

HAMPTON LOVETT AND WESTWOOD PARISH COUNCIL WORCESTERSHIRE

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 16 December 2020

PRESENT

Councillors:

Cllr G.D. Crow (Chairman)

Cllr D. Nunn

Cllr R. O'Sullivan

Cllr J. Pointon

Cllr. S. Wakelam

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)

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. It was requested that all forms were submitted to the Clerk to forward on to Wychavon.

3. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Residents 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. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself. There is a half hour at the end all meetings for the public to raise issues these could be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 7 October 2020 – Unanimously agreed and signed

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

6. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Crow wished Cllr Miller all the best for the upcoming election on 5 May 2021. If elected, Cllr Miller will become the District and County Councillor.

Cllr Crow explained that the Parish Council's biggest concern are the changes to the planning laws being considered in Parliament, particularly the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Cllr Crow also stated that the number of houses proposed to be built is going up dramatically. Cllr Miller stated that there is no need to be overly worried at this stage because this is not going through Parliament yet. Cllr Miller confirmed that he had put forward to the objections to MPs, in the form of a letter signed by the Councillors. Cllr Wright stated that he had already submitted a letter and that the Government are reconsidering some

areas for improvement/development. Cllr Wright stated that it was not clear what this actually meant and there is no further information from Wychavon at this time on the matter.

Cllr Crow confirmed that he had written to Nigel Huddleston MP complaining about the changes to the planning laws, specifically Parish Councils having their already limited powers curtailed further and that the application of AI will result in strange answers being given, due to the generalised "blanket" approach. Cllr Crow explained that currently each area has its own system, the introduction of one system will not only be hugely expensive but will fail to appreciate the demands and issues of a specific area. Cllr Crow stated that the response he received was that there is no getting away from this approach and sent a link to further information regarding AI in the future. Cllr Wright understood the concerns raised by Cllr Crow and concurred that the changes will mean that Parish Council and District Councils will have less interaction with the developers and the planning issues around them. Ultimately, it is already very difficult to engage with local planners and the changes will make this near impossible. Cllr Miller stated that Severn Trent and Western Power are also against the changes due to the pressure the building of so many more houses will have on the provision of utilities; the energy is not available to provide electricity and pumping stations cannot manage the extra demand.

Cllr Crow stated that on behalf of the Parish Council, there is complete disapproval of the changes to the planning law; removing the ability of Parish Councils to influence the things that affect villages is of great detriment and leaving such decisions to a computer is extremely worrying.

7. OTHER ITEMS

Ballards

Following the considerable concern raised by the Councillors at the previous meeting regarding the invoices submitted by Ballards LLP in relation to the 2019/2020 Audit, Cllr Crow and the RFO Jemma Towers wrote to Ballards LLP expressing the Parish Council's disappointment. Ballards LLP investigated the matter and agreed to provide the Parish Council with a credit note for £560.00, making this year's audit costs to Ballards LLP £960.00.

Big Bear Island

Cllr Crow stated that he and Cllr Nunn submitted a proposal and requested an update from Cllr Wright. Cllr Wright explained that there had been some concerns regarding the cost. He stated that the plan had been to get a legacy grant for the roundabout, but it was felt that the roundabout did not fall into the category of a "legacy." Cllr Wright said that the Legacy Grant was set up 3 years ago and £3 million was the value of the grant, with £1m per year. The concerns were that the roundabout does not provide a legacy and the high cost involved. Cllr Wright's solution in order to assist Hampton Lovett was to include the roundabout in Emley Lovett's application for a legacy grant to enlarge their playing fields. Cllr Wright said that their application for the enlargement of the playing fields focuses on enhancing the biodiversity of the area, introducing things to attract wildlife and the planting of bulbs. Cllr Crow was very appreciative of Cllr Wright's suggestion and added that the roundabout could also be "biodiverse," through the selection of plants used. In terms of next steps, Cllr Wright stated that he would speak to an organisation called Natural Networks and invite them to come and look at the roundabout. Following this, Cllr Wright said he would submit the application and if accepted, it would be considered by the Committee. Cllr Crow agreed to this course of action, thanked Cllr Wright for his assistance and confirmed that he looked forward to hearing the outcome.

New Homes Bonus

Cllr Crow confirmed that the Parish Council received the New Homes Bonus money and that it is to be used to put collapsible posts on the bridleway between Bluebell Wood and Koito, off Doverdale Lane. The reason for the posts is that the fly-tipping has continued, it seems the erection of the sign stating that individuals will be fined, has resulted in them fly tipping further down the Bridleway.

8. FINANCE

Payments up to 16 December 2020, as per Accounts presented by Clerk, summarised by Chair:

CHEQUE NO.	DESCRIPTION	£ AMOUNT
100829	HMRC	£124.80
100830	Clerk Expenses	£49.81

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A4133

Cllr Nunn raised the issue of the safety of the A4133 with Cllr Miller and Cllr Wright, Cllr Nunn stated that within 3.4 miles of the A4133, there are 20 painted road signs by Highways saying "SLOW." Clearly, Highways accept that there is a problem, so surely the speed limit should be reduced to 40mph. Cllr Miller explained that to reduce the speed limit, street lighting would need to be introduced. This was queried by other councillors present at the meeting, given other roads within the Parish are 40mph and no street lighting is present. Cllr Miller confirmed that he would look into this and respond to Cllr Nunn.

Car Cruising

Cllr Ellson-Evans explained that she is in contact with Droitwich East SNT, who have thanked her for submitting a number of surveys, which they are currently reviewing. Cllr Ellson-Evans stated that she had requested an update and was informed that a long term solution is being worked on but this is a lengthy process with numerous hurdles to overcome. Cllr Ellson-Evans said that she reported an incident on Saturday night via 999 and that it was dealt with quite quickly. Cllr Crow responded and said that he is happy something is being done and would await further information.

Cllr Ellson-Evans queried whether a mobile speed camera van could be stationed on the road to try and counter the issues. Cllr Miller explained that it was a good idea but the location of the van would have to adhere to certain safety criteria.

Cllr Ellson-Evans also raised the possibility of neon speed signs and what the cost of these would be. Cllr Miller confirmed that there are numerous companies which supply the signs and that a cost of a portable one on a tripod is approximately £5.5k. The reason for the cost is that it has to be run in conjunction with the local constabulary as it is linked to their ANPR software.

Resurfacing of Road

Cllr Wakelam raised concerns regarding the noise following the resurfacing of the road. Cllr Miller explained that the process is called surface dressing; it seals the cracks in the road to provide better skid resistance and over time the noise will reduce as the road becomes worn again. Cllr Wakelam said that she is also getting vibrations from the road through her house and Cllr O'Sullivan stated that he was also having issues. Councillor Wakelam confirmed to the meeting that due to pressures of work she would be resigning from the Parish Council.

Resignation of Cllr Wakelam

Cllr Wakelam confirmed that she will be standing down as Councillor. Cllr Crow thanked her for all her hard work during her time as Councillor and wished her the very best for the future.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 14th April March