



Dodderhill Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council held at **7:00PM on Monday 4th March 2019** at
Wychbold Village Hall, School Road, Wychbold, WR9 7PU

Minutes

Present: Councillors Alyson Keane (Chairman), Doug Webb (Deputy Chairman), Mike Jones, Dale Mason and Sean Mulvey.

In attendance: Nick Farness (Clerk), Cllr Peter Tomlinson (County Councillor), Cllr Hugh Hamilton (District Councillor) members of the press and public.

045 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sue Howarth and Guy Dow.

046 Casual Vacancies and Co-options

(a) It was noted that Paul Brogan had resigned from the parish council with immediate effect due to work commitments.

(b) It was **resolved** to co-opt Mrs Maureen Addy and Mrs Jackie Walton as parish councillors following their applications and they joined the meeting after signing their declarations of office.

047 Declarations of interest

Cllr Dale Mason declared an "Other Disclosable Interest" in Agenda Item 13(a) and (b) on account of his Trusteeship of Wychbold Village Hall.

048 Dispensations

There were none.

Open session

The meeting was adjourned for the open session and the following reports/updates were noted.

District Councillor – Cllr Hugh Hamilton

- WDC had frozen their portion of the Council Tax for 2019/20.
- WDC are going to engage an urban designer to look closely at new developments and how the design of properties affects the locality.
- WDC are looking at ways to increase cycling and walking opportunities in the district.
- Worcestershire Regulatory Services have looked at the make up of traffic on the A38 and carried out emissions studies and have concluded that a 26% reduction of emissions is required to reach acceptable levels. The Clerk would invite a representative from WRS to a DPC meeting in the spring/summer to update the Council on its findings and proposed actions.
- Vehicles parked on a pavement which is governed by a double yellow line or a single yellow line on the road, a Civil Enforcement Officer may issue a Penalty Charge Notice. If there are no yellow lines on the road, the pavement is not governed by a waiting restriction and therefore the parking team are unable to take any action. The police are still able to issue tickets for obstruction of the pavement if there is an active obstruction taking place. The obstruction of a pavement was not

included within the scope of decriminalised parking and WDC are therefore unable to issue any penalties for pavement parking. The police can also issue tickets to vehicles parked in dangerous positions such as on bends. The non-emergency police number of 101 should be called in this instance.

County Councillor – Cllr Peter Tomlinson

- The “Top 5” report was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.
- WCC are increasing their share of the Council Tax by 3.9% in 2019/20 with 1% being allocated specifically to Adult Social Care.
- £25m of capital investment will be made in the county’s infrastructure.
- A proposed increase in member divisional funding will enable members to directly fund local highway projects, however this is to be confirmed.
- The dangerous tree reported by a member of the public at the last meeting is being dealt with.

Police

There was no police representative present, but the monthly report was circulated to Councillors which was largely made up of thefts from premises and motor vehicles.

Statement

The Clerk read the following statement before public participation:

Before the meeting is opened to members of the public, I wish to read a statement. Complaints have been received by the Wychavon DC Monitoring Officer in relation to Cllr Keane’s alleged involvement in a planning application for 33 affordable homes in Chequers Lane, and in relation to her alleged conduct towards members of the Village Hall Committee. Whilst these complaints are being investigated, the Chairman will not be making any further comments or responding to questions in relation to these matters. Once the complaints have been investigated and outcomes reached, a further statement will be made at that time.

A dissatisfied resident walked out of the meeting after the statement was read, despite Councillors trying to reason with him.

Public participation

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- Pavement parking resulting in blocking access for wheelchair users and prams. There is confusion over which agency should deal with these issues. Cllr Hamilton clarified the WDC position. DPC are considering some signs in particularly bad areas reminding drivers of their legal duty to not to block access. The Clerk will contact the new police officer to clarify the police position on the matter.
- Litter on Crown Lane. A litter pick was being organised by McDonalds and DPC as part of Keep Britain Tidy’s “Great British Spring Clean” which will include Crown Lane.

049 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th February 2019 are agreed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

050 Finance

The following payments were considered.

(a) WCC Street Lighting 2016/2017 - £860.63

(b) NALC Local Council Expo Ticket -	£15.00
(c) David Miles Lengthsman (Jan) -	£180.00
(d) Handyman work and expenses Mr B Addy -	£95.99
(e) Clerk's Salary and Expenses 17/01 to 05/03 -	£1955.66
(f) HM Revenue and Customs (PAYE) -	£194.07
(g) Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund -	£568.07
(h) Wychbold Village Hall Room Hire 18/02/19 -	£30.00
(i) Wychbold Village Hall Room Hire 04/03/19 -	£20.00
(j) Thursfields Solicitors (Land Registration) -	£635.60

It was **resolved** to settle the above invoices.

- (k) To consider and approve budget expenditure
- (l) To consider and approve the bank reconciliation

It was **resolved** to accept the budget monitoring report and bank reconciliation, and both were signed by the Chairman.

051 Tree Management Policy

A draft Tree Management Policy had been drawn up by the Clerk. It was **resolved** to adopt this policy with the caveat that quotes are obtained from several Arboricultural specialists to ensure value for money is obtained.

052 Toilet Provision for Users of the Play Area/Recreation Ground

Complaints from users of the play area and recreation ground in relation to the lack of toilet facilities were noted and it was **resolved** to obtain quotations for the provision of portable toilets on the site during the Easter school holidays. The cost was believed to be around £500. It was further **resolved** to investigate whether the Village Hall toilets could be used during this period and how this could be supervised/arranged, noting the Village Hall Committee's concerns about security and vandalism.

053 Village of Culture 2019

It was formally announced shortly after the last meeting that Dodderhill Parish Council had been successful in the bid to Wychavon DC to become the 2019 Village of Culture. This programme is designed to provide funding for innovative local projects to embrace Wychbold's cultural and historical place in the district. This is likely to include the BBC masts in some way and it could also be linked to the "legacy funding" (see 054 below). WDC have yet to send through the detailed criteria for projects and this will be discussed again at April's meeting.

054 Community Legacy Funding

The WDC Community Legacy Fund is a funding stream that uses a portion of the New Homes Bonus paid to WDC by central government. DPC had started an application for £100k of funding towards improvements to the Village Hall but this was put on hold due to unforeseen circumstances. Any award needs to be match funded and community support gained for the plans. Cllr Mason stated that any plans to make improvements to the Village Hall would gain the support of the Village Hall Committee. It was **resolved** to resume with this stage one application as soon as possible.

055 Planning Applications

(a) **19/00303/FUL** The White House, Worcester Road, Wychbold - Demolish two existing dwellings together with outbuildings and erect 6 no. dwellings.

It was **resolved** to object to the proposals due to serious road safety concerns resulting from the proposed access. It was also felt that this application did not consider the historic and local significance of the property and that the buildings should be preserved for future generations.

(b) **19/00292/HP** 6 Prospect Villas, Worcester Road, Wychbold - Single storey side and rear extension.

It was **resolved** to raise no objections to this application.

(c) **19/00243/HP** Hill Crest, Rashwood Hill, Rashwood - Demolition of existing extension and erection of extension to front.

It was **resolved** to raise an objection to this application on the basis that the property was in the Green Belt, but this would be checked.

(d) **19/00336/FUL** Woodside, Worcester Road, Wychbold - Change of use of land for the stationing of one holiday caravan.

It was **resolved** to object to the proposal as it would set an unwelcome precedent and concerns were also raised about the future development of the site should change of use be granted.

(e) **18/02693/FUL** New Ridgeway Farm, Crown Lane, Wychbold - Conversion of existing barn in to 2No residential dwellings.

It was **resolved** to raise no objections to this application.

(f) **19/00158/HP** Hearnor, Worcester Road, Wychbold - Proposed single storey extension to rear and detached garage.

It was **resolved** to raise no objections to this application.

056 Wychbold Village Hall

(a) The report from the Village Hall Committee was received with thanks and the content noted.

(b) It was **resolved** to defer the response to the recent correspondence until the ongoing Code of Conduct complaint had been concluded.

057 Allotments Working Group

Cllrs Howarth and Dow were not present, but the Clerk reported that the tenant of Plot 6 had given notice to vacate the plot from the end of March.

058 Playing Field and Village Hall Registration

This was currently with Thursfields Solicitors and the Clerk will keep Councillors updated although the Land Registry do have a backlog at present.

059 Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Chairman reported that there is a public event being planned for May where the relevant officers from Wychavon DC would be invited along with Parish Councillors to discuss the Neighbourhood Planning process. It was agreed to continue to publicise the formation of a steering group and ask for more volunteers to express an interest. It was noted that the Parish Council must instigate the process of producing a plan and that the steering group would report to the Parish Council.

060 Communication

Cllr Howarth was not present at the meeting, so it was decided to defer discussion until the next meeting.

061 The Great British Spring Clean

The Parish Council and McDonalds are hosting a parish litter pick as part of the Keep Britain Tidy "Great British Spring Clean". This event would take place over the weekend of 13th/14th April 2019 and start from McDonalds who would also be supplying all the equipment. Insurance and risk management needed to be finalised, but participants would be required to sign a disclaimer so that neither the PC nor McDonalds would be liable for injuries.

062 Councillors Reports and Updates

- (a) Cllr Mulvey raised concern about the potholes on School Road and Chequers Lane. Reports would be made via the WCC portal and Cllr Mulvey would supply photo evidence.
- (b) Cllr Jones asked whether the Lengthsman could attend to low hanging overgrowth on the A38 around Amphlett Way. The Clerk would follow this up.

063 Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960s1(2) it was **resolved** to exclude members of the public and press from the meeting in order to discuss matters of a confidential nature.

064 Contingency Planning

It was noted that due to the Chairman's personal circumstances, it would be prudent to appoint a Vice Chairman in case she became temporarily incapacitated at short notice. It was **resolved** to appoint Cllr Doug Webb as Deputy/Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed as a true record:

Chairman
1st April 2019

Produced by



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