



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 5th July 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors S. Cumella (Chairman), G. Wroe (Vice-Chairman), M. Rushgrove, S. Watt, A. Gardner, R. Bray and P. Weddell-Hall.

Also present: County Councillor S. Richardson-Brown, District Councillor B. Jones-Williams, M. Hardwell and x7 members of the public.

214.21 Apologies: None.

Democratic Period/Public Time: Matters raised were –

- Land at the top of Hawthorn Close which remains unsightly despite reporting it to Planning Enforcement at MHDC.
- New PC website – the PC agreed to include a permanent advert for Superfast BroadBand via Worcs CC and BT Openreach. The Clerk will contact Worcs CC for details.
- Speeding vehicles remains a concern for village residents and a petition has been started locally to try and raise awareness of concerns.
- The football container is to be removed from the recreation field and the PC were asked to grant permission for a shed to replace it, which would be the same specification as the one recently erected by the Cricket Club. The Football Club were asked to provide the Clerk with specific details about the shed so that formal permission could be granted.
- The PC were asked why football could not be played during August – this was discussed later in the meeting under Recreation Field updates.
- Moles hills need to be removed from the recreation field – Clerk to action.

215.21 Councillor Co-option: The Clerk had received an application for co-option by Mervyn Hardwell who also attended the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Weddell-Hall, seconded by Cllr Wroe that Mr Hardwell be co-opted with immediate effect. All agreed. Councillor Hardwell signed his declaration of office and joined the meeting.

216.21 Declarations of Interests: None.

217.21 Minutes of the meetings held 2nd June and 21st June 2021: The 2nd June minutes were proposed by Cllr Rushgrove as a true record, seconded Cllr Wroe. All agreed. The 21st June minutes were proposed by Cllr Wroe, seconded Cllr Rushgrove. All agreed.

218.21 County & District Councillor Reports: County Cllr Richardson Brown noted concerns regarding a significant increase in speeding vehicles locally which has led to a petition being started. Children walking to and from school are particularly at risk and controls are needed urgently. Church Lane is a particular area of concern as there is no pavement and is a well-used walking route to schools. The area around the village stores is also very dangerous and parents are extremely concerned that there will soon be an injury. The petition will be passed to the PC when completed. School signage is overgrown and electronic signs from Worcs CC don't work properly – this has been reported to the school. Councillor Richardson Brown acknowledged concerns and agreed that this is a problem for a lot of local villages. Speed enforcement is an ongoing problem and he agreed to look at recent speeding data for Martley, to identify 'hot spots' and

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consider options for mitigation. The matter has also been identified as a priority for the Police & Crimes Commissioner (P&CC) who has made funding available for a more visible presence. It is a difficult problem to solve though and almost impossible to completely resolve. Evidence is needed together with an assessment of risks, before any action can be taken, and this takes time to do. Speed cables are the first action to update local speed data by Worcs CC.

Cllr Watt reminded the meeting of the previous meeting held with WCC Highways, which is still awaiting an action plan from the Liaison Officer. Cllr Richardson Brown was asked to escalate this please.

Cllr Bray suggested Martley would benefit from a motorbike Police patrol and Cllr Richardson Brown agreed to look into this option as Abberley currently have this in place.

The Chairman suggested that a joint meeting between all agencies would be beneficial – P&CC, Worcs Highways, Police, Safer Roads Partnership, County & District Cllrs. The Clerk was asked to try and arrange this in due course.

The PC is also trying to re-establish the Community Speed Watch in the village and has already attracted some potential volunteers. The ongoing advert for a School Crossing Escort has not attracted any applicants but the PC are still willing to run the scheme when recruitment is in place. District Cllr Jones-Williams reminded the meeting of the reasons that Worcs CC cannot operate a pelican crossing by the schools.

District Councillor Jones-Williams had nothing further to report.

219.21 Updates:

219.21.01 Recreation Field – Cllr Watt has looked into options for re-siting the football pitch, but the measurements cannot be achieved in a different position. No other options currently. Cllr Watt reported that cricket holiday camp held in June, was very successful and another camp was requested in August, which the PC approved. Same fee as previously charged. Cllr Gardner reported that the bench by the MUGA has been damaged by a bbq – Clerk asked to see if R. Wilks could ‘flip’ the wooden section to hide the scorch mark. The football team request to erect a new shed once the storage container has been removed was discussed and agreed. Details of the new shed to be sent to the Clerk for final approval. The request for Sunday football during August has already been denied on safety grounds for the cricketers and the Clerk has informed J. Grange.

219.21.02 Burial Ground – The Clerk reported that a funeral will be held 15th July and that picket fencing quotes are being arranged as requested.

219.21.03 Capital Project Group – Cllr Watt reported on the formation of the new working group and summarised the project objectives. The extension to the pavilion won’t be possible due to the proximity of the Oak tree. Further options are being explored. The new working group will explore options and report back to the PC, including planning requirements, public consultation plans and funding options. The new working group is proposed as Cllrs Cumella, Wroe, Watt and the Clerk (ex-officio) plus 2 members from the cricket club, 2 members of the football club, 2 members of the rounders team, T. Lewington (Village Hall) and G. Coombey-Jones (Architect). Cllr Watt will liaise with the Clerk re a meeting date.

220.21 Strategic Planning Matters: The Chairman reported on Lionscourt Homes development plans following a letter received from them. It was agreed that the Chairman / Clerk draft a formal response and circulate for approval. Cllr Watt asked if Lionscourt Homes know about previous requests from the PC re local amenities, which should be re-visited.

221.21 Planning Matters:

221.21.01 Applications received / considered –

- **21/00914/HP** – The Coach House, Martley WR6 6QB – proposed side extension. No objection submitted.

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- **21/01112/HP** – Yew Tree House, Hillside, Martley WR6 6QN – new dormer at rear and new gable end to the house to replace the existing south elevation, including changes to fenestration. No objection.
- **21/00918/FUL** – Tabwell Cottage, Berrow Green Rd, Martley WR6 6PQ – installation of a 60m x 20m outdoor menage (for private use). No objection.
- **21/01154/HP** - 2 Highfields Cottage, Kings Green, Wichford WR6 6YG – proposed erection of a single storey orangery following demolition of existing porch and bay window. Clerk asked to query whether this is within the parish boundary before a response is agreed.

221.21.02 Notifications received –

- **21/00700/FUL** – Birch Hill House, Kingswood, Martley WR6 6PG – application withdrawn for change of use for siting of two holiday chalets and assoc, parking, landscape and access.
- **21/00176/HP** – Lingens Farm, Barbers Lane, Martley WR6 6QD – approval for single storey side extension to existing residential property.
- **21/00177/LB** – as above (Listed Building Consent)

222.21 Financial & Governance Matters:

222.21.01 Payments were agreed as per the schedule circulated by the Clerk. Proposed Cllr Gardner, seconded Cllr Weddell-Hall. All agreed.

222.21.02 The PC agreed a request for an extra litter bin on the recreation field and asked the Clerk to circulate a proposal for approval. The request for additional signage re dropping litter at the skate park was considered but it was agreed not to progress this as unfortunately it probably won't make any difference. The Council agreed to ask R. Wilks to cover D. Lewis for litter picking whilst on holiday.

223.21 Highways Matters:

223.21.01 Village Maintenance Plan – R. Wilks to be asked to cut back overgrown verges and clean signage. An annual plan for the Lengthsman is to be created and agreed. Latest draft VMP as circulated.

223.21.02 Road closure notices noted as circulated. Pudford Lane work appears to be sub-standard, and Cllr Richardson Brown agreed to feedback to Highways. A working group is now to be formed to address the VMP properly – group to consist of Cllrs Hardwell, Rushgrove, Gardner, Watt and then liaise with the Chairman, Clerk and R. Wilks.

223.21.03 Road safety matters - a joint meeting between all agencies will be beneficial – P&CC, Worcs Highways, Police, Safer Roads Partnership, County & District Cllrs. The Clerk was asked to try and arrange this as soon as everyone was available.

223.21.04 Other matters – Martley is very lucky to have the Path-or-Nones working in addition to the Parish Lengthsman. All volunteers and County Councillor funding would be appreciated if possible. County Councillors have a discretionary fund available to parishes, but the meeting noted that there is very little to share across a wide area.

223.21.05 Church Lane - the pavement requested to the junction of Hollins Lane was noted by the PC and a formal request will be made to Highways by the Clerk.

224.21 Parish Matters:

224.21.01 Land at the top of Hawthorn Close – all asked to try and find out who now owns this land so that a request can be made for it to be tidied up.

224.21.02 Next agenda item – more litter bins for the parish. Clerk to place on the agenda.

224.21.03 Community Speed Watch – Clerk to liaise with Cllrs Gardner and Rushgrove to progress this.

224.21.04 West Mercia Policing Charter – it was agreed that the three local priorities were speed enforcement, traffic management and rural crime. Clerk to return the signed contract.

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224.21.05 Parish defibrillators – the request for an additional defib. at the village hall was considered as a good idea. The PC agreed that key users should be asked to contribute towards the cost – PC, Footballers, Cricketers, Rounders and Village Hall Committee to split the cost jointly. Clerk to ask all concerned. Also, to look at First Aid training options for villagers to learn how to use a defibrillator.

225.21 Correspondence Received: The Nora Parsons Centre AGM is to be held on 7th July – Clerk to send PC apologies as no one is available to attend.

226.21 Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas: Next agenda – increasing litter bins in the parish. Martley Show to be held on Sat 21st August.

227.21 Date of next meeting: Monday 6th September 2021 at Martley Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed 21:10

M. Alexander
Clerk

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Date