

DEERHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 23 February 2022 in Apperley Village Hall

Present: Len Attard – Chairman
Ben Oldham
Jim Pollard
Jonathan Smith (partial attendance)
A Wilkes
Fiona Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 0

1 APOLOGIES: CC Awford, BC Mclain, Councillors Rutter, Bromberg. Councillor Smith would be late

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held on the Wednesday, 26 January 2022, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AWFORD: (Report circulated prior to the meeting)

- The budget went through County Council last Wednesday with a few amendments but no changes to the 2.99 % consulted on
- Obviously given the recent flood issues CC Awford is out every day checking levels and highway signage Sadly, there are those who choose to remove the barriers at the B4213 end of Wainlodes Lane, however now the water has risen this is no longer an issue. Looking likely the B4213 will have to close by the weekend or before

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MCLAIN: (Report circulated prior to the meeting)

- TBC agreed a Council tax rise of an overall increase of 3.87% the equivalent of £5 per band d to put that in context the town and parish council average across the Borough is 7.3%, the equivalent of £ 4. 62 although Apperley and Deerhurst as you know is less at 2.24%
- Council also welcomed a commitment with the Parishes re flooding
- The Council have also agreed appointment of a new Chief Executive to start in June
- The Housing team has been preparing the county-wide Rough Sleepers Initiative funding bid for submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Communications:

- A press release was issued at the start of February to promote the Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund - a new support grant for businesses operating from business-rated premises.
- The Test and Trace Support Fund continues to be promoted across our social media channels.

Household Support Grant – food and fuel support for vulnerable residents:

- Letters have been sent to households in Bands A and B on Council Tax support. These households will receive either £20 supermarket vouchers for individuals and couples, or £40 supermarket vouchers for families.
- Supermarket vouchers will also be offered to residents eligible for Test and Trace payments and those receiving housing advice.
- Support is also being provided from Tewkesbury Foodbank (food and fuel vouchers), Hungry No More foodbank (food parcels) and the Citizen's Advice Bureau (food and fuel vouchers). Residents need to be referred to these schemes via a referral agency e.g., a GP, health visitor or the police.

- Further, wider support can be provided by Gloucestershire County Council. On Your Mind app:
- The On Your Mind app has been launched to help young people access mental health support.

Welcome Back Fund:

- Promotional work to support a safe return to high-street shopping continues. The campaign - which focuses on a new brand incorporating the slogan 'Re-discover Local' - includes regular social media posts, publicity films, and promotional literature and handouts.
- Other work includes events/markets, deep cleans of the three retail centres in Tewkesbury, Bishop's Cleeve and Winchcombe, and training for businesses.
- The fund is to be spent by the end of March 2022.

Growth Hub:

- The number of people calling into the hub to receive business advice and support continues to increase.
- Attendees of Growth Hub events continue to provide very positive feedback.
- The closing date for applications to the Council Tax Hardship fund has been extended to 20 February 2022. This is to enable us to assist even more residents experiencing exceptional financial hardship.
- The team is currently waiting on guidance from the government which will allow us to plan the delivery of the Council Tax Energy Bills rebate.
- The Business Cell continues to receive a high number of applications for Test and Trace self-isolation payments from residents on a low income who are required to self-isolate.
- The Covid-19 Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant, which provides grant support to hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses, remains open for applications until 18 March 2022.
- The Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund, which provides business rate relief to businesses that have been unable to access previous Covid-19 business-rate relief schemes, is open to applications until 25 February 2022. This support is aimed at businesses that have been adversely affected by the pandemic and have been unable to adequately adapt to the impact.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT: None present

6 PLANNING:

6.1 Applications: None

6.2 Decisions: 21/00719/FUL Wood Lea, School Road, Apperley: Erection of a single storey front porch extension, single storey front extension to link existing garage and erection of a single storey rear extension – **Granted**

21/00600/FUL Agricultura Building Abbots Court Farm, Deerhurst: Erection of a two-bay extension to existing agricultural building for use as feed and machinery – **Granted**

21/00833/FUL The School House, Deerhurst Road, Deerhurst: Demolition of existing carport, erection of a new garage and remodelling of existing single storey rear extension – **Granted**

21/01403/FUL Green Orchard, Walton Hill, Deerhurst: Erection of side and rear extension (Revision of application 20/00857/FUL)

6.3 Appeals: None

Appeal Decisions: None

6.4 Neighbourhood Plan (NP): Nothing to report

7 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

7.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

	Item	Expenditure	Income	Comment
1	Clerk's salary – February	348.07		Paid – £363.07 less £15 tax
2	Inland Revenue	15.00		Paid
3	AVH – Meeting 26.1.22	15.00		Paid
4	Gloucestershire County Council: Build Back Better Fund		469.00	

	Total	£378.07	£469.00	
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7.2 Financial Statement: Circulated with the agenda - the Chairman signed this.

8 MATTERS ARISING

8.1 Apperley Village Hall: Councillor Oldham reported:

- The defib will be fitted on the 3 March
- Improvements are being made to the wi-fi
- Panto rescheduled for 4-5 March
- VH applied and has now received the covid grant
- Looking at replacing the front doors

Allotment: Nothing to report.

Play area: Nothing to report

Playing Field – Request to use for marquee for wedding: The Chairman reported that he has spoken to the parishioner who has confirmed that they will be hiring the hall for the day and will be applying for a temporary licence to hold the event. Councillors agreed that the cost for the use of the field would be £50. Chairman to inform parishioner.

8.2 Highways:

Potholes – Sawpit Lane: Councillor Pollard reported that the Highways Manager is going to inspect the lane.

Overgrown Hedges onto Public Highway: The hedge from Oak House is protruding into the road – Councillor Wilkes said he would speak to the owner.

8.3 Public Rights of Way: Nothing to report

Councillor Smith entered

9 CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing to report

10 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: Councillor Wilkes said that a joint meeting had been held with the Village Hall to discuss possible celebrations. On the Saturday there will be an event at the Village Hall along the lines of a picnic, treasure hunt, crown making competition with afternoon tea and cake. On the Sunday the Cricket Club would host the presentations of the prizes from the competitions which would hopefully encourage people to attend what is planned there.

Kids Cricket Teams: Councillor Wilkes said that this year there were several kids cricket teams, and they were looking for a secondary pitch and asked if the playing field would be suitable. Councillors felt this would not be an option as the grass would not be suitable for playing cricket on.

11 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 16 March 2022 at 7.15pm

Close of meeting 19.58pm