

HAMPTON LOVETT AND WESTWOOD PARISH COUNCIL WORCESTERSHIRE

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 14 April 2021

PRESENT

Councillors:

Cllr G.D. Crow (Chairman)

Cllr D. Nunn

Cllr R. O'Sullivan

Cllr J. Pointon

Cllr. F. Walker

Cllr. C. Ellson-Evans

District Cllr. T. Miller (Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council)

District Cllr. N. Wright (Wychavon District Council)

Ms Jemma Towers (RFO & Clerk)

3 Members of the Public

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

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There was no declaration of interest declared.

3. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Three members of the public attended the meeting. Cllr Crow welcomed them and explained that 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. Cllr Crow stated that members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself, but that there is half hour at the end all meetings for the public to raise issues that could be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 16 December 2020 – Unanimously agreed and signed

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Resignation of Cllr Wakelam

Cllr Crow stated at the end of the last Parish Council meeting, that she had made the decision to stand down from her position of Parish Councillor. Cllr Crow thanked Cllr Wakelam for her contribution to the Parish and wished her to very best for the future. Cllr Crow explained that Cllr Wakelam was responsible for the Upper Hall and the Doverdale Lane area Hampton Lovett and that on a temporary basis, Mr David Price was co-opted for the SWDP 2020-2041 representation for this area all agreed.

Employment Land

Cllr Crow explained that the most pressing issue concerned the location of the employment land. Cllr Crow explained that the employment land forms part of the Government's 2021 – 2041 Plan and that as part of Phase 1 of the Plan, an area of land located at Stonecross, Hampton Lovett was identified as being suitable land (CFSO501 and CFSO502 on Council procedures). However, it was felt by the majority of the Parish Council that the land was far from suitable and therefore an alternative area of land was submitted to Wychavon District Council for consideration. Cllr Crow explained that the plans have been returned by the District Council, who require a Sustainability Analysis of the proposal by 19 April 2021. Cllr Crow confirmed that the report to be submitted will concentrate on the access and cost. Firstly, with regard to access, if the Parish accepted the original location for the employment land, access would be a major issue. There are numerous issues with the A4133 as identified by the Councillors of the Parish over many meetings, but the original plans would cause the A4122 to suffer the same issues as the A4133. The Parish would then have two roads, which are completely unfit for purpose and incredibly dangerous to the community. Secondly, with regard to cost, the Parish's alternative suggestion would result in far less needing to be spent for access to be gained to Stone Cross: approximately £500,000 to £600,000 compared with a figure of between £2m and £6m, if the Council's original suggestion was accepted.

Cllr Wright provided a summary of the current situation. He explained that the original SWDP included two areas of employment land, which he is aware the Parish did not agree with, therefore an alternative was submitted. Cllr Wright stated that this alternative will be reviewed by September/October 2021 and therefore not to become too concerned at the moment. Cllr Wright confirmed that the Parish should submit a report by 19 April 2021 as requested, but that the Parish's proposal is known about by the District Council. Cllr Wright explained that no decision has been made at this stage, the land may not even be used, but a report has to be produced for Government which includes a certain number of hectares of employment land.

Cllr Miller explained that at the last meeting at which he was in attendance the decision by the Parish Council was to submit alternative plots of land, this decision was made by a clear majority. Cllr Miller explained that when a plan required major infrastructure, it is unlikely that this would be endorsed by the County Council, especially where a less expensive plan is put forward, which achieves the same aim. A proper assessment is still yet to be carried out and therefore no firm decision has been made at this stage: if and when such a decision is made, Cllr Miller confirmed that he would share this with the Parish Council. Ultimately, there is a process which needs to be adhered to, but allocated land does not necessarily mean it will be used. Cllr Miller reassured the Councillors that the Parish has done the right thing: it has submitted an alternative with reasons as to why the alternative would be more suitable and therefore it will be consulted with as to any further decisions on the matter.

Cllr Crow allowed the members of the public to put forward their views. There is a significant concern that the alternative plans submitted by the Parish Council will infringe on the eyeline views around Westwood House and this is something which the residents are keen to avoid. Cllr Crow attempted to allay such concerns and also agreed to attend Westwood House for himself to speak to the residents. Cllr Nunn stated that the proposed land submitted by the Parish will not be in the sight line of Westwood House residents and was confident that the alternative plans would not impact on the people of Westwood House. Cllr Nunn stated that in any planning situation, there are always two sides to the story and that any development should take place in an area which doesn't impact on anyone; the Parish Council's alternative proposal offers this and that as a Parish, our aim is to try and satisfy the needs of everyone, accepting strong opinions either way but also needing to find a way through that mitigates the majority of the issues. Cllr Nunn did accept however that a clear plan of the alternative proposal needed to be made available. Cllr Walker agreed that she felt that there was a real necessity for a proper plan with the options laid out to be available. Cllr Crow confirmed that the maps/plans were available on the Parish Council website but if a further plan was required he would action this with the Parish Council's consultant. In addition to Cllr Crow and Cllr Nunn's reassurance to the public, Cllr Miller also submitted that Westwood House is a Grade 1 listed building and therefore anything which would potentially impact the sight line would need to be fully considered.

In addition to the residents of Westwood House being concerned with the impact on their view, there was also some concern regarding the increase in sound and road traffic and the request for a sound impact report. Cllr Crow explained the regulations regarding level of noise and Cllr Miller suggested that Worcester Regulatory Services should be contacted by the residents and the current disturbance reported to them.

Other members of the public voiced strongly their support for the alternative plans submitted by the Parish Council, stating that logical and compelling reasons had been put forward and that ultimately, access to the sites originally proposed were not suitable. The new proposal allows for safe access points and any potential development would be easier under such a proposal. Concerns were raised however, regarding the situation where although the development might not take place, it would still show up on resident's property details if they came to sell their homes and therefore clarity and communication from the County Council was still a real priority; having a potential development hanging over property could be of great detriment to residents trying to sell and adversely affect the price at which they could sell. Cllr Miller engaged with the members of the public regarding this concern.

In summary, Cllr Crow stated that as the Chairman he has to take account of all views of the Parish. The alternative proposal was submitted and agreed by a majority of the councillors, who accepted that Stone Cross could be enlarged without spoiling the *eye line* views at Westwood House and without increasing noise levels at any new development boundary fence line. Cllr Crow explained that the Parish Council wanted to mitigate the problems as much as possible for everyone and that the very best is being done to not create havoc within the Parish as well as trying to limit spending and provide employment land that the Government has requested.

6. FINANCE

Cllr Crow confirmed that a VAT payment of £806.00 had been received.

Payments up to 14 April 2021, as per Accounts presented by Clerk, summarised by Chair:

CHEQUE NO.	DESCRIPTION	£ AMOUNT
100831	Accomplish Group Training	£346.50
100832	HMRC	£124.80
100833	Village Hall	£249.00
100834	PFK Accountants	£240.00
100835	ERROR	
100836	HMRC	£125.00
100837	Website	£100.00
100838	CALC	£277.08
100839	Clerk Expenses	£17.82

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A4133

Cllr Nunn explained that Cllr Crow on behalf of the Parish Council wrote to Barry Barnes about the hazards on the A4133 and three weeks later, is still yet to receive a response. Cllr Nunn was disappointed and felt the lack of acknowledgement was unacceptable. Cllr Miller explained that Barry Barnes was not necessarily the correct person to deal with the matter, but accepted that an acknowledgement at the very least was required. Cllr Miller to request that Barry Barnes contacts Cllr Crow and a suitable response is given.

Car Cruising

Cllr Ellson-Evans confirmed that there was another car cruising event very recently which was resolved by Droitwich Safer Neighbourhood Team. Cllr Ellson-Evans confirmed that she would continue to work with officers regarding this issue. A new camera had been installed which she hoped was to monitor the situation and that she would check with her Droitwich Safety Team.

Amazon

Cllr Crow stated that Amazon have appointed a Community Officer to assist with any issues within the community. A member of the public queried whether it was within the officer's remit to organise litter collection around the factory premises. This to be taken with the Community Officer

Big Bear Island

Cllr Miller confirmed that Cllr Wright had submitted the proposal for the grant and that Cllr Wright's application was a very clear and precise application. Councillors thanked Cllr Wright for his work.

Tree Cutting

Cllr O'Sullivan queried the chopping down of the trees in the Stonecross woods. Cllr Miller stated that he would look into this and report back on the matter.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 19th May 2021