

# HAMPTON LOVETT AND WESTWOOD PARISH COUNCIL WORCESTERSHIRE

## Minutes of the AGM meeting held on Wednesday 31 May 2023

### PRESENT

#### Councillors:

Cllr G.D. Crow (Chairman)

Cllr F. Walker

Cllr J. Pointon

Cllr. C. Ellson-Evans

Cllr. J. Brookes

Cllr. D Price

Cllr C. Day

Ms Jemma Towers (RFO & Clerk)

The Chairman plus more than 2 members being present, there was a quorum.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Cllr Miller sent his apologies

Cllr Crow gave apologies on behalf of Cllr O'Sullivan. Cllr Crow explained that due to personal circumstances, Cllr O'Sullivan had been unable to complete the Councillor forms and therefore Cllr Crow wanted to formally adopt Cllr O'Sullivan onto the Parish Council. This was agreed unanimously and will be reviewed once Cllr O'Sullivan is able to attend a Parish Council meeting.

### **2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There was no declaration of interest declared.

### **3. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

Whilst members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself, they are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman during a half an hour period at the end all meetings. The participation of members of the public is valued by the Parish Council and the importance of their involvement is recognised by the Councillors.

### **4. FORMALITIES OF ELECTION**

Cllr Crow requested the Clerk to take the Chair for the election of the Chairman for the forthcoming year.

#### **a. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR**

##### **Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Pointon that Cllr Crow should be re-appointed as Chairman. Agreed unanimously and Cllr Crow resumed the Chair.

#### **b. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR**

##### **Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Proposed by Cllr Pointon and seconded by Cllr Ellson-Evans that Cllr Brooks should be appointed as Vice-Chairman. Cllr Walker was nominated by Cllr Price but Cllr Walker declined this nomination. Cllr Brookes to be Vice-Chairman for 2023-2024.

Cllr Crow asked Cllr Walker to remain as the Parish's "check and balance" Cllr regarding finances and to have oversight on any larger jobs that the Parish Council carries out.

## **5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Cllr Price questioned whether the SWDP would be resolved by Summer 2023. Cllr Day explained that November 2023 is the earliest the Plan will become binding, but that it is getting there after COVID caused considerable delays.

Cllr Crow confirmed that Cheque100859 had been completed in error.

The minutes from the meeting on 15 February 2023 were agreed and signed.

## **6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Cllr Ellson-Evans discussed the SWDP and queried whether planning applications would be more flexible and the worth of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Day explained that nothing has changed in a substantial way and that the aim of the SWDP is to enable villages to grow. Cllr Ellson-Evans highlighted that the uncertainty is causing stress to her and the residents of Doverdale Park and they are still very concerned about the Windrush Trust land.

Cllr Day explained that the Plan is good but as with every plan, as soon as the ink is dry, (it) more work will be required. Cllr Day suggested that Sue Collier is a good person to talk to about the SWDP

## **7. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS UPDATE**

Cllr Day discussed the new Integrated Care Board, which requires the care sector and the NHS to work together. District Collaboratives bring together Wychavon as the local authority, the NHS, primary care providers (GPs) and the third/voluntary sector (Age UK, Mencap) and the aim is to ensure a more efficient service through the NHS. Cllr Day explained that the purpose is to try and prevent people becoming ill in the first place. When considering the NHS budget, 83% goes towards critical (hospital) care and the rest is spent on preventative care and of that, 16% half is being spent on COVID. The ongoing work in this area is to encourage more people to seek healthcare sooner.

Cllr Day also talked about welfare hubs, which enable people to “drop in” to specific centres with any issues and they are then signposted from there. There are currently hubs at Pershore, Droitwich West and potential one will be set up in Evesham. The Pershore hub is operated by 2 GPs and is open 3-4 days a week between 1000hrs – 1300hrs and it has been successful.

Cllr Day explained that whilst a person may not get exactly what they would get via the traditional NHS route, as they may see a volunteer at a hub (a student for example) in the first instance, having conversations earlier is helpful and reassuring to people.

Cllr Day also discussed how the hubs were gathering stories from service users about their experiences of the NHS and capturing those experiences in order to improve. Cllr Day said these stories would be anonymised, but knowing about what people have been through will allow progress to be made.

Cllr Day spoken to Cllr Ellson-Evans regarding the residents of Doverdale Park applying for their energy grants. Cllr Ellson-Evans explained that there had been duplication with two properties but that she had managed to speak to someone who was very helpful and that particular matter has been sent to the escalation department. Cllr Ellson-Evans also raised another issue of duplication and was very concerned that the deadline for the application was 31 May 2023. Cllr Day reassured Cllr Ellson-Evans that if the properties are in the system, this will be resolved.

Cllr Day also discussed the new Council post-election and confirmed that the plans for the Council are likely to remain the same and that there may be a push forward with design codes for buildings, the aesthetics of new buildings.

## **8. OTHER ITEMS**

### **Parish Council Room improvements**

Cllr Crow confirmed that in order to save costs on utilities, every light in the Parish Council/village Hall had been changed to LEDs and PIR switches for all other lighting. These changes reduce the electrical consumption by over 50% as EON NEXT put the price up by 3 times. Cllr Crow explained that Cllr Ellson-Evans, Cllr Pointon and Sue Crow were on the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Brookes asked what the Parish Rooms are used for. This generated a lively discussion regarding the current use of the rooms and what they could be used for going forward to increase income for the Parish Council. Cllr Brookes suggested the space being used for a “community drop-in” to encourage those individuals within the Parish to utilise the space to socialise. Cllr Crow explained that the impact of COVID had been detrimental on the use of the space by community groups but encouraged Cllr Brookes to consider different ways that the space could be used. Cllr Brookes confirmed that she was willing to take a lead on this and proposed ideas such as coffee mornings and afternoon teas. Cllr Walker explained that the use of the space has reduced since COVID and this has been compounded by the rise in the cost of utilities. Cllr Brookes suggested considering what grants may be available to support the Parish Council with the utilities to ensure the space is available to those who want to use it. Cllr Day cited Ombersley as a Parish where their facilities are used very regularly. The “Social Strollers” go for short walks (35 minutes) and then return to Ombersley Parish Hall for tea and cake. Cllr Day suggested that Cllrs Brookes, Pointon and Crow talk to a group of people called “Community Builders” to get further ideas.

## 9. FINANCE

Payments up to 31 May 2023, as per Accounts presented by Clerk, summarised by Chair:

CHEQUE NO.	DESCRIPTION	£ AMOUNT
100865	TCS Ltd	270.00
100866	TCS LtdLtd	454.80
100867	TCS Ltd	78.20
100868	Bittell Websites	100.00
100869	HMRC	240.00
100870	Tree Surgery (Lengthsman)	850.00
100871	Rch Electrical Ltd	3749.18 (Hall ac.paid £1000.to PC)
100872	DPRA	130.00 (King Charles coronation)

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINES

### Radar Speeds signs

There was further discussion regarding the current location of the signs and that they need to be moved. Cllr Crow confirmed that Cllr Miller needed to provide information on this but had not yet done so.

### Request for Waste bins

Cllr Ellson-Evans asked if there was a possibility of getting waste bins at the layby and at the bridge. Cllr Price confirmed that he would discuss this with Amazon in light of their litter picking commitments.

### Drain at Westwood House

Cllr Brookes highlighted that the drain at Westwood House needs sorting out. Cllr Crow confirmed that the Lengthsman had been made aware.

### Industrial Estate signs

Cllr Crow confirmed that he has requested that the “To Let” signs are taken down as they are unsightly.

## 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday TBC August 2023 – Sign off Financial Accounts for 2022-2023

Wednesday 27 September 2023 – Parish Council meeting