

WYTHALL PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 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.S.Hession(nee Lee)	
	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 were County Councillors C.Hotham and A.Kent.

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

District Councillor Denaro had conveyed his apologies.

No apologies had been forthcoming from Cllr.Bell.

N.B. Due to continued absence over a six-month period without any valid reason having been provided, the Executive Officer advised the Council at the close of the Meeting that a Casual Vacancy could now be declared in respect of the Drakes Cross Ward. All necessary procedures would now be put in place to fill this vacancy.

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:** Nothing to report.

3. **COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

County Councillor Kent referred to the following.
(See copy of his report attached)

County Councillor Hotham reported as follows:-

- (a) Children's' Services – £60m savings needs to be made before 2020/21. Essex CC might be acting as mentors aiming to get WCC out of Special Measures. It will take five years to get a good rating. WCC were no longer fit to run Children's' Services. An outside company may be brought in or an outside Council.
- (b) The Local Transport Plan had been approved but there was not much in it for the Bromsgrove area. No funds for Wythall Station but an aspiration.
- (c) There was to be a "take-over" of the Fire Service by the Police & Crime Commissioner.
- (d) Alcester Road footway: Funding had been allocated to him which would enable the work could be carried out as deemed necessary
Cllr.Peters stated he was glad about that as the footway outside his property had not been done for 39 years.

Items raised with Cllr.Hotham:

- (a) Cllr.Mrs.Baxter queried when the "concealed drive" sign would be installed outside a property adjacent to Wythall Island. Cllr.Hotham responded that the sign was awaiting installation.
- (b) the matter of blocked drains was discussed and Cllr.Hotham said he was dealing with this in several locations.
Cllr.Footman referred to this problem and the fact that, in some cases, the pipes were blocked meaning the drains are not working properly.

4. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

Councillor Turner referred to the problem he had been dealing with in Houndsfield Lane (Lower) which was ongoing. Skips were entering the "paddock" daily full of scrap metal. Burning had stopped but on the industrial units adjacent thick black smoke was visible with soot falling on the dwellings opposite.

Cllr.Peters had nothing to report.

Councillor Mrs.Baxter referred to the relationship between Worcestershire CC and Bromsgrove DC continuing to be somewhat strained. BDC did not support the LTP4 (Local Transport Plan) because it did nothing for the residents of Bromsgrove but it had gone through at County without any problems.

Cllr.Footman raised his concerns as regards the continued parking of vehicles on green belt land in Chapel Lane in conjunction with the Day Nursery and it was agreed the Executive Officer would ask the Ward Councillor to look into this matter.

ACTION: EO to contact DC Denaro (see Planning below)

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

Resolved 38/2017:

- (a) The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 19th October 2017 were duly accepted as a true record of matters discussed with one alteration:
 - 4. Cllr.Mrs. Kingston's comment – to insert after "of the view" – *that residents could receive advice on self-help.*

6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (Schedule attached):**
Noted and agreed to include an item relating to Data Protection as raised by Cllr.Footman previously.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Resolution 39/2017:

- (a) to note a verbal report given by Cllr.Mrs.Baxter in respect of having attended the AGM of the Allotment Association on the 3rd November 2017, accompanied by Cllr.Helen Cleaver and the Executive Officer when a vote had been taken of those members present as to whether an electric supply should be installed on the site, accepting that the Association would be responsible for any ongoing costs relating to the supply and the use thereof.

It was agreed to give the Association the authority to pursue this project on the understanding, as stated above, that they would be entirely responsible for any ongoing costs and that a document to this effect should be signed by all members of the Association in due course.

ACTION: The EO to advise the Allotment Association accordingly and confirm that it would be necessary for a suitable document to be signed by all members of the Association.

- (b) to express a vote of thanks to Cllr.Helen Cleaver for providing a replacement roadside planter at the junction of Alcester Road and Gorsey Lane.
- (c) to accept the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd November 2017 having noted and endorsed the interim actions taken by the Committee.

FINANCE POLICY & RESOURCES:

Resolution 40/2017:

- (a) to ratify the Bank/Budgets in respect of October 2017 as presented,
- (b) To accept the schedule of payments in respect of November 2017.
- (c) to award a Grant to Woodrush Youth & Community in the sum of £10,000 pending receipt in writing that the figures provided form part of the Woodrush High School Accounts. The grant being in respect of a third of the wages expenditure and in accordance with Council's Policy relating to awarding Grants.
To note that this Grant was awarded under the provisions of the General Power of Competence (Local Government Act 1972 Section 7).

A vote was taken and the motion passed with two abstentions, Cllr.Mrs.Kingston and Cllr.Footman.

- (d) to note that the Executive Officer confirmed that all Grants awarded had been dealt with strictly in accordance with Council's Policy.
- (e) To ratify in retrospect the transfer of £20,000.

- (f) The Annual Return 2017/2018 had been received duly certified including some comments made as regards the accuracy of previous Returns which were conveyed to the Council. The Internal Auditor would be responding to the External Auditors in respect of a comment made as regards the accuracy of the Statement made by him,.
- (g) to note the report given by Cllr.Mrs.Taylor in respect of future events being held relating to the project Dementia Friendly Village.
- (h) to accept the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th November 2017 having noted and endorsed the interim actions taken by the Committee.

PLANNING:

Resolved 41/2017:

- (a) the Executive Officer to ask the District Councillor responsible for the Ward in which the Wendy House Nursery is in to establish the exact position as regards the use of green belt land for parking adjacent to Chapel Lane.

ACTION: As above.

- (b) to note the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th November 2017 and applications dealt with under Standing Orders for Committees 4(d) Parish Standing Orders.

8. ITEMS OF PAROCHIAL INTEREST FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- (a) Cllr.Footman commented on the recent appointment of Cllr.Mrs.Baxter as President of WorcCALC and re-election for two years as Chairman of NALC. Congratulations were expressed to Cllr.Mrs.Baxter.
- (b) Cllr.Mrs.Kingston raised again the matter of the missing cats-eyes on the A435 and the problems on the Alcester Road/New Road area resulting from the development taking place at a residential property close to the junction.
- (c) Cllr.Peters referred to the installation of a defibrillator in the porch entrance at the Village Hall funded, in part, by WCC.
- (d) Cllr.Mrs.Webb commented that she was delighted to learn that a parking bay for disabled drivers had been approved for installation in May Lane outside the shops but an additional one would also be welcomed.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, 18th January 2018 at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Before closing the Meeting at 8.42 pm the Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

SIGNED:.....
CHAIRMAN

DATED: 16th November 2017

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

- (a) Mr.Roger Hansbury of Majors Green addressed the Council expressing his gratitude to all involved in the improvements carried out as regards highways etc. in Majors Green, in particular County Cllr.Adam Kent and Parish Councillors who represent that area, together with Miss Harrison for all the help and advice she is able to provide. He stated it was essential everyone works together for the benefit of the community.