

DEERHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 8 May 2024

PRESENT:

Councillors L Attard (Chairman)
L Bromberg (partial attendance)
M Dimond Brown
B Oldham
J Pollard
J Rutter
J Smith
CC P McLain (partial attendance)
BC H McLain (partial attendance)
Mrs F Wallbank – Clerk

Parishioners: 0

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors Bromberg would be late.

2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE

The Chairman asked for nominations for Chair – Councillor Rutter proposed Councillor Attard and Councillor Dimond-Brown 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: The Chair re 24/00211/OUT

4 MINUTES OF MEETING:

The minutes of the meetings held on the Wednesday, 10 April 2024, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed.

5 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Village Hall	Ben Oldham
Deerhurst Parish Playing Field	Mat Dimond Brown
Public Rights of Way	Jim Pollard
Neighbourhood Watch	John Rutter, Jim Pollard, Len Attard
Snow	Timothy Morris/Anthony Wilkes
Flood	Apperley, Gabb Lane: Nigel Blayney Deerhurst: John Rutter 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

● **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None present

● **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** He said there was not much to report:

- Commenced a new cycle of meetings at the County Council.
- The Gloucestershire Enterprise Partnership; From 1 April 2024 the roles and responsibilities of GFirst LEP transferred to Gloucestershire County Council.

Councillors raised the problem in School Road and he agreed to make some enquiries and report back.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:

We have a Council meeting next Tuesday 14th to elect the new Mayor for 24/25

At Full Council on Wednesday 15th May we will be looking at changing the name of Tewkesbury Borough Council to North Gloucestershire Borough. The change will be subject to a six-week consultation period.

The previous Council Plan agreed last year has been amended over the last 12 months by the new administration the key points being:

Caring for People – Young people Economy

Caring for the Environment – Flood resilience Climate & Ecology emergency

Caring for Place - Housing & homeless Health & wellbeing Place Managing growth

Last year the Council agreed to the implementation of webcasting. In June a system is going to be installed in the Council Chamber to enable Council and Committee meetings to be broadcast live.

Thus allowing for greater transparency. It is planned to 'go live' at Executive Committee on 17th July Coronation Living Heritage Fund – Community Orchards

The Tewkesbury Borough Council Community Orchard Grant scheme is now live. Grants are available for non-profit organisations up to £5,000. For all the information, including deadline dates, please see the information in the following link:

<https://tewkesbury.gov.uk/services/community/coronation-community-orchard-grant-scheme/>

I am not going to give a report on all the topics covered at previous parish reports.

The key point concerning all of us is the threat of major development. Over a year ago the Council were assured we had sufficient housing numbers in place to stop speculative development. But on appeal planning inspectors decided that a number of those sites couldn't be included, a number were instead allocated to Cheltenham and Gloucester in spite of being in Tewkesbury Borough.

The new administration that took over last May decided that they would not contest future appeals even if the planning committee refused, because developers would point to an insufficient housing supply. That is not a position I agree with.

J 10 has gone into detailed plans and design with a focus on the infrastructure. Of more concern to the community will be the massive housing developments stretching along the Tewkesbury Road which will of course come to Tewkesbury and Cheltenham

During council briefings and informal discussions I highlighted concerns about design density, affordable housing for the young. social infrastructure, GP, Schools, the strain on sewage systems and foul water runoff.

8 PLANNING:

8.1 Applications: 24/00211/OUT Fox Covert, Court Drive, Apperley: Outline application for the erection of a single storey self-build dwelling & detached garage/store with all matters reserved except for access.

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons:

After careful consideration, Deerhurst Parish Council would like to object to the above application.

The Permission in Principle (22/00965/PIP) for the proposed development was refused on 21.03.23 for the following reasons; 1. The proposed development would not represent infilling within the existing built up area of Apperley, and would not meet any of the other criteria within Policy SD10 of the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (2017). The application site is located outside of a settlement boundary as shown on the Housing Proposals

Map of the Tewkesbury Borough Plan, and the proposed development would conflict with Policies RES4 and RES5 of the Tewkesbury Borough Plan 2011-2031. There are no other specific exceptions/circumstances defined in district or neighbourhood plans which indicate that permission should be granted. The proposed development therefore conflicts with policies SP2 and SD10 of the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (2017) and Policies RES3 and RES4 of the Tewkesbury Borough Plan 2011-2031 in that the proposed development does not meet the strategy for the distribution of new development in Tewkesbury Borough and the application site is not an appropriate location for new residential development.

2. The proposed development would be in an unsustainable location for residential development, and the proposal would place a high reliance on the use of the car for travel to work, shopping, leisure, community facilities and other usual travel destinations. The bus service is not of sufficient frequency to access employment and other services. The location of the application site and the corresponding need to travel by car would not accord with the environmental dimension of sustainability. As such, the proposal is contrary to the overall objectives of Policy INF1 of the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (2017), policies PD 0.1, and PD 0.4 of the Local Transport Plan 4 and paragraphs 110 and 112 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) in seeking development to be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes.

The Parish Council believes that the grounds for refusal of the Permission in Principle still apply to the current application for full planning permission.

It was agreed that Councillor Pollard would email BC Mclain to ask if this application could be considered by the planning committee rather than delegated powers.

8.2 TBC Decisions: None

8.3 Appeals/Appeal Decisions: None

Councillor Bromberg entered

8.4 Neighbourhood Plan: Councillor Bromberg updated the Councillors as follows:

- Just received the final copy of the Design Guidelines which she will circulate to the Councillors. They have been written on an evidence-based process. These guidelines will really assist the Parish Council in making decisions on future planning applications.
- The unused grant of £7120.92 had been sent back and Alison Beddoes is now waiting for the window to open to apply for another grant which will fund further professional fees. Until this grant window opens consultants cannot be instructed unless the Parish Council wishes to act as financier. This would have risks attached in case central government decided to pull the funding for NDPs. **It was agreed to wait until the window to apply for funding opens.**

9 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

9.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

	Item	Expenditure	Income	Comment
1	Clerk's salary May Less Tax	452.51 <u>33.00</u> 419.51		To be paid
2	Inland Revenue	33.00		To be paid
3	AVH – Meeting 10.4.24	12.00		To be paid
5	AutoSpeedWatch renewal of licence due 20.5.24	148.00		To be paid
6	Insurance Renewal	664.26		To be paid
7	Wa+erplus for period 12 April to 12 May	£64.70 credit		To be paid

8	Countrywide: Grass cut 3 & 25 April	236.66 <u>VAT 47.33</u> 283.99		To be paid
9	Andrea Pellegram Ltd: Professional services in connection with the NDP	462.36 <u>VAT 92.47</u> 554.83		Paid
10	Groundwork UK: Unspent NDP grant for 23/24	7120.92		Paid
11	Precept for 2024/25		9770.00	
12	Allotments		475.00	
13	Interest from National Savings		21.98	
	Total	£9236.51	£10266.98	

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

9.3 Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024: Internal Audit: Prior to the meeting the Clerk had emailed the Councillors informing that the Parish Councils appointed internal auditor, Shirley Fowler, was in hospital and had informed the Clerk that she would be unable to carry out the Internal Audit this year and was very sorry.

The Clerk had asked Alison Beddoes if she would be willing to carry out the Internal Audit and she had kindly agreed to undertake this task. **It was agreed that the Parish Council would use Alison Beddoes**

9.4 Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 Agree and sign Governance Statement: Defer to June

9.5 Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 Agree and sign accounts: Defer to June meeting.

Any Other Financial Matters:

NS&I Savings: Following on from last month's meeting the Clerk had closed this account and confirmed that the sum of £7186.24 had been paid into the Lloyds Bank current account. Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to the Councillors different options with Lloyds Bank for opening a savings account. **It was agreed to put £20,000 immediately in a 95-day account. Clerk to action. Clerk to produce a forecast for a 6 month spend.**

10 MATTERS ARISING

10.1 Apperley Village Hall: Nothing to report re grants.

Playing Field: Discussions to be had at the DPPFA AGM.

Allotments: Jean Scorer is happy to continue as the Allotment Representative.

Play Area: A wooden handle on the large Hags equipment has broken off as it is completely rotten. Councillor Oldham is currently trying to see if a repair will work however with the age of this piece equipment is worried that some of the other posts will be rotten. To replace this piece of equipment will be around £40k. **It was agreed that the Clerk would book Louisa Hill to carry out the ROSPA inspection when due.**

10.2 Highways: School Road: The email from Judith Rudzki had been circulated to the Councillors. As discussed with CC McLain he would take this matter up with Gloucestershire Highways.

Ditches Sawpit Lane: Councillor Oldham reported that these were full of vegetation.

Visibility Splays: Concern was raised that it was difficult to get out of some junctions. **It was agreed that the Clerk would instruct Ken Preece to cut Sawpit Lane (both sides) onto B4213, Turning to Deerhurst from B4213, Both turnings to Deerhurst Walton, Inghams Corner on the bend, Wainlode Lane and in Deerhurst.**

10.3 PROW: Councillors Pollard joined a PROW session with GAPTIC. He is considering doing an audit of all footpath signs. The officer for Deerhurst is Will Saunders.

10.4 Community Minibus: The Chair said that the minibus is 16 not 20 years old as previously

stated. A mechanic at Greyhill who know the bus said it was in good condition however would need new tyres. So far he has had 6 people would be willing to be volunteer drivers. A post was put on social media however no comments were made or contact with the Clerk. A post will appear in the June edition of the Severn-Sider.

11 CORRESPONDENCE:

11.1 GRCC – Tim Gwilliam: Housing Needs Survey: The Clerk had circulated Mr Gwilliam’s letter introducing himself prior to the meeting. **It was agreed that this is something the Parish Council should pursue and keep updated and that Councillors Bromberg and Dimond-Brown would be happy to have initial discussion with Mr Gwilliam.**

Other Correspondence:

NALC Updated Financial Regulations: These have now been released by NALC. **It was agreed to discuss this at the June meeting.**

12 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

TBC Planning: One of the Councillors expressed concern that several architects they had approached for their own personal use had declined to help due to the fact that the property falls under the authority of Tewkesbury and did not wish to be involved with the planning department/conservation officer. The Councillor said they would take it up directly with TBC Planning Department.

Cil Payment: Put on the agenda for the June meeting.

13 DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 12 June at 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.