

## DEERHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 11 October 2023 in Apperley Village Hall

Present: Len Attard – Chairman  
Laura Bromberg  
Ben Oldham  
Jim Pollard  
John Rutter  
Jonathan Smith  
Fiona Wallbank – Clerk

Members of the Public: 0

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillors Dimond-Brown, CC McLain, BC McLain  
The Chairman welcomed Councillor Oldham back to the Council. Councillor Oldham signed his Declaration of Acceptance.

**2 MINUTES OF MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on the Wednesday, 13 September 2023, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed

**3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None**

**4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MCLAIN: Report taken as read in his absence:**

**Highways:** Fix my street soft launch w/b 18.9.23. Minor works programme to be published imminently. Find and fix gangs have fixed 11,451 non safety defects.

**Flooding:** Full-time, permanent NFM Project Delivery Officer (PDO) appointed to run the Natural Flood Management Project. It is hoped that they will accelerate the identification and delivery of interventions across the county; adding value to existing projects whilst identifying new potential.

**Children in Care:** Following on from my previous report re Trevone House and care placements, GCC are working on building a facility in Stroud to support Children in Care. Due to local opposition this is going slowly, but with the publishing of the report on Trevone House it is hoped that get this moving.

**Pressure on social care staff:** Most of the Key Measures are moving in the right direction, including number of cases per Social Worker, percentage of Agency Staff and Staff attrition. However, they remain above target in some areas.

**Rural School Places:** I have asked the scrutiny committee and Cabinet member to carry out a review into pressure on the availability of rural school places and how this can be addressed for future year intakes.

New special school, Sladewood Academy, in Stroud, has opened bang on schedule this week. It uses the building formally occupied by Severn View Primary Academy and has cost £1 million to adapt. It offers 60 much needed places for children aged 4-11 with Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties (MALD) and helps us tackle the increasing demand in Gloucestershire for special school places.

Cabinet, in July, agreed to spend £16.5 million to set up another new special school, again for children with MALD. It will open in 2026 and accommodate 200 primary and secondary pupils in Abbeydale in Gloucester

**Property:** NHS ICB (Integrated Care Board) moved into Shire Hall 29.8.

Fire Service are moving into Quayside w/b 18.9 from Waterwells (police are keen to take the previously occupied space).

**New Dementia Strategy.** Produced in collaboration with the local NHS, the strategy outlines our approach for the medium term. Gloucestershire is considered above average for our performance on Dementia, in particular diagnosing people early, but here is still much to be done specifically in prevention and improving quality of life of those diagnosed. This strategy pulls together all the latest thinking on the topic and should ensure we have a clear set of goals.

You can read the Strategy here: [Dementia Strategy.pdf](#)

**Tree Planting:** Following on from my previous report: Tree planting now delivered over 220,000 trees against our target of 1 million by 2030. But the new planting season is about to start and every year is a new challenge.

We always need more land and partners, so please keep your eyes and ears open for opportunity and spread the word that we are keen to help local initiatives such as local parish councils, schools, private estates and businesses.

**REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MCLAIN: Report sent in her absence:**

*Paul and I sat in on a private meeting with the chief executive and assorted officers and expressed ourselves robustly. In essence the officers/new administration have taken an executive decision not to contest appealed planning committee decisions. Their focus is on finances and all current appeals will only be contested through section 6, parish councils and GCCs education/highways. Paul queried whether Counsel or legal advice had been taken to justify this stance. It has not. The chief executive maintains that all the previous advice received as regards the Tewkesbury Borough Plan and the NDPs is irrelevant.*

*As an observation I was extremely pleased to see that TBCs accounts for 22/23 will be unqualified one of the very few across the country. The Councils current accounts are in very good shape!*

**5 PUBLIC COMMENT:** None present.

**6 PLANNING:**

**6.1 Applications: None to date**

**6.2 Decisions: None to date**

**6.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions: None**

**6.4 Neighbourhood Plan: Len - Laura to provide**

**7 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**7.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:**

	Item	Expenditure	Income	Comment
1	Clerk's salary – October Less Tax	423.39 <u>27.00</u> 396.39		Paid
2	Inland Revenue	27.00		Paid
4	Countrywide: Grass cutting on the 6 & 20 September	250.00 <u>VAT 50.00</u> 300.00		Paid
4	Apperley Village Hall – meeting 13.9.23	10.00		
5	Parish On Line subscription due 1.10.23	75.00 <u>VAT 15.00</u> 90.00		
6	Wa+erplus – Water rate for the period 10 August- 10 October	28.33		
6	Allotment Rent		<b>35.00</b>	
7	NDP Grant		<b>8639.00</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£851.72</b>	<b>£8674.00</b>	

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

**7.3 Grass Cutting Contract 2024-2026 (inc):** Three quotes received. The Clerk had circulated these to the Councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed that best value would be to renew the current contract with Countrywide. Clerk to stress that all areas need cutting every time.

**7.4 Budget 2024/25:** The Clerk had circulated a draft budget prior to the meeting for their consideration. Some small adjustments were made and **it was agreed that the Clerk should put her Salary as an agenda item for the November meeting. It was also agreed that the Clerk email Ken Preece to ask what the cost would be for cutting the road junctions onto the B4213 ie, Sawpit Lane (both sides), Turning to Deerhurst, both ends of Deerhurst Walton and the bend on Inghams Corner**

## **8 MATTERS ARISING**

**8.1 Apperley Village Hall:** Councillor Oldham reported that the Village Hall are looking to move forwards with an expansion proposal involving building a proper sports hall. Thought had been given to including a Community Shop but it was felt that this would cause problems as the shop would need staffing.

**Allotment:** Nothing to report.

**Play area:** Nothing to report.

**Playing Field:** Nothing to report

**8.2 Highways: Lower Apperley Sign** has finally been replaced.

**Culvert Deerhurst Walton:** This has been reinstated and all repairs carried out to a good standard.

**Potholes around the Parish:** Councillors are cautiously optimistic that improvements have been made to the pothole repair scheme.

**Reflector Posts:** It would appear that all these have now disappeared/been destroyed.

**8.3 Public Rights of Way:** Nothing to report.

**8.4 Community Speedwatch Camera:** Councillor Pollard demonstrated the software package linked to the Community Speedwatch Camera.

**8.5 Willow Trees at Village Pond:** A Land Registry search was carried out and confirms that the Village Pond belongs to Apperley Court. The Clerk had email Mr Vince to inform him.

**8.6 Review of Financial Orders:** The Clerk had updated the Financial Orders however said that NALC are currently reviewing these on a National level. **It was agreed to wait and see what is agreed by NALC.**

**8.7 Review of Standing Orders:** Defer to the November meeting.

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE:**

**9.1 TBC:** New premises licence at Tewkesbury Brewing Company Ltd, Unit 29, Highfield Business Park: **The following response was agreed:**

This matter was discussed at Wednesday's Parish Council meeting and I have been asked to send the following comments:

Deerhurst Parish Council object to the granting of this licence for the following reasons:

1. Increase in noise due to the frequency of the proposal of late night live/recorded music
2. Concerns about the accessibility to the site
3. No public transport to the site

**Any Other Correspondence: Review of Polling Districts:** Contents noted.

## **10 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:** None

**11 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 8 November 2023 at 7.15pm

**Close of meeting 8.49pm**