

DEERHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 28 January 2013, in Apperley Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillors - P Andrews
L Attard – Chairman
W Morris
J Natrass
J Pollard
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk
PCSO Emma Birch (partial attendance)
Borough Councillor Waters
Parishioners: 2 (partial attendance)

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors Checkley and Smith, Borough Councillors Williams, Jane Griffiths and Janet Dance.

2 MINUTES OF MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday, 3 December 2012, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: None

The Chairman brought the following two items forward:

6.8 Police Matters: Prior to the meeting PCSO Birch had emailed a written report which had been circulated to the Councillors. She reported:

- New team had been set up - Tewkesbury and Coombe Hill had been merged and there are now 5 PCSOs covering the two areas. This means that if the PCSO designated for the area is not on duty then one of the other PCSOs can attend Parish Council meetings.
- Community Engagement Meeting 20 February 2013 at TBC Offices 6.30-8.30pm. Drop in session – light refreshments will be provided.
- Still trying to formalise Neighbourhood Policing Meetings will keep those concerned advised.
- Everyone currently on flood alert.

6.2 Proposed BMX Cycle Track at Apperley Village Hall: The Chairman explained that he and several other Councillors had met on site with Scott Gibson who had approached the Parish Council with a sketch about developing a dirt track bike track alongside the play area. Currently the proposed area is full of stinging nettles, brambles and tree stumps and the proposed plans may need to incorporate a barrier between play area and bike track. Scott Gibson had brought along to the meeting some revised plans which he took the Councillors through. The Chairman explained that whilst the Parish Council are keen to encourage this initiative the Parish Council have to carry out a lot of research to ensure that this initiative is in the right place and will not cause problems for the Play Area and there were insurance implications. The Clerk said that she had spoken with the Insurance Company who had informed her that there would be an additional premium of £212, advice was sought from a qualified person, built by builders with public liability, correct signage erected, pre-inspection by a qualified person and then would be subject to a weekly visual inspection. The Clerk had described to the Insurance Company that it was a BMX track which is quite different from a dirt track so this could carry different criteria regarding insurance. Clerk to speak to Insurance Company again.

Councillor's main concerns were how close the track would be to the play area and avoiding collisions with toddlers.

Borough Councillor Waters said he would speak to Andy Saunders who was the Sports Officer at TBC and see if there was any funding available. Re building the track Scott explained that it would be fairly low cost to construct and maintain as all the equipment that would be needed would be a digger and he and a working party would sculpt the track.

Councillor Morris congratulated Scott for his initiative and producing a plan.

Councillor Natrass asked what had happened to the mound with the concrete tube? Councillor Morris explained it had been removed on Health and Safety grounds.

5 PLANNING:

5.1 Applications:

13/00031/FUL 34 Apperley Park, Apperley: Two storey extension to side of property

Decision by 14.2.13`

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council has **no objections** to this application.

12/01244/FUL Oak House, Deerhurst Road, Apperley: Construction of timber studio using materials from demolition of two sheds

Decision by 15.2.13

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council has **no objections** to the design and construction **but concerned** that if permission is granted the ancillary building could become a separate dwelling because of the distance from Oak House.

5.2 TBC Decisions:

12/01063/FUL 3 Chester Close, Apperley: Erection of a 0.95m high gate across the driveway entrance – **Granted**

12/01047/APP Abbots Court Farm, Deerhurst: Proposed storage building to store straw, feed & machinery – **Granted**

12/01142/FUL 20 Severn Way, Apperley: Proposed rear conservatory - **Granted**

5.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions: None

5.4 Untidy Properties in the Parish: Borough Councillor Waters had received an update email from David Steels at TBC:

1. Apperley Park: Have been in discussions with the owner who has confirmed he is renovating the property for let and has started work by improving the garden. TBC to monitor.

2. Four Jays: TBC are in the process of tracking the property owner. This property isn't bad enough to take action under planning legislation but as it is vacant some aspects of empty property legislation can be used.

3. 19 School Road: This property has defaulted its residential status under planning rules due to its poor condition (effectively it's no longer a 'house'). There is a planning application for a new dwelling on the site. Building Control is to look at the safety of the building and the site - they have had involvement in the past as the site is secure.

Any Other Planning Matters:

Enforcement Matters: It was agreed that the Parish Council should write for a current update on outstanding enforcement cases in the Parish. Borough Councillor Waters said he would speak to David Taylor at TBC.

6 MATTERS ARISING:

6.1 The Standard Regime and the Localism Act 2011: The Clerk had circulated to all Councillors a copy of the TBC's Code of Conduct and the FODDC Code of Conduct. She explained that Sara Freckleton was still waiting to get a reply to her letter to Government challenging them about the decision of having to put the Register of Members Interest on the internet. To date she had still not got a reply and said until such time as she does the Register of Members Interests Forms will remain in her office and promised to advise all Town/Parish Councils at such time when she has to put them on to the TBC website. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council adopts the

FODDC Model of Conduct as it seemed straighter forward than TBCs. The Clerk said that Councillors needed to register their interests within 28 days. The Clerk also said that the Standing Orders would have to be amended accordingly and it was agreed to look at these next month. Regarding the handling of dispensations the Clerk explained that these used to be handled by the Standard Board at TBC but as this has been disbanded dispensations now have to be dealt with at Parish level. The Clerk had circulated two forms to Councillors and it was agreed that the Council would use the simpler form and would leave it to the clerk to grant dispensations but these must be received in writing 24 hours prior to the commencement of meetings.

6.2 Proposed BMX Cycle Track at Apperley Village Hall: This item was brought forwarded and discussed earlier.

6.3 Apperley Village Hall, Playing Field/ Play Area/Football Club:

Play Area: Swings: The Clerk reported that Mr Leeke had now obtained two new replacement seats so none were required from Berkeley Town Council. He agreed that he would also fit them.

Painting of Items: The painting is scheduled for spring 2013. The Chairman has spoken with Mr Leeke who will arrange for his contact to carry out some of the preparatory work prior to the painting eg sanding down the wooden items and cleaning the metal and plastic surfaces. Councillors felt that this would be most helpful. The Chairman also reported that whilst speaking to Mr Leeke it appears that he has been carrying out regular inspections on the play area for many years and keeps a written record which is excellent news. It was agreed that the Clerk should email Mr Leeke thanking him for carrying out the inspections and request a copy of the form he uses.

By Ladies Morris Dancers: No further update.

6.4 Highways: High Kerb outside Oaklands – Nothing further to report

A38 Pothole/Flooding: Major pothole on the Tewkesbury side towards the traffic lights for the turning B4213. Also the water lays in the cycle track on the other side of the road. Clerk to report.

Traffic Lights A38: The sequence of the lights is not as they should be at The Odessa and also with the junction of the B4213.

6.5 Deerhurst Walton Flood Alleviation Scheme: In Councillor Smith’s absence the Clerk reported that Councillor Smith was arranging to hold a Drop In Session prior to the next Parish Council meeting on the 25 March for those residents interested in looking at the plans etc and to ask questions. This will be from 5-7pm in the Village Hall. He had advertised this in The Severn Sider. The planning application had been submitted and a fee of £845 was due. Councillor Smith had asked TBC if this fee could be paid directly rather than through the Parish Council who would then have to apply to TBC for a grant. He was awaiting to receive a reply from Jason Westmoreland.

6.6 Public Rights of Way: The Chairman said that Councillor Checkley had asked him to raise the matter of some stiles on Wick Farm that require attention. Councillor Pollard said he would carry out some investigations.

6.7 Playing Fields – Renewal of Lease: The Clerk reported that despite two emails to Mr Leeke requesting an update she had nothing to report. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr Leeke again.

7 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

7.1 Accounts for payment and receipts

Cheque drawn prior to the meeting:

Beacon of Worcester: Resurfacing tennis court:

Interim account (80% £9898)	7912.00		
Extension Area – as per quotation	3720.00		
Provide new gate frame and s/h gate	220.00		
	VAT <u>2370.00</u>	14222.40	Cheque No: 000655

Cheques drawn at the meeting:

Mrs F J Wallbank –	
Salary for 1-31 December 2012	287.24
Salary for 1-31 January 2012	287.24

Less Tax	<u>114.80</u>	459.68	Cheque No: 000656
Inland Revenue – Tax for FJW		114.80	Cheque No: 000657
Apperley Village Hall – cost of meeting Held on 2.12.12		15.00	Cheque No: 000658
Parkwood Consultancy Services: Amendment of LVIA, landscape/	660.00		
Ecological mitigation plan	<u>VAT 132.00</u>	792.00	Cheque No: 000659
Apperley Cricket Club – grant for storage Facility		50.00	Cheque No: 000660
Total Payments		£15653.88	

Receipts

GPFA – grant in respect of resurfacing works
To tennis court 1000.00

TBC – grant towards cost of resurfacing
Works to tennis court (47%) 5570.44

Total Receipts £6570.44

7.2 Financial Statement: Noted and signed by the Chairman.

7.3 Budget 2013/14: At the last meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council would require a precept of £6,300. Following the meeting the Clerk attended a seminar at TBC and was advised by George Hill that Parish Council should not submit precept requests until the impact of the localisation of Council Tax was known. TBC got the figures from Government at the end of December. TBC has given the Parish the tax base figure and the support grant figure for 2013/14 and this alters the picture as to how the percentage increase of the Parish Precept will appear on the tax council tax bill. The Clerk circulated a spread sheet with three examples of how the Localisation of Council Tax will impact the residents of Deerhurst. It was agreed to keep the precept the same as last year - £6,000 - however due to the Localisation of Council Tax it will appear on the Council Tax bill as a 4.91% increase despite the precept remaining the same as last year.

7.4 Apperley Tennis Court – Resurfacing: The Clerk said that a cheque had been raised prior to the meeting following the promised grants from TBC and GPFA being applied for. Councillor Morris said reported that unfortunately the three steps up to the tennis court makes it unsuitable for wheelchair access so the Tennis Club are discussing putting a concrete slope to rectify this problem.

8 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- Apologised to residents of Deerhurst as he was misquoted in the The Echo regarding the flood defences in Deerhurst having an impact on Tirley.
- There will be no increase in the GCC precept for 2013/14 but what was not sure what the police increase would be.
- Planning Minister Nick Boles announces new cash incentives for Community Halls - to be used to back the community's priorities for example to re-roof a village hall etc.
- M5 Junction 10 will be transformed from a two-way into a four-way junction will cost more than £13 million, it has been estimated. The road will not be closed to traffic while the work is done, but delays are expected as the work goes ahead. Some nearby properties will be subject to compulsory purchase.
- Highways signage in floods should be clearer.

9 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- TBC are not planning to raise the precept

- Got involved with the problem with the ditches at Apperley Church which were full. The landowner had been contacted as the ditches were not draining away.

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

10.1 TBC: Place Planning Seminar – Monday 31 January 6pm The correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting about this event. Councillors agreed that they did not want to “cluster” with any adjoining parishes and none of the Councillors were available to attend the event.

Any Other Correspondence:

Elmbridge Transport Plans: People are being asked to give their views on plans to tackle congestion and improve public transport between Cheltenham and Gloucester. Consultation started on the 28 January and will run until Monday, 11 March 2013. Questionnaires have been sent to local residents and anyone will be able to comment online at www.goucestershire.gov.uk/majorschemes.

TBC – Community Involvement Statement: Is open for consultation until 25 March 2013 and its purpose is to let people know when and how they can get involved in plan preparation and planning application consultations in Tewkesbury Borough. Noted.

11 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION: None

12 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Monday, 25 February 2013 at 7.15pm

The meeting closed 9.23pm.