

WYTHALL PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 19th OCTOBER 2017 AT THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 P.M.**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor Mrs.S.Baxter	Chairman
	Councillor Mrs.D.Taylor	Vice Chairman
	Councillor D. Bibbings	
	Councillor Helen Cleaver	
	Councillor K.Footman	
	Councillor Mrs.K.Kingston	
	Councillor S.Peters	
	Councillor P.Rattigan	
	Councillor Mrs.S.Stewart	
	Councillor L.Turner	
	Councillor Mrs.C.E.Webb MBE	
	Councillor Miss L.Wright	
	Miss P.Harrison	Executive Officer

Dr.Christine Whittaker was present as an observer.

Also present was County Councillor C.Hotham.

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting Mr.Neil Caldicott and Mrs.Jayne Dovey from the Phoenix Group provided training for members to become a Dementia Friend. This was a most interesting presentation with all members being given a Dementia Friend badge. The Chairman thanked Neil and Jayne for attending and all the work they were undertaking in respect of this most rewarding project.

1. **APOLOGIES:** were noted and reasons for absence accepted from Cllr.Mrs.H.Bibbings and Cllr.Mrs.S.Lee.

District Councillor Denaro had conveyed his apologies.

County Councillor Kent had conveyed his apologies but provided a written report.

No apologies had been forthcoming from Cllr.Bell.

2. (i) **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS:**

(a) **Register of Interests:**

Councillors must complete their Register of Interests and update them as and when necessary.

(b) To declare any disclosable interests relating to items on the Agenda and their nature (Councillors with such interests must leave the room for the relevant items unless they have a current dispensation)

- (ii) **DECLARATIONS OF OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS:**

None declared.

(iii) **DISPENSATIONS:****Resolved 34/2017:**

To accept the list as presented with the inclusion of an additional dispensation from Cllr.Mrs.Baxter relating to being a Trustee of Wythall House Trust.

To be reviewed annually.

3. **COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

County Councillor Kent had submitted a written report in his absence.

(See copy of his report attached)

One query raised was "when is the hard standing on the Alcester Road created for the Police to park" likely to be used?

A discussion took place as regards what the percentage of take-up of Smart Water had been achieved when distributed in Walkers Heath.

County Councillor Hotham reported as follows:-

- (a) Children's Services – currently under review as the current cost model is unviable. Outcome should be known by the end of December 2017.
- (b) A435 – cats-eyes – Ringway were supposedly looking at this matter.
- (c) A "concealed drive" sign would be installed on the verge fronting dwellings on Alcester Road adjacent to Wythall Island.
- (d) A specialised "weed eradicator" should be seen around Wythall soon dealing with the weeds in gutters/kerbs.
- (e) Problems in (lower) Houndsfield Lane continue – Environmental Agency need proof regarding reported incidents.

Cllr.Mrs.Taylor referred to the lack of surfacing of the footpath on the Alcester Road (Village Hall) side. Cllr.Hotham responded that a Works Programme had been set up – under the "grading" scheme this section of pavement is the worst in Wythall.

Cllr.Peters queried how many children were in care at present in Worcestershire – 700.

Cllr.Mrs.Baxter commented that there is a chronic shortage of foster homes – how could the Parish Council help. Cllr.Hotham suggested an article in the next Parish Newsletter.

Cllr.Peters queried whether services will be cut – response was WCC may be able to balance the budgets without imposing cuts.

4. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

Councillor Turner referred to the problem he had been dealing with in Houndsfield Lane (Lower) which was ongoing.

Cllr.Peters had nothing to report.

Councillor Mrs.Baxter had nothing to report..

Cllr.Denaro had requested that the Meeting should be made aware with regard to a Nominated Neighbour scheme being launched by BDC in October which aims to prevent and deter rogue traders and door step crime. It was considered this might be something Neighbourhood Watch could get involved with.

Cllr.Footman queried, again, what the situation was as regards the former District Council Offices. Cllr.Mrs.Baxter responded that a report had gone to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee but nothing to report going forward to Full Council.

At this point Cllr.Mrs.Kingston raised a query as regards recent crime in the Parish and asked whether the Police Commissioner could be invited to address the Council on this subject being of the view the Parish was not kept aware as to crime rates etc. The Chairman explained that the Commissioner had visited the Parish several times, attending both Parish and PACT Meetings, and regular reports were received from the local Policing Team.

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

Resolved 34/2017:

(a) The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st September 2017 were duly accepted as a true record of matters discussed.

6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (Schedule attached):**

15.7.2016 -33/2016(b) Personnel Committee – Job Description/Mrs.Harris – Deputy Registrar.

Cllr.Footman queried when this matter would be dealt with and the Executive Officer explained that a Meeting still had to be arranged but Mrs.Harris did not wish to be Deputy Registrar. However, Bromsgrove District Registrar had confirmed that, in an emergency, he would be prepared to take on the duty of Registrar for Wythall Cemetery – details to be agreed.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Resolution 35/2017:

- (a) to note the Executive Officer's report as regards the letter received from WCC confirming that only one Disabled Parking Space had been approved in May Lane in accordance with County Cllr's Kent's request but, should the Council consider a second space was necessary, then an approach should be made to Cllr.Kent once the current planned space is implemented.
- (b) a verbal report was given by the Chairman of the Council as regards an informal Meeting held on the 7th September 2017 at the Parish Office with members of the Allotment Association Committee when it had been established that their first priority was to acquire an electricity supply to the allotments and their second priority was to have a defibrillator. It had been agreed that they would take the question of the electricity supply to their AGM (3rd November) to make sure all members were in agreement and aware that the Association would be responsible for any ongoing costs relating to the supply in future – same applying to the defibrillator. The content of any grant application for the defibrillator would depend on its siting.
- (c) to accept the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th September 2017 having noted and endorsed the interim actions taken by the Committee.

PLANNING:**Resolved 36/2017:**

- (a) to note the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th October 2017 and applications dealt with under Standing Orders for Committees 4(d) Parish Standing Orders.

FINANCE POLICY & RESOURCES:**Resolution 37/2017:**

- (a) to respond to the NALC Consultation relating to budget capping to the effect that, as an active Council, it takes its fiscal responsibilities in setting budgets very seriously and engages with the public where it could affect the precept setting.
- (b) to respond to the consultation relating to Disqualification Criteria in respect of elected Councillors– delegated to Cllr.Bibbings to formulate the response.
- (c) to ratify the Bank/Budgets in respect of September 2017 as presented, Councillors not having received amended copies with some alterations thereon, issuing updated copies at the next Finance Meeting for ratification and confirmation at Full Council
- (d) To accept the schedule of payments in respect of October 2017 noting the following individual resolutions:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 16.88 Baker Ward/signs | £48.00 |
| 29.89 Western Power/Make safe charge | £510.25 |
- (e) To ratify in retrospect the transfer of £10,000 in September respect of September payments.
- (f) to accept the recommendation from Community Services Committee that the £1000 received in respect of the Tesco Bags of Help be allocated towards the purchase of two new Notice Boards.
- (g) to note the report given by Cllr.Mrs.Taylor in respect of recent events held relating to the project “becoming a Dementia Friendly Village”.

At this point the Chairman invoked SO 10(a)(xi) due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

(h)(i) Acquisition of Land for use as Cemetery Extension:

The following questions were raised:

- (i) Is it Council's intention to continue to provide a burial ground once the current Cemetery is full?
- (ii) Is now the time to invest in further land for this purpose?
- (iii) Will Council give the necessary authority to obtain a letter of valuation in respect of a particular parcel of land under consideration (cost £250-£300)

Result of voting on all three questions above – unanimous agreement.

- (ii) Investment Account:
Further discussion on hold pending outcome of the above.

At this point the Chairman reinstated Standing Orders.

- (i) to accept the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th October 2017 having noted and endorsed the interim actions taken by the Committee.

8. **ITEMS OF PAROCHIAL INTEREST FOR INFORMATION ONLY:** None.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday, 16th November 2017 at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

SIGNED:.....
CHAIRMAN

DATED: 16th November 2017

Items brought forward by members of the public prior to the commencement of the Meeting:

- (a) Dr.Christine Whittaker suggested having a Community Facebook page which could include a Community Calendar and local events.
To be considered although it was felt that these aspects were already well covered by other local Facebook pages and the Parish Magazine.