

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Michelle English, Delamere House, Hill Furze, Fladbury, Pershore, WR10 2NB
Tel: 01386 860502, email ashtonunderhill@yahoo.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th November 2014 @ 7pm in the Green Room, Ashton under Hill

Members and Officers present: Cllr Moore (Chair) Cllrs Barnett, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Sanger-Davies, Cllr Cope, Cllr Hague & Cllr Smith

In attendance: Clerk, CC Hardman, DC Darby & 3 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** To receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
 - a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests. None
 - b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. Cllr Hague on planning application 01018
 - c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None
 - d) Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time – at 7.10 & re convened at 7.15.
Notes attached**

The time allocated is at the discretion of the council/chairman. Residents are invited to give their views and question the parish council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the parish council meeting itself. This period is not part of the formal meeting; brief notes will be appended to the minutes as an aide memoire.

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2014 were signed as a true record
4. **District and County Councillors' reports:** for information. (Items raised for decision will appear on the agenda for the next meeting.)

Report by District Councillor Adrian Darby to Ashton under Hill P.C. 4 Nov 2014

South Worcestershire Development Plan.

At the Council meetings held on 30 September 2014 the three South Worcestershire Councils agreed to undertake formal consultation into the proposed uplift in housing numbers in the SWDP. This was brought about by the need to revisit targets after the SWDP Inspector, Roger Clews, expressed his concerns over the level of housing being proposed to 2030 in the Plan Submitted in April 2013.

This consultation is entirely focussed on the proposed Modifications to be placed before the Inspector for examination once the next stage of hearings commence in early 2015.

There are a number of sites listed in the consultation for Wychavon, but all but one of these are sites for which planning permission has already been given (often on appeal) and which were not in the original submission document. The only entirely new site involved was one for 300 houses at Swinesherd Way on the edge of Worcester to meet the needs of Worcester City. So far as South Bredon Hill Ward is concerned there were no changes proposed.

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Five Year Housing Land Supply

The encouraging news is that there was a further update on this submitted to the Wychavon Planning Committee on 9th October. This reinforces the claim in the report to the July committee that Wychavon has 5.96 years housing supply. It is hoped that the inspector will be convinced by this evidence when it is submitted to the appeal inquiry into Benshams, Cheltenham Road, Bredon on 2-4th December. At an earlier appeal into a site at Drakes Broughton the inspector paid scant attention to the Council's case on this, and this decision is being challenged by Wychavon at judicial review.

Joint Chief Executive with Malvern Hills D.C.

Both councils have voted to share their chief executive and have appointed Jack Hegarty, who is currently managing director of Wychavon, to the post. This will result in cost savings of £60,000 per annum to each council.

Current large scale Planning Applications in the Vale

The Planning Committee refused the two large scale developments I referred to in my last report, for a very large chicken farm at Upton Snosbury and a 48 ha solar farm at Wickhamford. It will be considering the solar farm at Defford Aerodrome this coming Thursday.

Wychavon Council is arranging a Meet your Council visit to South Bredon Hill Ward on 28 November. The Meet your council programme is for councillors and managers to meet and talk to a range of people in their wards that they wouldn't normally meet, to listen to residents' and businesses' views about the area and the council and help resolve issues that arise. I will be accompanied by two council officers.

The programme is also an opportunity to explain to residents what we're doing in their area. It will start with my holding a surgery at the Star Inn from 10-11a.m and be followed by visits to local businesses.

Report by County Councillor Adrian Hardman

Cllr Hardman mainly addressed the issue of traffic / yellow lines in the village. Which are covered under section 5.g

The footpath on the Groaten was discussed and it was agreed that this is an important footpath. CC Hardman would try and get a couple of days booked to do basic clearing where there is already an old path and kerb on North side of Groaten down almost to Station House.

Children travelling on bus 540 are often made to stand which is a concern, however it is the parents responsibility and the school should write to parents.

The footpath from the Pub to the War Memorial is on the 2015 list for repair.

5. Progress reports: for information / discussion and comments if necessary

a. Social Centre

The Shindig and Autumn supper both did very well. It was mentioned that the kitchen facilities in the hall were poor and this made it difficult for people hiring the hall to do catering on site. This would be passed to the Social Centre Committee.

b. Bredon Hill Conservation Group.

The group did not object to the solar farm planning application however they are concerned about the number in the area and feel that a cap should be placed on these farms.

c. PACT

Meeting at Beckford Village Hall 1900hrs 14-10-14

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The role of PACT remains unchanged but the format is due to change so that the local group will need to run itself, organise the meetings, chair it and take follow-up action on the priorities agreed at the meetings with the appropriate authorities. West Mercia will still attend the meetings and will take their own actions on-board.

d. Lengthsman

We have still not secured a Lengthsman, it was agreed to advertise this post around the village as there may be interested parties.

ACTION SH/DC

e. Vehicle Activated Sign

It was noted that the old Lengthsman still has the battery and various other items belonging to the sign. His cheque will be with held until these are returned.

ACTION ME

f. Defibrillator

Defi returned to Sellers Medical, refund received, new order placed and defib received. The one we now have works off an independent power supply. Has a key, not a key pad. It was agreed that a list of responders would be placed in the booth with first names and telephone numbers.

Volunteers now need to be recruited. It was agreed to advertise this in the Parish News Letter as well as word of mouth. Interested parties to contact the clerk.

ACTION SS

The paint and door have been ordered for the phone booth. Once the cabinet has been received the installation can commence.

g. Highways issues (current traffic congestion proposal by WCC & School)

The Council discussed this at length with CC Hardman, it was agreed that under no circumstances do the Council want yellow lines in the village as they would not solve the problem.

The following options were suggested

- Reducing the speed limit to 20 mph
- Smaller busses
- Staggering both schools start and finish time.

CC Hardman agreed that

- The Highways officer needed to consult with the village and explain why he felt yellow lines would work.
- Invite Chris Halloway, Transport manager to the next meeting
- Investigate the 20mph suggestion
- Enquire as to why Highways have not responded to the Parish Councils letter.
- Invite the school and the bus company to attend the next meeting.

CC Hardman said he is the one that will sign off on this project but he wants the backing of the Parish Council, so agreed that nothing would happen until all avenues have been explored.

h. Trees in the Parish

Tree outside Elmwick Cottage did not have a preservation order on it, nor was this tree in a conservation area. According to Wychavon it was on Elmwick's land.

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It was agreed that the Council would ask the owners of Elmwick to please plant a tree in its place in the near future.

The hedges in the Groaten have been trimmed

It was reported that the trees on Gorse Hill needed trimming, Cllr Fletcher will obtain a quotation.

6. Planning

W/14/01924 – Cricket Club, approved

W/14/02042 – no comment yet

W/14/01745 – Land adjacent Northfield Farm (1 x gypsy pitch) withdrawn

7. Parish Plan

It was agreed to defer the Parish Plan and in the meantime for Councillors to think about the old plan and how to update it. In the meantime the Council needs to find residents who are willing to help / create a parish plan. Advertise in the Newsletter ACTION SS

8. The Village **Post Office** was discussed and it was agreed that Dorian Whitehead would be asked if the “old/new” post office in his house might be resurrected.

9. Finance

The budget was approved and it was agreed that Council had no option but to increase the Precept back up to where it was in 2012/13, ie. £14,000.00

Village Assets

1. Bus Shelter
2. Notice Board
3. Benches
4. Strimmer
5. Litter bins

Bank balance as at the 21st October 2014

Current - £7,134.39

Savings - £5,311.01

Total cash assets for the PC as at 21st October 2014 is £12,445.40

Cheques below were approved

M English	£ 579.51
AUHSC	£ 42.00
M Woodhouse	£ 330.00
OHL	£ 29.63
St Barbara	£1,500.00
J Fletcher	£1,698.00 (Direct 365, defib paid up front)
AUHSC	£1,180.00
J Fletcher	£ 45.59 (paint for the phone booth)

10. **Correspondence for Information:** To note the attached appendix of items which have been circulated or will be available for inspection at the meeting. (OR a list of items will be available at the meeting.)

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11. Clerk's report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting.

1. Clerk has spoken to Astons re bus collision on Cottons Lane, they need more information, date, time and description (colour) of coach before they can investigate.
2. Blocked Drain outside The Little Thatch in Beckford has been reported to WCC – Ref 6426148 and dealt with.

12. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda: Councillors may use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas.

- It was agreed that the council would form working groups as and when an item arose on the Agenda that needed constant work on in between meetings.
- It was agreed that there would be a village Litter Pick on Saturday 7th February 2015.
- It was proposed and agreed that if any member of the Parish Council is invited to a meeting or organises a meeting outside of the Parish Council meeting then they must invite other members of the Council to join them.

Date of next meeting: Date of the next meeting 13th January 2015 @ 7pm in the Green Room
The meeting closed at 9.45pm

.....(chairman)

.....(date)

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PUBLIC OPEN SESSION NOTES

Mrs Jill Humphrey enquired about the tree outside Elmwich cottage and hoped that the residents would eventually replace the tree.

Ian Facer said he was impressed that the Council had agreed to purchase and provide a defibrillator for the village. He raised his concerns about the following :-

- Location
- Key pad
- Keys
- Different pads for children, babies and adults
-

All of his concerns were answered and he thanked the Parish Council.