

He saw no problem with an informal approach from a member of the public to ask for a way to be opened but felt that Parish Councillors should not undertake such informal negotiations.

It later became understood (item 2010.49) that the local press was taking an interest in this matter and might be contacting the Clerk.

Bridleways: } Nothing

Footpaths: } reported.

2010.44 Training.

No relevant external training was identified; it was decided to defer further in house training, until the Council was back up to strength.

2010.45 Whittington Annual Parish Meeting (28/4/2010).

Arrangements were reviewed. Councillor Adams later advised that he would probably be late arriving due to a WDC meeting from which he could not withdraw. The Chairman noted this and agreed to accommodate his schedule somehow, if necessary at the end of the meeting.

It was agreed to provide red & white wine and fruit juice as refreshments, following the reports and before Mr Steve Birch gave his presentation.

2010.46 Lengthsman's Contract.

Members noted the reduced funding from WCC for this. They believed that the scheme provided a valuable service for the village and that service levels should not be reduced. The Clerk was therefore asked to contact WCC as suggested in its letter to seek a special arrangement to enable the lengthsman's services to be retained at present levels. He advised that he did not feel it would be appropriate to fund "lengthsman" activities as this would not be permitted use of Parish Funds, being effectively "double taxation". It was decided (MB/SM) to see what could be wrung from the County Council, and thereafter the Clerk was authorised to negotiate a new contract with Mr Gwilliam.

2010.47 Wychavon Games 2010.

Members considered the invitation to participate but could not identify with the event and regretfully the invitation would not be taken up.

2010.48 Clerk's Holiday Arrangements.

The Clerk would be away from mid May to mid June & would not be available for a June meeting if one was necessary. He had spoken informally with Susan Hughes who had stood in for him in the past, and she was willing to maintain a watching brief and advise. Members agreed that this would be appropriate and asked the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements and report at the next meeting.

2010.49 District and County Councillors' Report – For Information.

County and District Councillor Adams reported that County Councillor Ted Sheldon who had previously represented Whittington, was very ill. He had been contacted by the local press regarding Whittington Tump.

He undertook to take up the state of Church Lane and the footway near J7 Southbound exit slip with R. Fullee, & was still optimistic that some money might be available for VAS/DFS costs from the "Market Towns initiative", and thought that the Council was well advised in its proposed course of action.

He had on 6th April been made aware of the use of some buildings on the old Morganite Crucible site for recycling of gypsum products (notably plasterboard). Action had been decided upon by both County and District Councils to curtail this - initially by a polite request - pending a planning application (the operator alleged that the existing Use Class included his operations. Concerns were transport, litter and dust related.

2010.50 Police Report – For Information.

p.c. Sean Woods indicated that his full report would be reserved for the Parish Meeting but that in the interim he wished to report a good year with reduced (Norton & Whittington Ward) year on year crime statistics.

He was aware of the recurrence of unauthorised motor cycling and welcomed Parish co-operation in a plan to address the problem. He mentioned the quarterly "PACT" meetings and invited WPC to send one or two delegates.

2010.51 Reports by Councillors, and Items for Future Agendas.

a) To receive the reports of Committees and Working Groups and of Councillors representing the Council on outside bodies, to ask relevant questions, and to consider appropriate action.

Envirosort Site, Norton (CMRF) Liaison Group: The Chairman reported that he had attended the official opening of the EnviroSort and despite misgivings was quite impressed with the new facility, although he preferred to reserve final judgement until the plant had been operational for 12 months.

b) To receive reports of Councillors on other matters. None

c) To note inclusion of specific items on a future agenda. Appointment of PACT delegate/s (in the interim the Chairman was to attend the meeting on 26th April (19:30 hrs. @ St Barnabas School, Drakes Broughton).

2010.52 Inclusion of items in the Parish Magazine.

None arising from this meeting.

2010.53 Correspondence.

A note of correspondence received since the last meeting was periodically sent out to Members under the "Clerk's Digest". No specific items were raised.

2010.54 Date of Next Meeting.

Parish Meeting 28th April 2010.

The date of the next Meeting of the Council would be Tuesday 11th May 2010, at Whittington Village Hall. This would be the Annual Meeting of the Council at which appointments for the coming year were decided.

The Meeting closed at 21:25 Hrs.

Barclaycard (P.S. Roe) reimburse re DupliKate re Residents' Parking Discs	24/3/2010	844 7096 04	£70.00	£82.25
CALC - Renewal	1/4/2010	754 3886 93	£187.97	£216.78
Total			£ 549.17	£ 592.37

Payment was agreed (MB/SM).

- c. Proposals for Expenditure. To consider proposals for expenditure.
- i) **Budgeted expenditure:** Members considered the purchase of VAS & DFS and after hearing from the Chairman following his visit to Hallow, agreed (AL/SM)/(subject to WCC approval of siting) to purchase the used VAS + 2 brackets from Hallow for a total of £2000, and a new 3M DFS at a cost of up to £3067.76.
 - ii) **Other expenditure:** None proposed
- d. Adoption of End of Year Accounts (2009-2010). These having been previously distributed to Members were approved (MB/SM)
- e. Signature of Annual Return: A draft of the Annual Return had been included in the End of Year accounts referred to above. The Clerk pointed out that due to the recent resignations etc it had not been possible to complete the Review of the Effectiveness of the Council's Internal Audit Arrangements and thus questions 2 and 6 of Section 2 of the form would have to be answered "No" and an explanation supplied to Auditors. Members approved the draft and authorised signature of Sections 1(AL/SM) and 2 (SM/MB) of the form.
- f. Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit Arrangements. As this had not been undertaken due to personnel changes this had not been done in 2009-10 and the Clerk advised that the review should be carried out without delay. A. Lodge agreed to accept this responsibility, the Clerk was to contact her arrange to meet.

2010.43 Highways & Byways.

a. Highways Matters:

General: None reported.

M5 Noise: Nothing reported

Maintenance:

Works for the Lengthsman:

None proposed

Previous Matters:

The Clerk reported the WCC update on grit bin replenishment indicating this would be delayed but undertaken before next winter.

Previously mentioned potholes and sunken gulleys in Church Lane were noted still not to have been repaired, and action was to be sought. (See 2010.49)

New Matters:

The footway between the M5 southbound exit at J7 and the nearby drive off the B4084 was damaged and required repair. (See 2010.49)

Traffic Management:

Previous Matters: Nothing to report.

New Matters: None raised.

b. Byways:

General:

Parish Paths Warden:

A. Lodge had contacted Fiona Argyle and ascertained the present nature of the PPW's responsibilities which exceeded her anticipation, and what she had been advised by past PPW. As a result she felt unable to take on the position, for which someone else had already volunteered anyway.

The Chairman was concerned that this might result in the Parish Council becoming "divorced" from the Parish's footpaths and bridleways, and suggested that A. Lodge might consider becoming a "link" person to liaise with the PPW and Fiona Argyle & keep the Council informed. She was happy to undertake this. The Clerk was to advise Fiona Argyle appropriately.

Despite repeated requests from the Clerk the Definitive Footpaths Map and sundries supplied to previous PPW's had not been returned. The Chairman undertook to contact N. Hodgetts to try to obtain the return of these to the Council.

Whittington Tump - access to summit: This was discussed again. The Clerk had prepared a form to elicit information to substantiate a request for WCC to establish a Right of Way (RoW) allowing access to the summit of the Tump which he submitted for comment. It was considered satisfactory. It was agreed that these would be distributed at the Parish Meeting and copies made available to Norton PC for distribution to its parishioners who might be able to support the bid for RoW status. The Chairman would introduce the matter and this document during his Parish Council report.

The Chairman recalled having taken the route Southward up the drive of Crookbarrow Farm and through a gate straight to the top, where there was a plaque displayed for public gaze; more recently others were accustomed to a westbound route off bridleway 579 &/or Footpath 583. A past occupant of Crookbarrow Farm recalled Good Friday services being held on the Tump.

Being very much a local issue S. MacLeod agreed to "champion" this locally.

There was some concern that the new tenants of Crookbarrow Farm had not been approached: as the Council's bid was to motivate the County Council to take action, the Clerk advised that he did not feel it was appropriate for WPC to be asking for a way to be opened as a permissive route at the same time as representing to the County Council that a Right of Way existed as a result of long term unfettered access.

Democratic Period/ Question Time: One member of the Public was present, primarily to see p.c. Woods regarding incidents involving his property.

p.c. Woods being present the Chairman invited him to present his report (Item 2010.50) at this stage to allow him to meet with the member of the Public, and return to other operational duties as soon as possible. He accepted this invitation; his report is minuted seriatim.

2010.36 Attendance.

Present: M. Baker, A. Lodge, S. MacLeod.

It was noted that G.L. Coldicott had resigned and that a Second Casual Vacancy procedure had started.

In Attendance: P.S. Roe, Clerk; District & County Councillor R.C. Adams, PC Sean Woods.

Apologies: N. Hodgetts. (The Chairman reported that NH had indicated his intention to resign from the Council.)

2010.37 Co-option of a Councillor to replace R.A. Phillips.

The only application received was from Stephen Brooker of the Old Post Office, Whittington.

Details of his application had been distributed to Members. He was nominated by M. Baker, seconded by A. Lodge and co-opted unopposed.

2010.38 Declarations of Interest and Ethical Matters.

- a There were no declarations of Personal (non prejudicial) Interests in items on this Agenda.
- b There were no declarations of Prejudicial Interests in items on this Agenda.
- c Ethical Matters: None

2010.39 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th March 2010, having been previously distributed, were taken as read, and were adopted (SM/MB) without amendment.

2010.40 Planning.

- a. **New and Unresolved Planning Applications:** To consider those planning applications submitted to the Council prior to commencement of the meeting for consultation, and to determine the Council's response.
Application Number: W/10/00577/PP
Applicant: Mr P Wood
Location: Mountview, Old Road, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RL
Proposal: Proposed alterations to driveway
Case Officer: David Addison
WPC Response: No comment or objection was voiced.
- b. **Previous consultations.**
Application Number: W/10/00370/PP
Applicant: Mr M. Wild, Diocese of Worcester, The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester WR1 2JE
Location: The Archdeacon's House, Walkers Lane, Whittington, Worcs. WR5 2RE
Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and study, and erection of new study
WPC Response: The Clerk had responded based on the "Round Robin" authority, objecting to the application on the grounds of removal of hedges and trees, effective Change of Use, the development being out of character, and unauthorised change of access.
- c. **Planning Decisions:** Planning decisions and Appeal decisions notified to the Council. None
Planning Ref W/10/00115/AA - Whittington Hall, Whittington Road, Whittington, Worcester. WR5 2RA - approved STC until 9/12/2010
- d. **Other Planning Consultations:** Planning Consultation Documents:-
SWJCS: Response to "Development Near You" consultation (due in by 30/4/200). Although Members understood that no major developments were proposed within the Parish, they expressed concern about the effect of neighbouring potential developments on the highway system and amenity within the Parish, and the loss of prime agricultural land, and instructed (MB/SM) the Clerk to write accordingly.
- e. **Other Planning Matters:** Other "Planning" related Matters reported to the Council prior to the meeting.
A. Lodge asked what had transpired about a request for action to WCC emanating from the Redditch area about a policy on Wind Generators. She was advised that WPC had not felt action appropriate on their part; the Clerk understood that WCC had this under consideration.

2010.41 Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.

None raised.

2010.42 Finance.

The Clerk reported as follows: -

- a. Receipts: since the last meeting: £138.60 from WCC re Lengthsman, 22p interest BMM a/c, c£22 re FTBD a/c
- b. Payments: Invoices and requests for payment were submitted as follows: -

Expenditures: 13/04/2010	Date of invoice	VAT No	Net	Gross
S. Gwilliam - Lengthsman Services for March 2010	29/3/2010		£176.00	£176.00
Clerking Costs 1/1/2010 to 31/3/2010	9/4/2010	Spl-MMA	£115.20	£117.34