

## DEERHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13 March 2024 in Apperley Village Hall.

Present: Len Attard – Chairman  
Matt Dimond-Brown  
Jim Pollard  
John Rutter  
BC McLain (partial attendance)  
Fiona Wallbank – Clerk

Members of the Public: 1 (partial attendance)

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillor Oldham and Smith, CC McLain and BC McLain.

**2 MINUTES OF MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 14 January 2024, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed

**3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None**

### **5 PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Email re junction of Saw Pit Lane and School Road: The email was circulated to the Councillors for their information prior to the meeting.** Mr & Mrs Hickling have lived in Box Tree Cottage for 8 and a half years now, so feel they have seen first-hand how dangerous the junction from Sawpit Lane onto School Road is. The triangle offers two directions into the village, which is unnecessary, so I suggest that the one with no safe visibility is taken out and the second is used to enter the village both onto Deerhurst Road and to School Road. This ensures the cars heading to the junction have a clear view of vehicles approaching from all directions, including Gabb Lane. I think it will make cars stop and therefore slow down in the village. It also provides safe passage for our villagers, young and old to be able to cross with care.

**It was agreed that Councillor Pollard would do some diagrams and would try and get Highways to have a site meeting.** Councillor Dimond-Brown raised that this is really a GCC issue however they have limited funds.

**6 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MCLAIN** was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting for their attention.

**The draft revenue budget for 2024/25 is £616.236 million**, a net increase of £49.103 million from 2023/24. This is based on an overall Council Tax increase of 4.99% (made up of 2.99% general Council Tax increase plus a 2% Adult Social Care (ASC) Precept increase). These proposals result in an annual Band D Council Tax of £1,599.82 (an increase of £76.04 or just over £1.46 per week). The budget is made up of £78.372 million additional investment in services.

Key elements include:

- £2 million Solar School Fund to install solar panels on all county council-maintained schools.
- More than £25 million for roads resurfacing as part of a £100 million commitment investment, which this year saw 212 roads resurfaced and 50,000 potholes filled. Next year we'll be resurfacing at least another 156 roads.
- £22 million investment in our schools including a new 200 place special school for 4-16 years in Gloucester and a new 2FE primary school in Bishops Cleeve.
- A further £2.2 million BSIP+ funding to improve bus service countywide, launch the new R route (Cheltenham, Bishops Cleeve, Woodmancote), and set up three new Robin services in Berkeley Vale, North Tewkesbury and South Cotswolds as well as expand the Forest of Dean operation.

- 500k for new JCB “Pothole Pros” as part of our pioneering approach to potholes, adding to our innovative range of tools like Road Mender, Jet Patcher, Bobcats, Find and Fix gangs and cold material trials.
- A £2,000 uplift for each Community Libraries to support their invaluable work across the county
- A fund to provide free travel voucher booklets for unemployed veterans valid for bus transport
- A £100,000 revenue and £100,000 capital pot to implement safety improvements at pick up and drop off around schools.
- £300k for natural flood alleviation schemes with £150k to allow residents affected by flooding to access Government grants

### **Departmental Budgets**

- CYP Revenue: £1.9m for more children’s social care staff to reduce caseloads and use of agency workers; £2.8m for additional staff to support SEND work to cope with 132% increase in requests for EHCPs since 2019.
- Adult Social Care Revenue: £1.9m for activities to improve hospital discharge by investing in additional adult social care and community-based reablement capacity; £4.2m to account for demographic growth pressures; £5.1m for activities to improve Market Sustainability and Workforce through uplifts for ASC providers including, domiciliary care, as well as nursing and dementia bedded care providers.
- Public Health Revenue: £4 million into sexual health; £6.1 million into supporting people to recover from drug and alcohol use; £2.7 million into supporting people to have healthier lifestyles and prevent disease. £8 million is invested in supporting people at risk of homelessness and in preventing and addressing domestic abuse; We continue to support over 600 Ukrainian guests and over 180 people under other government resettlement schemes with £3 million spent or committed so far; £12.1 million total into children and young people’s wellbeing and healthy development (including health visiting and school nursing services)
- Infrastructure Revenue: £310,000 to secure a spray injection patcher 6 months; £300,000 for the Highways Transformation Fund; £60,000 for winter treatment of cycle routes; £200,000 for Community Speedwatch phase 3; £500,000 for developing Mass Rapid Transit; £114,000 for A417 Maisemore - Flood Alleviation - Business Case Development; £2.1m continued investment in flood alleviation projects; £500,000 contribution to progress the Chepstow study to WeITAG stage 3.
- Adult Social Care Capital: £8.6 million Disabled Facilities Grant to support people with a disability to make adaptations to their homes.
- Corporate Capital: £116,000 Coroners Court Refrigeration Replacement; £3.8m IT upgrades; £2m for solar panels all grant maintained schools
- **Schools Capital (2024/25 costs only):**
  - £171,000 Heart of the Forest, 20 additional SEMH places
  - £79,000 Brook Academy New 80 place SEMH School
  - £87,000 Sladewood Academy new Special School
  - £7m The Wheatridge Special School, new 200 place MALD school. Total cost £16.5m
  - £685,000 Berkeley Primary expansion (£106 monies)
  - £6.4m Greenacres Primary – new 2FE school
  - £1.5m Southfields Semi-Independent Accommodation

### **REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MCLAIN:**

As you may have seen, a potential TBC name change has been initiated by the administration. Consultation is ongoing and there has been no decision yet. A number of suggestions have been put forward to date, include North Glos.

The Council has made more internal reorganizations with further grades of posts and titles changed. HR has staff shortages due to Maternity leave and staff leaving, so HR will be run from GCC for the next 6 months.

A new customer portal has been launched to provide digital access to council tax/business rates information. This is intended to reduce postal costs. To access this area, residents need to click on the self-service area on the TBC website.

A Garden Communities Charter has been agreed at Full Council. This is not a legal planning document and is unlikely to have much (if any) genuine influence over wider developments outside the designated garden town/community zone. In response to members questions, there was a rather vague response from the Leader of the council about the actual housing numbers involved. Although 4,000 was referenced with the focus on Ashchurch, the Leader was unable to confirm that the numbers would not reach anywhere up to 10,000 when other sites, including the M5 and Tewkesbury Rd corridor were included

TBC are currently reflecting on the flooding responses parishes and residents have provided.

The budget has been set for TBC. Full details can be found on the TBC website under February's Full Council Agenda and papers.

It is disappointing that bids of 200k were rejected for planning resilience and specialist planning support respectively. As you may recall, we had called for - and supported - further investment through audit and scrutiny committees last year.

There is also a technical reduction to the planning budget of 230k - 25% of the total, although, (thanks to Matt Diamond Brown who asked the question), this appears because of an equivalent anticipated increase in planning fees income.

Once again, given the state of planning, it is rather disappointing that this has not been reinvested directly back into the department, but has instead gone into the general budget.

## 6 PLANNING

**6.1 Applications: None to date**

**6.2 Decisions: None to date**

**6.3 Appeals: None Appeal Decisions: None**

**6.4 Neighbourhood Plan:** Councillor Bromberg reported as follows:

- Acom have submitted draft design guidelines however it needs a lot of edits which Councillor Pollard is kindly undertaking and Bob Bromberg is taking 100s of photographs
- First draft should be out by 18 March

## 7 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

**7.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:**

	Item	Expenditure	Income	Comment
1	Clerk's salary – March Less Tax	452.51 <u>33.00</u> 419.51		To be paid
2	Inland Revenue	33.00		To be paid
3	AVH – Meeting 14.2.24	12.00		To be paid
4	Contribution to Parish Magazine and grass cutting	300.00		To be paid
5	Community Heartbeat: Annual support for defib	135.00 <u>VAT 27.00</u> 162.00		To be paid
6	TBC – renewal of lottery licence	20.00		To be paid
7	Wa+erplus for period 12 February to 12	16.57		To be paid

	March			
7	HMRC – VAT return for 2022/23		1230.47	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£963.08</b>	<b>£1230.47</b>	

**7.2 Financial Statement:** Was agreed and signed by the Chair.

**7.3 Appointment of Internal Auditor:** It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to use the services of Shirley Fowler.

## **8 MATTERS ARISING**

**8.1 Apperley Village Hall:** The Clerk had circulated the grant funding AVH.

**Dog Waste Bin – Carpark:** TBC has been instructed to supply, fit and remove existing bin for a total of £452 plus VAT.

**Allotment:** Nothing to report. **Play area:** Nothing to report.

**Playing Field:** The Clerk had circulated a draft of a job description for a Chair for the DPPFA. **It was agreed that the Clerk promotes this on the Community Facebook page and run an advertisement in The Severnsider.**

**Requests from parishioners to use the playing field:** The Clerk reported she had received 3 requests to use the playing field for family functions and 2 of the events want a bouncy castle. **The Councillors were happy for the bouncy castle but the hirers need to see a copy of the providers Insurance and Public Liability insurance. Clerk to inform Chris Freeman of the dates of the events.**

**8.2 Highways: Discuss email re junction of Saw Pit Lane and School Road:** See above.

**Wick Lane:** Highways have been at least 3 times trying to fix “something” possible repairs to a pothole.

**Pothole Deerhurst** repaired in Deerhurst. Other potholes need attention prior to the Flower Festival.

**8.3 Public Rights of Way:** The Chairman had received a complaint that two footpaths were blocked – one opposite Wells Farm and opposite Wick Lane. These are already on fixmystreet.

**8.4 Community Speedwatch Camera:** Councillor Pollard reported he has submitted a report for the first time in 3 months due to the lack of sunlight. No reports for December-February. A lengthy discussion took place whether the camera was successful at modifying the behaviour of drivers. **It was agreed that more reports were required.**

**8.5 Risk Assessment for Pond at Village Hall:** Defer.

**8.6 Tirley Minibus:** The Chairman said he had not met with the people concerned - hopefully he would have something further to report next month.

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE: None**

## **10 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:**

**CIL:** A lengthy discussion took place on how the CIL money would be spend. During the conversation questions were asked why the Deerhurst flood alleviation is fully funded by TBC and the Deerhurst Walton is funded now by the locals. **It was agreed that Councillor Dimond-Brown would put together some draft principles how DPC would spend CIL monies.**

**Flood Alleviation Schemes:** It was agreed further information was required about the two flood alleviation schemes in Deerhurst and Deerhurst Walton.

**11 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 10 April 2024 at 7.15pm**

**Close of meeting 20.33pm**