

DEERHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13 September 2023 in Apperley Village Hall

Present: Len Attard – Chairman
Laura Bromberg
Jonathan Smith
Fiona Wallbank – Clerk
CC P McLain (partial attendance)
BC H McLain (partial attendance)

Members of the Public: 0

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors Dimond-Brown, Rutter and Pollard

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held on the Wednesday, 12 July 2023, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

4 REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MCLAIN:

- The Borough Council are moving forward with the Cheltenham, Gloucester & Tewkesbury Strategic Local Plan (CGTSLP). It will draw together four core elements formally (JCS) which potentially exacerbates the probable development in Tewkesbury as Cheltenham & Gloucester don't have many sites meaning, they will fall to us as they did last time through the JCS and their nominated urban extensions. The 3 authorities are proposing to start public consultation this autumn with the process concluding in 2026.
- Looking at air source heating for the Council Offices which would be a considerable outlay – into the 7 figures.
- New website now live.

Councillor Bromberg again raised concerns that TBC are not able to provide a 5-year land supply. Following the July meeting the Clerk had registered the Parish Councils with the Chief Executive at TBC.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MCLAIN:

- At the July meeting Councillor Diamond-Brown had asked whether a litter pick could be carried out prior to the verge cutting – he was awaiting to hear back.
- The new find and fix scheme with jet spraying seems to be working well teams have attended to 1,000 potholes.
- Fire Service and Police are working together on a scheme to produce a badge for the designated driver on a night out to wear to encourage pubs etc to offer them a free drink – 112 drink driving accidents in a year with 42 serious.
- Parishioners in villages are concerned their children can get into their local schools due to them being full. Apparently Apperley School is currently full.
- Two new “special” schools will be opened – one in Abbeydale

5 PUBLIC COMMENT: None present.

6 PLANNING:

6.1 Applications:

Application considered/decided prior to the meeting:

23/00636/FUL The Cottage, Walton Hill, Deerhurst: Demolition of garage and construction of two storey annex to dwelling – No adverse comment sent to TBC. Granted by TBC

No other applications

6.2 Decisions: 21/00009/NMA Lark Rise, Wick Lane, Apperley: Non-material amendment to 21/01224/FUL to vary main entrance materials inc Oak Truss & additional glazing - Granted

6.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions: None

6.4 Neighbourhood Plan: Councillor Bromberg reported some positive progress on the Neighbourhood plan this month:

- all policies have now been re-drafted, except for the policy on Design
- a further grant has been awarded for the Design Code (written in 2019) to be re-produced, based on the Huntley model which the group were impressed with. This will then form the basis, of the remaining policy. Members of the group will meet Aecom at the beginning of October.
- the group has applied for the annual general grant of c£8k. Once received Lee Searle (planning consultant), will be employed to fine tune the new policies, prior to them going for a policy check.
- a grant has been awarded for the checking of all policies for their robustness, and to ensure that they will perform the function that the Parish Council will need to judge planning applications. This should negate the need to wait for Tewkesbury Borough Council, who have not been back in touch. This will be the final piece of work prior to public consultation, and should make the process more straightforward. It is expected that this will be in the New Year.

7 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**7.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:****Payments for August:**

	Item	Expenditure	Income	Comment
1	Clerk's salary – August Less Tax	423.39 <u>27.00</u> 396.39		Paid
2	Inland Revenue	27.00		Paid
3	AVH – Hire of hall on 12.7.23	10.00		Paid
4	Countrywide: Grass cutting on the 12 & 26 July	250.00 <u>VAT 50.00</u> 300.00		Paid
5	Cost of room hire for NDP meeting (refund to L Bromberg)	10.00		Paid
6	Wa+erplus – 10 July to 10 August	89.17		Paid
	Total	£832.56	£0.00	

Payments for September

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1	Clerk's salary – September Less Tax	423.39 <u>27.00</u> 396.39		Paid
2	Inland Revenue	27.00		Paid
4	Countrywide: Grass cutting on the 7 & 23 August	250.00 <u>VAT 50.00</u> 300.00		Paid
	Total	£723.39	£0.00	

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

8 MATTERS ARISING

8.1 Apperley Village Hall: Nothing to report.

Allotment: Some allotment paths had not been cut. All done now.

Play area: Nothing to report

Playing Field: Nothing to report

8.2 Highways:

Chris Hawkins has changed job. He recommends using the Highways Councillor facility (always copied) to report problems. No replacement for Chris has been appointed.

Tree and hedges between Sawpit Lane and Orchard End: Residents concerned. Highways (Chris) looked at them and has raised orders/actions to cut back hedges and inspect trees.

8.3 Public Rights of Way: ADE89 causing problems for a parishioner as he can't get his dog over the stile. **Councillor Bromberg to find out more information.**

PROW at Deerhurst flood defence. No news.

8.4 Community Speedwatch Camera: received and fitted but turned out to be not working because GCC had held onto the first batch for about two years, affecting the battery. Ours was the first unit of the first batch, used by GCC for photographs. They lost one tool. The unit is with ASW for an upgrade and testing. A new GCC Project Officer has been appointed, by means of an e-mail copied to all. This has caused concern about GDPR but also some reports from a few councils with or without ASW, or with other devices.

8.5 Councillor Vacancy: The vacancy had been posted on the noticeboards in the Parish and promoted on social media. To date there has been no expression of interest. **It was agreed the Chairman would ask a previous Councillor if he was willing to fill the vacancy.**

8.6 Willow Trees at Village Pond: The Clerk presented the two quotations received from Adam Shayle and Matt Hale regarding various pollarding works to the three willow trees and the cherry tree. Due to the considerable expense involved **it was agreed that the PC needs to clarify exactly who is responsible for the maintenance of these trees. Councillor Smith to make enquiries.**

8.7 River Severn to River Severn Transfer (SST): As promised Mark Matthews had sent an update on the proposed scheme:

New water efficiency policies have been set by Government which means all water companies now need to reflect lower customer demand in their water resource plans. As a result of this, STT is currently assumed to be an alternative option, rather than a preferred water resource supply option for London and the South East. By being considered as an alternative option, STT would be required if Government water efficiency policies did not reduce demand to the levels anticipated or if preferred water resource supply options weren't forthcoming.

Where STT finally sits within the water resource plans will be determined after the updated WRSE Regional Plan is published at the end of the summer, alongside Thames Water's revised draft WRMP. It is noteworthy that WRSE are still updating their water resource modelling ahead of publication of the WRSE Regional Plan, so updates and additional changes could be made between now and the end of the summer. After publication, the water company WRMPs will then need to be a conclusion on where STT sits within the WRSE Regional Plan and water company WRMPs.

Mark Matthews will update you again at the end of August when the WRSE Regional Plan and Thames Water revised draft WRMP (alongside its Statement of Response) are published.

9 CORRESPONDENCE:

9.1 GCC – Ash Dieback (email 3.8.23): The Chairman reported that Ben Major at Apperley wanted some trees. **It was agreed he would find out more information.**

9.2 TBC – Government funding for defibs: Councillor Rutter had emailed and said that some Deerhurst parishioners indicate that a second defib at/near the Church would be welcome, given the increasing numbers of visitors. **It was agreed that as the Government Funding is open to a wide range of groups and organisations the Friends of Deerhurst Church should make the application direct.**

10 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

The Chairman and Ben Oldham would be meeting with Tim Morris to discuss the boundary fencing as raised at the DPPFA AGM. The Chairman will report next month.

11 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 11 October 2023 at 7.15pm

Close of meeting 8.15pm