

HAMPTON LOVETT AND WESTWOOD PARISH COUNCIL WORCESTERSHIRE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 27 September 2023

PRESENT

Councillors:

Cllr G.D. Crow (Chairman)

Cllr F. Walker

Cllr J. Pointon

Cllr. C. Ellson-Evans

Cllr. J. Brookes

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 did not attend

Cllr Crow gave apologies for Cllr O'Sullivan and stated that this was due to his poor health. Consideration to be given to whether he will be able to attend again and recruitment of a Hampton Lovett councillor may be required.

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. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from 31/05/2023 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed accordingly.

The minutes from the Extra-ordinary meeting on 16/08/2023 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed accordingly.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

No matters arising from previous minutes

6. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS UPDATE

Wychavon Residents Survey

Cllr Day explained that the Wychavon Residents Survey is online to complete and that there is an opportunity to win £100 and can be accessed via <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/news-and-alerts/chance-to-win-100-with-wychavon-residents-survey>.

Last year, 1200 people completed the survey. Whilst this is less than 1% of the population of Wychavon, this is statistically significant and time is spent looking at the responses.

Flytipping

Cllr Day explained that there is a meeting on 25 October 2023 regarding flytipping as it is a significant issue. Cllr Day confirmed that the District Officer responsible for flytipping would be in attendance.

Worcestershire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2032

Cllr Day confirmed that this has been signed off recently and that it is a good strategy. Cllr Day explained that it is readable, interesting and that a copy can be accessed online via:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/health_and_wellbeing_strategy_2022_to_2032.pdf

Cllr Day also welcomed any feedback about the Strategy but stated that on 26 September 2023, there had been an update on the first year of the Strategy and that Worcestershire has scored better than other areas, generally more healthy. The main focus is on prevention.

Wychavon District Strategy

This runs from 2020-2024 and 35 promises are made as part of the Strategy. Cllr Day shared that good progress is being made, and whilst some of the promises made not be achieved (around 4), at least 27 are under control. Cllr Day commented that an area which could be doing better is rural public transport.

7. OTHER ITEMS

a) Bluebell Wood

Cllr Crow confirmed that the posts on the bridlepath, Doverdale would return and would be locked to prevent flytipping.

b) Lay-by bins

Cllr Crow explained that the layby with the telephone box is in need of a bin. Cllr Crow confirmed that it is regularly used and collects a lot of rubbish. Amazon do pick up some rubbish on their litter collections and the Lengthsman also collects rubbish, but a bin is required. Cllr Day confirmed that a bin will be at a cost to the Parish Council, as the Parish will need to pay for the bin to be emptied. Cllr Day confirmed that he would find out who is responsible for bin distribution to allow Cllr Crow to make contact.

c) HL & W planning application not identified

Clerk to ensure all planning applications are forwarded to Cllr Crow

d) Community Vision for the future

A lively discussion was had regarding future plans for the village hall. Cllr Brookes explained that she wanted to expand the use of the Parish hall to encourage more residents to take part in activities to improve their social, emotional and physical wellbeing.

Cllr Crow explained that any proposed activities needed to complement the existing activities but all Councillors accepted the overriding need to improve the health and wellbeing of those living within the Parish.

Cllr Brookes then confirmed that letters had been sent out to residents regarding the proposed activities and she had received 42 responses. Approval to run the Taster days and then the 12 week trial was required and during this trial, the activities would be subsidised in order to build interest.

Cllr Crow raised his concerns around who would facilitate the setting up of the activities, the opening up and closure of the hall, cleaning of the hall in between activities.

Cllr Crow also raised his concerns regarding vehicular access to the Parish hall on a regular basis. A conversation was had regarding ownership of the road and who would be responsible for repairing the road, if there was a significant increase in the amount of traffic using the road to get to the Parish hall. It was confirmed that any concerns/complaints regarding the road being used need to be directed to Wychavon District Council and not the Parish Council or Councillors directly.

ACTION: As a result of this Agenda item, Cllr Crow approved the 12 week trial period and a sub-committee consisting of Cllr Brookes, Cllr Pointon and Sue Crow would be organised. Meeting to be held after the Taster days have been completed.

e) Village Hall Accounts and Village Hall bookings

Questions were raised regarding the Village Hall accounts being managed separately to the Parish Council accounts. Cllr Crow suggested that a meeting was organised with the councillors and Sue Crow to discuss the division.

In relation to the village hall and its production of revenue, Cllr Brookes stated that the current Parish website is not up to date and that it is not possible to see when the village hall is booked and by whom. Cllr Crow confirmed that bookings are not visible online and that all bookings are managed by Sue Crow. Cllr Brookes explained that it was important to modernise the system to align with other Parishes. Cllr Crow stated that to change the system would involve a cost and Cllr Brookes said that the village hall is part of the community and if any person wishes to see what is going on at the hall, then there should be the option to do so, to ensure that it is accessible for all.

ACTION: Cllr Brookes, Ellson-Evans and Pointon to meet with Sue Crow to talk about the village hall and the booking system.

8. PLANNING

23/00311/FUL – Dog walking application

This is a full planning application and the Highways Team will have had reviewed this. It was approved on 21 August 2023.

W/23/01342/FUL - Muller application

Despite Cllr Crow's concerns regarding noise generated from the introduction of a chiller, this application was approved on 23 August 2023

9. FINANCE

Payments up to 27 September 2023, as per Accounts presented by Clerk, summarised by Chair:

CHEQUE NO.	DESCRIPTION	£ AMOUNT
100873	Lengthsman	998.00
100874	Clerk Expenses	134.41
100875	HMIC	96.00
100876	PFK Audit	288.00
100877	Drain Clear	420.00
100878	PC Insurance	354.02
100879	Chew Valley Trees	198.00
100880	Worcestershire CALC	289.80
100881	HMRC	96.00
100882	Cheque written in error – not used	
100883	Wayne Pugsley (Lengthsman)	760.00
100884	Polycarb Store Bus Stop Repair	79.29
100885	Ballards LLP	960.00
100886	HMRC	102.40
100887	Wychavon District Council	50.00

Cllr Brookes questioned the "Chew Valley Trees" payment. Cllr Crow explained that for the Diamond Jubilee, the Parish received a tree from Cllr Miller. Unfortunately, the tree was damaged and therefore needed to be replaced. Cllr Brookes queried how the decision to replace had been made and Cllr Crow confirmed that he had made the decision.

ACTION: Cllr Crow confirmed that where expenditure is beyond normal expenditure (HMRC, CALC, Lengthsman for example) or for an item/service/equipment which exceeds £500, this will be brought to the Parish Councillors' attention.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINES

Replacement of boundary fence

Cllr Walker confirmed to Cllr Brookes that she would write to her regarding the replacement of the boundary fence. Cllr Walker confirmed that the work would be on 13 November 2023 and there would be some disruption to the drive but not significant.

VAS signs

Cllr Ellson-Evans questioned when the signs would be moved. Cllr Crow confirmed that this question would need to be referred to Cllr Miller.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 29 November 2023 – Parish Council meeting