Appeal date 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 –</b> A Member of the public spoke about the planning appeal and highlighting that local parishioners will be making a submission regarding this appeal along with details.</p>
849	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes</b></p> <p>Cllr. Field Proposed and Seconded by Cllr. Jukes that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Abberley Parish Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 was a true record. All in favour.</p>
850	<p><b>To give thanks for the services of retiring Councillors Trevor Nott, Catherine Knight and Sarah Outwin. The Chair led a presentation for Catherine Knight and Trevor Nott who had served for a total of 46 years between them as Parish Councillors. All Councillors were unanimous in giving thanks for their dedicated and loyal service.</b></p>
851	<p><b>To consider co-option as Councillor to Michael Birchall to the parish of Abberley (3 Councillor co-option vacancies).</b></p> <p>Cllr. Tassell Proposed and Cllr. Eden Seconded that Michael Birchall be co-opted onto the parish council. All in favour.</p>
852	<p><b>To consider co-opting Councillors and Parishioners onto the Apostles Meadow Working Group.</b></p> <p>Cllr. Tassell Proposed, Cllr. Field Seconded that Councillor Cathie Eberlin be co-opted onto the Apostles Meadow Working Group into the position of Chairman. It is further proposed that Parishioners can be co-opted on to the working group and this will be further discussed at a later meeting.</p> <p>Cllr. Eberlin who has now taken over as Chair of the Working Group reported that the members of the Working Group were now Cllr. Eberlin as Chair, Cllr. Eden, Cllr. Tassell and Cllr. Ballard.</p>
853	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Speeding Issues on Stockton Road and within the Parish are ongoing.</b> The Clerk reported that a request for the Parish’s priorities had been requested by the</li> </ul>



	<p>West Mercia Police. The Clerk will re-circulate the email for Councillors to consider priorities and send information to the clerk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lengthsman’s Update</b> – a report of the work undertaken by the Lengthsman during August was circulated prior to the Meeting.</li> </ul>																																	
<p><b>854</b></p>	<p><b>County and District Councillor Reports</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Cumming MHDC</b> – No report.</p> <p><b>Cllr. Chambers WCC Report:</b> Report attached as Appendix 1.</p>																																	
<p><b>855</b></p>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>a) To approve payments from 17<sup>th</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Cllr. Field <b>proposed and</b> Cllr. Eden <b>seconded that the payments be approved. All in favour.</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="360 741 1034 1357"> <tr> <td colspan="3"><b>Payments list 18th Sept 24</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>IN2OUT - Lengthsman June 24</td> <td></td> <td>£ 218.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PKF Littlejohn - external audit</td> <td></td> <td>£ 756.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abberley Village Hall - 24/25/034 July meeting</td> <td></td> <td>£ 15.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P J Nott - cut the field</td> <td></td> <td>£ 300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Hirst office expenses x 2 months to sept 18th</td> <td></td> <td>£ 49.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>£ 1,339.12</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><b>RECEIPTS upto 18th Sept not previously reported</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WCC Lengthsman</td> <td></td> <td>£ 218.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WCC Lengthsman</td> <td></td> <td>£ 222.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>£ 441.37</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>b) To note the Bank Reconciliation on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Noted.</p> <p>c) To Note the Budget report on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Noted.</p> <p>d) To report the Conclusion of Audit for 2023/24 and record the posting of Conclusion of Audit on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024</p> <p>e) Review of Clerk Pay and Hours. Reviewed annually in May each year. Following increased responsibility and workload following the Parish Council’s annual turn-over rising from £16k in 2022/23 to £212k in 2023/4 with the responsibility for increased assets to £180k, the Parish Council considered increasing the clerk hourly rate from SCP 25 to SCP 27 (£17.64 to £18.58) and increasing the hours from 8.5 hours per week (hours prior to September 2023 were paid at 10 hours per week) to 11 hours per week</p>	<b>Payments list 18th Sept 24</b>			IN2OUT - Lengthsman June 24		£ 218.62	PKF Littlejohn - external audit		£ 756.00	Abberley Village Hall - 24/25/034 July meeting		£ 15.00	P J Nott - cut the field		£ 300.00	C Hirst office expenses x 2 months to sept 18th		£ 49.50			<b>£ 1,339.12</b>	<b>RECEIPTS upto 18th Sept not previously reported</b>			WCC Lengthsman		£ 218.62	WCC Lengthsman		£ 222.75	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>£ 441.37</b>
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	<p><b>backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024.</b> Cllr. Field Proposed and Cllr. Eden Seconded that this be approved. All in favour.</p> <p><b>f) To approve the quote for G Lungley as Internal Auditor for 2024/25. The quote was circulated prior to the meeting. The charge band to the PC will be income or expenditure up-to £75k. and the charge for the auditor for this will be £175.00 plus any mileage undertaken at 45p per mile. Cllr. Eden Proposed and Cllr. Tassell Seconded that this be approved. All in favour.</b></p>
856	<p><b>Planning –</b></p> <p><b>M/24/01146/FUL Crundle End, Crundle End Lane, Stockton- Erection of replacement dwelling with link detached double garage- CONSULTATION to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Responded with “no comments required”.</b></p> <p><b>M/23/01620/FUL- PLANNING INSPECTORATE REF:- The Hill, Abberley, APP/J1860/W/24/3348141- Erection of an agricultural building- Planning Appeal date 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024- Comments required for submission by the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024.</b></p>
857	<p><b>Apostles Meadow (Section 106) Update report: Cllr. Eberlin</b></p> <p>The Apostles meadow working group met to review the options for the woodland and agreed to engage Andrew Woods (from Woodsfortrees) to provide a woodland management plan for Apostles Meadow Wood. This is budgeted at £650 which includes marking trees for coppicing and providing a plan to enable us to apply for further funds to manage the wood. This includes the cost and application for a felling licence which costs £200. Andrew has excellent woodland management credentials and was recommended to us. We will make a decision on the licence after the survey.</p> <p>Natural Networks have agreed to fund this work and also the footpath safety survey work to be done by Adrian Hope. This will mark any trees adjacent to pathways deemed to be problematic which will then also require felling.</p> <p><b>Further update:</b> Safety survey is now completed and trees marked. Awaiting report and will now progress quote for felling marked trees. Site visit done by Andrew woods for management plan- work and report planned for September.</p>
858	<p><b>Concerns about excessive light spillage on the village square causing problems for wildlife and neighbouring houses etc infringing the Dark Skies Policy of the Parish Council. Report by Cllr. Eberlin.</b></p> <p>A letter and advice sheet was emailed to Manor Arms on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September and circulated to Councillors. Cllr. Eberlin has been advised to direct the letter to the Manor Arms Head Office which will now be actioned.</p>
859	<p><b>Village Hall Update.</b> <b>Report circulated to all councillors for information.</b></p>
860	<p><b>Councillors reports and items for future agendas.</b></p> <p>Lengthsman Councillor- Co-ordinator to be agreed at the November PC meeting.</p>



	<p>The Chair, Cllr. Tassell, raised the frequency of PC meetings and a move to bi-monthly meetings.</p> <p>The Cllr. Libby Tassell Proposed and Cllr. Field Seconded that the PC move to bi-monthly meetings with immediate effect.</p> <p>The next formal Parish Council meeting being November 20<sup>th</sup> 2024. Every other month an informal catchup meeting will take place to progress work and projects. All in favour.</p>
861	<p><b>Date of Next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm at Abberley Village Hall.</b></p>

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

1. Following the disclosure that RAAC has been found in the roof of County Hall and a positive Legionella test on 20<sup>th</sup> June, County Hall remains closed. Expert teams are now assessing the building and will provide a detailed report shortly regarding the works necessary to repair the building.

Officers are currently located at Wildwood, Pershore Civic Centre as well as a number of additional locations. All council services continue as normal.

2. Worcestershire Children First held their annual free fun day for foster families and children who are looked after by the local authority. Amongst others, the event was organised by the Youth Voice team from Worcestershire Children First.
3. Worcestershire Children First will cease to operate as an independent company from 30<sup>th</sup> September. Children's Services will transfer to Worcestershire County Council. All children's services will continue as normal.
4. A recent survey has shown that satisfaction levels of tourists visiting Worcestershire are high. 95% of visitors surveyed are likely to visit the county again.
5. I have a sum of money to assist businesses in Tenbury who have been or are likely to be affected by flooding. Currently businesses are being approached to assess their needs and I hope to make the funds available by the end of the year.
6. Teme Street in Tenbury is due to be resurfaced between 25<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October. Road closures are due to take place for three nights, in order for works to be completed. Actual dates will be dependent on weather conditions.
7. Update on the footpath along the A443 adjacent to Long Meadow down to Abberley Village Stores- Some issues with the s278 and the footpath is no longer going to be widened but just made safe- The footpath will not now be widened in this financial year. I have been informed that works will commence to make the pavement safe but as yet, do not have a date when works will commence. This has been a complicated process involving both WCC and MHDC, in particular MHDC's Enforcement Department. I will let you know as soon as I have a date regarding the commencement of works.

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

No report received.