

At a Meeting of Whittington Parish Council held at Whittington Village Hall on Tuesday 8th March 2011, at 19.30 Hrs.

Democratic Period/ Question Time: No members of the public were present, but as PCSO Allchurch arrived at this point the Chairman allowed him to report (Item 2011.45) to allow his return to active duty. His report is minuted in numerical sequence below.

2011.31 Attendance.

Present: M. Baker, S.L. Brooker, A. Lodge, S. MacLeod, P. Wood.

In Attendance: P.S. Roe, Clerk; PCSO Ben Allchurch.

Apologies: M. Hallmark,

2011.32 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 raised

2011.33 Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th February 2011, having been previously distributed were taken as read, and adopted (SM/PJW) without amendment.

2011.34 Planning.

- a. New and Unresolved Planning Applications: None
- b. Previous consultations: None
- c. Planning Decisions: None.
- d. Other Planning Consultations: None.

e. Other Planning Matters:

Worcestershire County Council: Members made no response to the Consultation by Worcestershire County Council on Revised Draft Validation Document.

Wychavon D.C.: The Clerk informed Members of an e- mail dated 1st March 2011 re Consultation on large applications, to the effect that data relevant to large applications would in future be transmitted electronically

2011.35 Progress Reports/Updates on Matters Previously Resolved.

- a. Tree warden: MH had attended the Introductory Course on 24th February and her appointment had been confirmed; she was preparing an activities session for a "Whittington tree council summerday".
- b. Candidate's leaflets: Had been distributed to Members by the Chairman. Some Councillors present had completed delivery of their allocation, others had not.
- c. Other Matters: None.

2011.36 Finance.

The Clerk reported as follows: -

- a. Receipts: WCC re. Lengthsman - £217.80; HSBC Interest c22p/month.
- b. Payments: Invoices and requests for payment were submitted totalling £354.33. Payment was agreed (MB/SM).
- c. Proposals for Expenditure. There were no proposals for expenditure; the Clerk reported an informal approach from R.A. Phillips regarding the funding held by WPC in reserve for the redevelopment of the Village Hall.
- d. Virements & Reserves Allocations for the Year: The RFO sought instruction regarding end of year virements and transfers to reserves and was authorised (MB/AL) to make virements between budget headings as appropriate for the year and to make appropriate transfers to reserves
- e. VAT Recovery: The Clerk/RFO reported that the return had been submitted to reclaim VAT for the period 1/3/2010 to 28/2/2011.

2011.37 Highways & Byways.

a. Highways Matters:

General. The Clerk advised that apart from acknowledgement there had been no response to his letter to WCC Director of Environmental Services. He undertook to send a reminder soon.

M5 Noise: None.

Maintenance:

Works for the Lengthsman: The Chairman reported that he had asked the lengthsman to realign the DFS, as its function appeared impaired in its present alignment.

Members suggested that the Lengthsman be asked to clear the rubbish at the gate entry near J7 on the Pershore Road used as an unofficial lay by. The Clerk explained that this was not within the lengthsman's remit.

Previous Matters:

Glass on Pershore Road: A copy of EnviroSort's response to the Clerk's letter had been distributed to Members on 22/2/2011.

New Matters: None

Traffic Management:

Previous Matters:

Unauthorised Parking in the Village. Following the discussion with PCSO Allchurch earlier in the evening P.J.

Wood proposed the purchase of signs emphasising the application and meaning of the Access Only Order. After discussion it was agreed (PJW/MB) that the Clerk be instructed to take this up with the Highway Authority,

quoting the precedent set in Malvern - as evidenced by a photograph supplied by PJW - and if a favourable response was obtained to proceed with the purchase & installation of necessary signage and supports.

Unauthorised use of gate as lay by - Pershore Road nr. J7: Members expressed frustration that both the District & County Councils were denying responsibility for this. SLB expressed the view that the County Council was responsible - as Highway Authority - for the whole Highway comprising all land between fence/hedgeline and fence/hedgeline, including pavement widths and verges. As this matter was covered under ongoing correspondence with WCC Highways no action was proposed on that front at present but it was unanimously agreed to write to Henry Berkeley requesting that he take action since his manager did not intend to do so.

Speed Limit on B4084: PJW understood that if the visibility length for drivers exiting the westernmost house in the Parish (Highlands) the crest of the B4084 to the West was less than the stopping distance at the speed limit proposed this would be a firm ground for objection.

New Matters: None

DFS: A sample print-out had been submitted to the Chairman indicating the nature of the information available from the sign. Regrettably it had not been circulated to other Members but the Chairman undertook to initiate circulation. The Clerk had brought his computer and offered to show its use in this mode after the meeting.

b. Byways Matters:

General:

WCC had written that they were proceeding to prioritise maintenance themselves as WPC has not responded.

Without detailed review Members unanimously felt that the priority should be for the footpaths around the School. AL undertook to walk the footpath network & respond further (if appropriate) to the Clerk.

Bridleways: None.

Footpaths: None.

2011.38 Training.

The Clerk reported a wish to attend the next CALC "Clerks' Gathering" on 23rd March at 7.00pm at County Hall. Simon Atkins from Clement Keys was to brief Clerks about the annual return to the external auditor, as there were some changes to the return this year. He would also cover the new guidance from HM Revenue and Customs and any news on the demise of the Audit Commission and its consequences. His attendance was approved (MB/AL).

2011.39 Parish Plan.

The Clerk reported MH's thanks to SLB for preparing the questionnaire; this was echoed by all present and extended to PJW who had undertaken the final layout of the document.

A few questionnaires had been returned and were passed to SLB who undertook to carry out analysis of the responses. The Clerk asked - if questionnaires were to be collected - if the opportunity could be taken to distribute invitations to the Parish Meeting. Members considered this would be beneficial. (See 2011.42 below). It was hoped that at least an initial analysis of the questionnaires would be available to support discussion at that meeting.

2011.40 RBL 90th Anniversary "Poppy Party" 10th - 12th June

Members felt that this was not something which the Council could lead but were supportive of the cause and felt it could be an event to involve the wider community. It was suggested that information be passed to the VHMC for them to lead any action and copied to organisations such as the Church, School, Playgroup, W.I. & Pub, who might wish to be involved or contribute in some way. The Clerk was asked to write accordingly.

2011.41 WCC Consultation on reducing subsidised bus services in Worcestershire.

Members considered the County Council's proposals, and accepted that there was no direct impingement on Whittington which had already lost its local bus service. However Members feared for the future and felt that if these cuts were accepted meekly the next round of savings measures might impinge more. Consequently the Clerk was instructed to respond expressing the Council's concerns and the fact that the rural community would be hardest hit both in respect of public services and school transport.

2011.42 Parish Meeting 26th April 2011.

The Clerk had invited local organisations to report, positive responses had been received from The Chairman, District & County Councillor Adams, R.A. Phillips (VHMC), G. Richards (Whittington School), D. Ballard (Vicar) & pc S. Woods (West Mercia Police)

The Clerk was to prepare an invitation indicating the nature of the meeting, the overall programme including the provision of refreshments, and inviting participation to progress the Parish Plan.

Parish Plan. The Chairman and SLB were to put together a presentation re the Parish Plan (See above)

Catering: The Clerk was to purchase wine/soft drinks and "nibbles"

2011.43 Wychavon Parish Games 2011.

Members did not consider participation viable.

2011.44 District and County Councillors' Report – For Information.

County and District Councillor Adams was not present.

2011.45 Police Report - For Information.

Pcso B. Allchurch reported on a recent burglary on Old Road, an incident of Criminal Damage involving a projectile dropped on to the M5 from an overbridge, and the theft of personal possessions from the Swan car park. Members suggested that the Swan CCTV might be of help in identifying offenders - pcso Allchurch noted this but thought the "tapes" had already been investigated.

SLB asked for more robust enforcement against unauthorised parking by football fans who, on instructions from a coach hire firm, had parked throughout the village and took a coach which collected from the access road at “The Swan”. Regrettably the coach firm could not be identified.

Pcso Allchurch asked that registration details of offending vehicles be sent to him so that he could pursue the owners/drivers.

2011.46 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: M. Baker had nothing further to report

West Wychavon PACT: M. Baker had nothing new to report.

Worcestershire CALC: A. Lodge reported on items from recent CALC Updates which she considered relevant, and circulated a copy of some printouts.

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

- c) To note inclusion of specific items on a future agenda. None

2011.47 Inclusion of items in the Parish Magazine.

Items to be included this month were The Annual Parish Meeting, recent burglaries, litter collection, Parish plan, and the possibility of a Poppy Party.

2011.48 Correspondence.

A note of correspondence received had been periodically sent out to Members under the “Clerk’s Digest” since the last meeting. The Clerk highlighted the following

Data Transparency - Consultation by Central Government was in hand and the Clerk sought instruction as to the Council’s view. Members considered proposed arrangements to be heavy handed, bureaucratic, and open to misuse.

HMRC - The Clerk informed members of HMRC’s decision that all Parish Councils had to register for PAYE as employers, and indicated possible cost implications. He hoped that this could be further discussed at a meeting of the Staffing Committee on 29th March.

2011.49 Date of Next Meeting.

This being the last scheduled meeting of this Council, the date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council would be Tuesday 10th May 2011 unless the election is contested (in which case it would have to be held on 24th May 2011) at Whittington Village Hall.

The Parish Meeting would take place on the evening of 26/4/2011 (Easter Tuesday).

The Meeting closed at 21:12 hrs.