

DEERHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 12 June 2024 in Apperley Village Hall.

Present: Len Attard – Chairman
Laura Bromberg
Matt Dimond-Brown
Jim Pollard
John Rutter
Jonathan Smith
Fiona Wallbank – Clerk

Members of the Public: 2 (1 partial attendance)

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

2 MINUTES OF MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 8 May 2024, having been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: The Chair 24/00386/FUL and Councillor Smith in 24/00330/FUL

4 PUBLIC COMMENT: Received regarding the allotments see 8.1 and Highways Matters see 8.2

5 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MCLAIN: His report was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting and the Councillors said it was a very informative report. [Link to report.](#)
Clerk to email CC McLain requesting funds for an EV Charging point at the Village Hall.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MCLAIN: None

6 PLANNING

6.1 Applications:

24/00363/LBC Notcliffe House, Walton Hill, Deerhurst: Replacement windows to front of house

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council has no adverse comments to this application

24/00386/FUL Apperley Hall Farm, Lower Apperley: Extension of existing self-storage enterprise involving the change of use of land for mixed use purposes (B8 Storage & Agriculture) to enable the siting of static shipping style containers for storage use

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council does not object in principle to the application but has concerns about the potential for increased traffic and reduced road safety.

The Parish Council notes that the proposed development constitutes a substantial increase in the number of storage units. This will result in a number of impacts, including an increase in traffic using the existing agricultural access joining the B4213. This section of road has suffered from a number of incidents in recent years (see STATS19 data) and excessive speeds are recorded regularly by the Parish Community Speedwatch camera.

The traffic data within the supporting evidence appears to be based on generic information. The Parish Council would recommend that a more detailed assessment based on actual current and expected traffic levels is undertaken bearing in mind the potential for varied and unrestricted use of the units.

In addition, the Parish Council would like to see the following three conditions attached to any permitted development:

1. A prohibition on any outside storage on the site (as included in the previous decision).
2. Native trees are to be planted on a bund placed on the site's eastern boundary to compensate for the loss of hedgerows and to prevent the site from being overlooked.
3. No external lighting (as per the previous decision).

24/00330/FUL Manor Cottage, Walton Hill, Deerhurst: Erection of sprayer store

Comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council:

The Parish Council has no adverse planning comments to this application but is concerned with the Health and Safety aspect of the storage of chemicals. The Parish Council would like assurance that the applicant is taking the required measures to prevent any spillage of chemicals into any nearby watercourse, flood or groundwater.

6.2 Decisions: None

6.3 Appeals: None Appeal Decisions: None

6.4 Neighbourhood Plan: Councillor Bromberg reported that a bid had been made for a grant for the NDP from Groundworks and was awaiting to receive confirmation of the grant.

6.5 CIL: Councillor Smith asked if the Cil money could be used to finance new parts that are required for the pump at Deerhurst. The costs will be £3098.22 + VAT.

Councillor Dimond-Brown said he had spoken with TBC and they would not adopt the pump at Deerhurst.

A lengthy discussion took place about what the CIL money could/would be spent on. Previously it had been discussed the Parish Council would help the Village Hall.

It was agreed that Councillor Dimond-Brown would produce an application form for interested parties to use and submitted a week before next month's meeting.

7 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

7.1 Accounts for payment and receipts:

	Item	Expenditure	Income	Comment
1	Clerk's salary June Less Tax	452.51 <u>33.00</u> 419.51		To be paid
2	Inland Revenue	33.00		To be paid
3	AVH – Meeting 8.5.24	12.00		To be paid
4	Ken Preece – cutting visibility splays	120.00 <u>VAT 24.00</u> 144.00		To be paid
5	Countrywide grass cutting 7 & 22 May	236.66 <u>VAT 47.33</u> 283.99		To be paid
6	Interest on 95 day deposit account		48.26	
	Total	£892.50	£48.26	

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

7.3 Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 – Consider Internal Auditors Report: Alison Beddoes had kindly carried out the audit and her report had been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting and her report was received by the Councillors. Alison would like the Parish Council to donate the internal audit fee to Emmaus Gloucestershire charity. **It was agreed the PC would donate the sum of £100 and the Clerk was to ascertain the proper procedure to donate the money.**

7.4 Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 - Agree and sign Governance Statement: : The Clerk took the Councillors through the Annual Governance Statement – **it was agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.**

7.5 Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 - Agree and sign accounts: The accounts were **agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.**

7.6 Finances – Six month spend: The Clerk had prepared a six-month expenditure forecast and Councillor Oldham had responded stating that he would like to see a float of £5k in the current account and be more aggressive with the savings. His email had been circulated to the Councillors and **it was agreed that a further £3,000 would be added to the 90-day account and it was good practice to continue producing a 6 month expenditure forecast each month.**

7.7 Financial regulations – Update from NALC: It was agreed to adopt the Nalc Financial Regulations. Clerk to circulate a copy of all Councillors and place on website.

8 MATTERS ARISING

8.1 Apperley Village Hall: Malcolm Booth is currently pursuing various grants for the Village Hall and is keeping the Parish Council updated.

Dog Waste Bin – Carpark: Still awaiting installation.

Allotment: Complaints had been received that the grass contractors had not cut all the allotment paths and what had been cut was only one width when previously the contractor had cut two. The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with Roger Boden at Countrywide about issues, and he said he would speak to the gang.

Jean Scorer had said that she would like to release her allotment as from October 2024. **Clerk to contact the people on the waiting list.**

Jean had spoken to several of the allotment holders whether they would like a storage box which they would provide. Consensus was they were not required however she had not spoken to everyone. She would continue with her research.

Play area: Nothing to report.

Playing Field: Nothing to report

8.2 Highways:

Highways Problems:

1. The hole on the B4213 will require filling again very shortly for the fifth time in a short time frame.
2. The road in Deerhurst Walton was in a dreadful condition again.
3. Verges very overgrown – visibility cut only lasted about 2 weeks. **Clerk to instruct Ken Preece to carry out a full cut.**

Councillor Pollard reported as follows:

- Following his email with Max Kelly some new road markings had appeared at the Sawpit Lane junction.
- He was awaiting to meet with Max Kelly and discuss the situation with the water off at Moores Ground

Speeding in the Village: This is a matter of constant concern with the speed of some traffic travelling through the Village. **It was agreed that the Community Speedwatch Group would meet to monitor the situation.**

Flooding by Cricket Club: CC McLain had taken this up with James Boon at Gloucestershire Highways. Mr Boon reported their cyclical team had attended the site (just before the end of the last financial year) and reported there is a blocked connection due to the ditches in this area being heavily overgrown. Mr Boon had since attended the site and agrees that the ditches have been neglected for a number of years

It is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner to maintain these ditches under riparian ownership. They are arranging for ditch letters to be sent to the landowners regarding this ditch.

Mr Boon has spoken to Max and if no action is taken soon then we are happy to raise a work order to dig out these ditches. They would not be accepting responsibility for the ditches afterwards. Councillor Pollard said that he was meeting with Max Kelly on site as the action they are proposing to take will not solve the problem. It was mentioned at the meeting that apparently there was a broken pipe underground between the Lovejoy's and the Marlow properties which may have something to do with the problem. **It was agreed that the Clerk would feed this information back to Paul McLain as he was involved.**

8.3 Public Rights of Way: ADE45 unsafe stile: Email received from a Parishioner. This matter was reported to GCC in October 2022 and to date still nothing has been done. Councillor Pollard reported that this is on fixmystreet so already logged.

The Parish Council is having little response from the PROW department and Councillor Pollard has taken this up with the Principal Rights of Way Officer.

Hoo Lane: An email was received from a parishioner wondering if there were any funds available from the parish council towards maintenance of footpaths and bridleways. As you are probably aware Hoo Lane from the county council owned part (Roger Groves House) onwards is in a terrible state and as a footpath and bridleway it is now in dangerous state. They asked if it is down to them to maintain it, which they have been doing but it is a never-ending job and a constant source of frustration. Councillor Pollard said Highways have surfaced Hoo Lane to just beyond Orchard Cottage because they believe this the limit of their responsibility. When Gigaclear and Complete Utilities installed broadband, the cabinet was placed at the next track (to the left) leading to the barns near Red House Farm, indicating that they believed it was public land.

So, it would seem there is confusion over the ownership. If Gigaclear were correct, one might assume that Highways would surface the road to the same point; further than they have.

The ownership beyond this point is Priory Farm.

8.5 Risk Assessment for Pond at Village Hall: Councillor Oldham not present.

8.6 Community Minibus: The Chairman reported that the minibus had been sold however he was looking into other options. The PC had received an email from a parishioner requesting the reinstatement of the minibus.

9 CORRESPONDENCE: None

10 MATTERS RAISED FOR NOTIFICATION:

Fencing Apperley Playing Field: The Clerk had been in touch with the fencing contractor and the Morrises, and it has been agreed that the fencing works can be carried out in mid-August once the crop on the field had been cut. Ridley Fencing said that there could be an increase in the cost of materials since first quoted possible £250.

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

Close of meeting 20.42pm