

DEERHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 25 May 2022.

PRESENT:

Councillors L Attard (Chairman)
L Bromberg
J Pollard
B Oldham
J Rutter
A Wilkes
CC P Awford (partial attendance)
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 0

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors Smith and BC Mclain

2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE

The Chairman asked for nominations for Chair – Councillor Bromberg proposed Councillor Attard and Councillor Wilkes seconded the proposal all voted in favour. Councillor Attard accepted the post, and the Declaration of Acceptance would be signed later.

It was agreed not to appoint a Vice-Chairman.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 MINUTES OF MEETING:

The minutes of the meetings held on the Wednesday, 25 April 2021, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed.

5 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Village Hall	Ben Oldham
Deerhurst Parish Playing Field	Len Attard & Anthony Wilkes
Public Rights of Way	Jim Pollard
Neighbourhood Watch	John Rutter
Snow	Timothy Morris/Anthony Wilkes
Flood	Apperley, Gabb Lane: Ginger Blayney Deerhurst: Norman Macpherson Deerhurst Walton: Jonathan Smith
Planning Sub-Committee	Len Attard – Lower Apperley Jim Pollard – Apperley John Rutter – Deerhurst Jonathan Smith – Deerhurst Walton Laura Bromberg – Deerhurst Walton
Allotment:	Jean Scorer
NDP:	Laura Bromberg

6 PUBLIC COMMENT: None present

7 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: The Clerk read out the following report in his absence:

- Given that Craig Freeman is to leave his post at the end of the month I met with him to go through both the outstanding issues and my Highways Local Schemes prior to his handover. As yet his successor has not been named but I hope to be able to share that with the Parish Council

soon

- At County Council last week there was a great focus on road safety and speeding and the announcement around reconvening the Road Safety Partnership which has been missing for some years
- Investment from both GCC and the Police and Crime Commissioner will enable communities to bid for funding for projects to reduce speed in known hot spots together with 20 MPH Zones where needed
- Obviously I was heavily involved in the flood events in February, both the anticipated tidal event that did not materialise and the subsequent flooding that impacted on the local area I was invited to submit a report to the EA and to speak to it at the Severn and Wye RFDC meeting given the concerns I raised both with the EA data and indeed the Highways actions and inactions through those closures. I was invited to speak at the Tewkesbury Flood Wardens Meeting hosted by GRCC in order to take on their concerns.
- On the more general County Council Agenda we continue to focus on those key areas around Adult Social Care and Looked After Children, obviously the demand for services as we host those from the Ukraine and the ongoing initiatives around Climate Change and Carbon Reduction

8 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:

- At Council on 12 April, the Leader presented his annual 'State of the Borough' presentation. This highlighted some of the achievements over the last year. These have been captured in a 'State of the Borough' newsletter which I emailed to the Clerk. Covers:
- **Finance and resources** budget set 2022/23 BC Mclain's report had been circulated to the meeting; despite challenges it includes the addition of £450,050 of ongoing growth in services and £392,548 of one-off growth to support ambitions
- **Economic growth:** despite covid restrictions the growth hub held 53 events/ working with GCC re M5 j10
- **Housing and communities** new housing and homeless strategy in place and supported delivery 150 affordable homes
- **Customer first** new digital platform 'Liberty Create'/bulky waste service completely reformed
- **Garden communities** the garden town initiative continues to progress close to the M5 J10. This will address a considerable amount of the pressure on required housing numbers
- **Sustainable environment** Small electricals waste collection now in place/ Car park solar canopy initiative will meet the vast majority of the council's energy needs.
- **Covid 19** 5,477 individual business grants awarded - £31.6m. £425k to support residents with test and trace. £130k for small community grants. £170k for "Welcome Back" shops support
- The budget book for the forthcoming year is available under 'Budgets and Finance' on the Website.

9 PLANNING:

9.1 Applications: None

9.2 TBC Decisions: 21/011538/CLE Puddle Barn, Court Drive, Apperley: Retain the use & occupation of building as ancillary annex – Certificate granted

9.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions: None

9.4 Neighbourhood Plan: Councillor Bromberg reported:

- The NDP Steering Group had appointed a new planning consultant
- The draft NDP is complete and will be consulted on with the local community across the summer
- At the beginning of September, the plan will be sent to TBC for Examination

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

10.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

	Item	Expenditure	Income	Comment
1	Clerk's salary – May Less Tax	380.99 <u>18.60</u> 362.39		Paid
2	Inland Revenue	18.60		Paid
3	AVH – Meeting 27.4.22	15.00		Paid
4	Zurich: Renewal of insurance 1.6.22	518.33		Paid
5	Countrywide: Grass cutting in April Less credit from July 2021	250.00 VAT 50.00 <u>32.14</u> 267.86		Paid
6	Shirley Fowler: Carrying out internal external audit 5.5 hrs at £15 p/h	82.50		Paid
12	Allotment Rent		30.00	
	Total	£1264.68	£30.00	

10.2 Financial Statement: Circulated with the agenda - the Chairman signed this.

10.3 Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022: Clerk reported that Shirley Fowler had completed the Internal Audit and reported as follows:

- Applied the tests as set out in Appendix 8 of the Practitioner's Guide Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England and Wales and found them to be satisfactory.
- Confirmed that Risk management procedures currently in place are completely appropriate, sufficient, and very well monitored in accordance with the Risk Management file.
- Tested payment procedures as against receipts/invoices, cheques drawn and bank statement entries and found these to be satisfactory, also leaving a good audit trail.
- Understands that no Petty Cash system operates within the Parish Council

Mrs Fowler therefore completed and signed Annual Internal Audit Report section of the accounts. She had submitted her invoice for these services.

10.4 Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 Agree and sign Governance Statement: The Clerk took the Councillors through the Annual Governance Statement – it was agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

10.5 Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 Agree and sign accounts: The accounts were agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

10.6 Upgrade of Equipment: The Clerk has circulated an email to the Councillors prior to meeting stating that the current laptop, purchased around 6 years, was adequate at the time, but since then the IT World has moved on. Because modern software, programs and websites are more complex and more sophisticated, they require more processing power to be able to use them. **It was agreed that the PC would purchase another laptop at a cost £699 plus £20 plus VAT for data transfer.**

CC Awford entered

11 MATTERS ARISING

11.1 Apperley Village Hall: Councillor Oldham reported the committee are looking at replacing the front doors and then upgrading the toilets.

Playing Field: The grass cutting has been rather inconsistent around the main field, playing field and Hall verge. **Clerk to request a site meeting with Countrywide and Councillor Oldham.**

Play Area: Councillor Oldham said that enquiries were ongoing about obtaining quotations for replacing some of the surface. This was going to be a very expensive project.

Carpark: Recycling bin is being delivered week commencing the 7 June and will be placed on the right-hand side of the carpark out of sight.

Allotments: Following on from the report from an allotment holder regarding dog fouling it was agreed that Councillor Oldham would contact TBC to see with someone could assist with the problem.

11.2 Highways: Councillor Pollard updated on a few other issues that have arisen in the Parish.

Numerous potholes have been filled in for the Women's Tour of Britain will take place on Wednesday, 8 June also the verges have been cut both sides for the race

Clerk to instruct Ken Preece to carry out a verge cut for the rest of the Parish asap.

11.3 Public Rights of Way: Councillors Pollard gave a short update.

11.4 Speed Signs/ANPR:

Councillor Pollard reported as follows:

- Received a firm offer from Dave Holland of the Criminal Justice Department to train a Speedwatch group. His minimum requirements are a group of three and a drink of tea. The Village Hall and Sawpit Lane would seem to be the obvious venue. The bad news is that, like litter-picking, we cannot operate the group where the speed limit is above 40 mph. As I know much less than others about the speeding habits on Sawpit Lane and past the School, Councillors to think about how to ask for volunteers, possible sites for using the "gun" and whether (or not) they wish to be involved.
- Future VAS - had a phone meeting with Nick Evans (Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner) on Thursday. Since he had found the rough costs of a ANPR tripod, a main ANPR sign and connecting the electricity supply, he wanted to know what the OPCC would be prepared to support. Since then, we have had the offer to train a SpeedWatch group from Dave Holland and the launch of the Community Speedwatch Safety Fund

The Chairman said he would be happy to be involved in the Community Speedwatch group. Clerk to ask for volunteers on the community facebook site.

11.5 Queen Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: The celebrations had all be confirmed at the Village Hall and Cricket Club. Sadly, the street party planned for Deerhurst Walton has been cancelled

11.6 DPPFA Insurance: The DPPFA take care of the play area and tennis court that is on Parish Council land. The Trustees were wondering as trustees if they are covered by the Parish Council's Public Liability insurance in case, they were held individually liable/sued for anything.

In conjunction with advice from the insurance **It was agreed that if the Trustees were co-ordinating work under the direction of the PC, then all are covered. Councillor Oldham will need to ensure updates are in the PC minutes to say that it is.**

12 CORRESPONDENCE: Any Other Correspondence:

GCC Ash Dieback Project, replanting scheme: In June 2020 GCC Highways launched the Ash Dieback Project to start to tackle the effects of the disease within the county. During the two years, GCC Highways managed to remove 7,293 infected Ash Trees which posed a danger to highway users. With an aim of replanting at least two trees for every diseased tree felled. During the last two planting season a total of 31,796 trees were planted by March 2022, either by our Ash Dieback team or through providing young trees to Parish Councils.

The replanting season runs between November and March, and GCC would encourage the local parish councils to use their local knowledge and expertise to assist GCC in identifying suitable areas within your community where replanting can be undertaken. If practical we would be looking at planting in groups of mixed native whips (young tree seedlings 2-3 years old) rather than larger specimen trees, but we can consider all requests. PCs can either:

Submit areas to be considered for replanting on highways land by the Ash Dieback Team or

Submit a request for whips / trees to be donated to the parish council, to plant themselves within the community.

It was agreed Councillors would give this matter some thought and discuss at the next PC

meeting.

13 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Land adjacent to Pink Cottage, School Road, Apperley: The Chairman reported that the residents had filed a formal complaint against TBC about their decision to grant permission. The PC had written to BC McLain expressing their dis-satisfaction how this matter has been handled however were still waiting for a reply from TBC.

PC Website: The Clerk was making no progress in obtaining the templates for the website. Clerk to look at using another Wordpress template.

14 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 22 June at 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.