

BROADWAS AND COTHERIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 11th November 2019, at Broadwas Village Hall at 7.30pm
Present: Cllrs. Dale, Pearce, Brooks, Worrall, Burrows, Cullen.

In Attendance: Cllr. Chambers (Malvern Hills DC.) Cllr. Walton. 1 Member of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr. Guest and Cllr. Grove (WCC).

2. Declarations of personal or prejudicial interest and update Register of Interest Forms. Cllr. Dale declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning item (1 Cotheridge Court).

3. Dispensation requests: None requested

Public Participation: A member of the public reported that paths cleared around Brookfields Farm were welcomed making pedestrian access much easier. It was also noted that throughout the extensive rains over the last two weeks there had been no flooding following previous works to the Pumping Station on Lightwood Lane, Broadwas. This was also very welcomed.

4. County and District Councillors reports:

Cllr. Walton- District Council Report.

Because of the way the months have fallen it doesn't seem too long ago since our last meeting. In that time the SWDP revision preferred options were published. This included three main sites within the plan. One of them is Rushwick with the plan to build 1,000 more homes in the area. This would only happen after the school had been significantly upgraded and a railway hub is opened/ re-opened in Rushwick. The premise is that the new strategy is a rail-based strategy. Because we have no control over buses and they are being cut to villages and our roads are too congested the argument is that by re-opening the rail hub it will cut down on traffic and allow us to build more homes. There are clearly flaws in this approach as not all of the new residents of Rushwick will use the rail and it's likely more people from outside of the area will – and so drive into the congested area, no doubt effecting people travelling from Broadwas and from Cotheridge in that direction. Myself and David Chambers have raised the need for a road that diverts traffic away from the area before any more building in the area is considered. This isn't on the cards so remains a strong argument. We do need as many people as possible to comment on the proposals and in this case lodge their case against the Rushwick development which will be detrimental to people living in Broadwas and Cotheridge.

At the following Full Council Meeting, last week, the motion to support the preferred options was passed with all councillors supporting it apart from two who voted against it (David Chambers and James O'Donnell (Member for Chase)) and one who abstained (Beverley Nielsen – Member for Priory Ward). I was not allowed to comment or vote because after the release of all the documents I expressed my thoughts publicly. After some discussion it was deemed that what I'd said could be seen as predetermination so I used my freedom to ensure more press coverage on what is a flawed idea and very dangerous for the area given the already rising traffic and more to come after the completion of Crown East. I would have voted against it and myself and David are working with Rushwick to go back at this stage with an alternative.

The preferred options document can be found at: <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?p=14376>

The Crown East development is due to be signed off imminently.

During the past few weeks we also completed our residents survey and subsequently undertook an all members workshop on priorities to which most councillors attended. The survey and the workshop showed a need to look more at business in the area and wanted MHDC to have a better focus on business going forward and supporting new and small businesses – many of who work from home or small units in the area. This will be a big part of our priorities as a council supporting where we can and beyond that looking at how we can support more businesses and people through apprenticeships.

I met with our Youth Champion, Caroline Palethorpe, and business development officers to start the review process on this.

Other main concerns from residents were as always, the NHS and Crime. As a District Council we have very little to do with these but will affect what we can and lobby where we can't.

Finally, the weekend before last I was involved in a charity event with a fellow Councillor to support the opening of a new drop in centre for homeless people in Malvern. Set up by Maggs we wanted to raise £1,000 and have managed this now. The event was called "Drop the councillor" and involved myself and the other councillor being blindfolded

and driven to somewhere remote on a dark and wet Friday evening. It happened to be South Oxfordshire, where we were left with no money, no electronic devices and no idea where we were. We were given 48 hours to get back to Malvern with the rules being that we weren't allowed to hitch for more than 10 miles. We did it within 40 hours through a combination of lots of walking, the kindness of strangers and some public transport. On the first night we found a greenhouse to sleep in and the second night the porch of the church at Longdon. It was a tough couple of days and gave us a very brief insight into what some people have to go through every night sleeping rough. The Saturday night in Longdon was particularly cold but we did at least know we had homes to go to on Sunday evening. Through support from the Council and this fundraising we now have a Homeless centre in Malvern which is able to support SWEP protocol – so on cold nights it opens to bring in people who need the support. This is clearly important over the winter months. It will also become a day centre for homeless people.

Cllr. Grove Report WCC.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS,

The Council is working with private and public sector organisations from across the county to raise the profile of Worcestershire as a place to work and to set up a business. As part of the approach a network of 'county champions', the Worcestershire 1000 is being developed. More than 300 companies, organisations and individuals have joined what is being described as the fastest growing network in Worcestershire. All elected members are invited to join the network as are parish councils and organisations across the county. Joining is simple to do and will take no more than ten minutes. Go to www.oneworcestershire.com/join Please feel free to share these details with your networks.

Trains from Worcester to London Paddington will run in under two hours soon when the GWR timetable is launched later this year.

GWR has announced its 6.43am train from Shrub Hill to London Paddington will take one hour 57 minutes and the 5.34pm back will also take under two hours. Journey times from Worcestershire Parkway will be even faster when the station opens later this year.

The new Cross Country Cardiff to Nottingham service will stop at Worcestershire Parkway, which is the first time this service has stopped at a Worcester station for more than 30 years, further increasing connectivity.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

It has been a month since the launch of Worcestershire Children First and with it, a new way of delivering children's services to the people of Worcestershire.

Such services as children's social care, education, early help and fostering are now being delivered by the new company on behalf of Worcestershire County Council.

For more information on Worcestershire Children First please visit: www.worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Worcestershire schools and early year providers have produced a revised special educational needs and disability (SEND) guide.

The SEND Graduated Response has been designed to help ensure children and young people across the county with Special Educational Needs and disabilities reach their full potential.

It sets out Local Authority expectations for the ways in which all schools and early years providers should meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

It is also intended to be an information source for parents, carers and young people to inform and guide them when making key decisions and accessing SEND support.

To find out more information and to download the full guide, please visit:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/graduatedresponse

HEALTH AND WELBEING

Over 90 pregnant women or their partners have been referred to a new stop smoking service in Worcestershire.

One to one behavioural and motivational support is being provided by three new advisors who work with maternity teams to help mums to be and their partners quit the habit.

The service is face to face and was launched in September. Within the first month the service saw 92 referrals from midwives across the county.

It's not just pregnant women who have accepted the help, but also their partners who recognise the harm passive smoking can have on an unborn baby too.

The new advisors can offer free nicotine replacement therapy alongside practical help and support to stop smoking. Colleagues from Adult Social Care have been visiting locations throughout Worcestershire, this summer to talk to people about their care and encourage them to plan to stay independent for longer.

The series of pop-up engagement events, which have included Cabinet Member Councillor Adrian Hardman, have been very successful with good attendance numbers, concluding in Evesham at The Valley.

Feedback from the engagement events have shown what a great opportunity this is for local people to come and speak to County Council staff and find out more about the services and support that is on offer. Residents can collect information on services locally available as well as raise queries with professionals in an informal way.

To read more about the campaign, please visit: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/makingadecision>

ENVIRONMENT.

The last two weeks have seen many roads affected by flooding as intense rainfall crossed the county. This was quickly followed by further flooding as the water found its way into rivers and other watercourses leading to many road closures.

Initially, the River Teme was the first to react, with closures of the A443 at Lindridge, New Mill Bridge, Ham Bridge and the A4103 at Bransford. Although not closed, the partial flooding of the A449 at Powick led to traffic delays.

Along the River Avon there were closures at Fladbury, Crophorne and Eckington. The main disruption came from the River Severn with at times, closures at Bewdley, Hylton Road, Worcester, and at Upton. At the time of writing all main road have now reopened.

OTHER NEWS

WCC Interim Director of Adult Services, Avril Wilson, who joined us in February 2018, has now left the Council.

Following her departure at the end of October, Elaine Carolan has been appointed as our new Interim Director of Adult Services following a member appointments panel process. Elaine joined Worcestershire County Council in 2010 and was previously Assistant Director of Commissioning in Adult Services.

We welcome Kyle Daisley, who has been elected as Councillor for Bromsgrove South, following the recent by-election.

Reports received.

5. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on October 14th, 2019:

These were considered and Cllr. Brooks Proposed that they be accepted as a true record. Seconded by Cllr. Worrall. All in favour They were duly signed and dated as a true record by the Chairman, Cllr. Dale.

6. Matters Arising: -

Cllr. Dale wrote to the Village Hall Management Committee to inform them of the Parish Council's decision regarding funding for the Village Hall extension.

Cllr. Dale progressed the ordering, siting and selecting litterbins for Laylocks Laybys. The litterbins are now on order and have been delivered. It was agreed to hold off installation until an approach to WCC had been made regarding the state of the Laylocks Layby to see whether layby repairs can be agreed by WCC Highway Maintenance.

The Clerk wrote to Joe Grange from the Lower Teme and Martley FC asking for a list of forthcoming home fixtures for Berryfields but has had no response. The Clerk amended the 2019/20 agreement and send to Joe Grange. There has been no acknowledgement from Joe despite several chaser emails. Cllr. Burrows commented that in response to complaints received from local residents there seems to have been some compliance and in light of complaints received from local residents the Parish Council has tightened up the football team's contract and that the Parish Council should now observe and see how this progresses.

Grand Plan and Review of Community Assets. Cllr. Burrows put an article together for the Clerk to send to Worcestershire CALC to ask other Clerks if they had undertaken a Grand Plan and/or review of Community Assets. The Clerk has chased this with Worcestershire CALC but unfortunately there has been no response to the Parish Council's enquiry.

Drone Flying on Berryfields. Cllr. Dale reported that there had been no further update from the School. It was agreed to have a watching brief for the time being.

Cllr. Walton was progressing a visit to Envirosoft. He reported that MHDC were trying to arrange a tour when as many Parish Councillors as possible could tour around. He agreed to keep the Parish Council updated on progress.

7. Correspondence:

22/10/19- WCC- Adult Services social work teams are working with local groups and voluntary and community sector to capture all adult support opportunities in the local area with a view to promote the assets available. A form was completed and returned by Cllr. Dale.

24/10/19- MHDC- Parish Councillor Training Programme: Tree Preservation Orders- Presentation on TPO's for information. Cllr. Dale attended the training session. Cllr's agreed that the presentation papers were very informative.

24/10/19- West Mercia Police- West Mercia PCC's Rural Crime Strategy Consultation- Closing date for consultation 8th November. The Clerk to write and ask whether they would be interested in coming to the Parish Council. Cllr.

Cullen commented that Broadheath Shop has a drop-in session each month. If we can't get them to us perhaps we could signpost to Broadheath Drop in Sessions.

4/11/19- WCC- Launch Event Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership - 10.30am Friday 8 Nov 19 was attended by Cllr. Dale.

4/11/19- SWDP- Consultation timetable for Preferred Options Consultations-The consultation runs from 9am on 4th November 2019 to 5pm on Monday 16th December 2019. Venues listed for consultation if required. Cllr. Dale attended the initial meeting at MHDC to discuss the Preferred Options. (See Agenda Item 8 re SWDP).

6/11/19 – WCC Highways- LIGHTWOOD LANE, C2067, COTHERIDGE, Road Closure, Junction with A44 Bromyard Road for a distance of approximately 350 metres in a north easterly direction along C2067 Lightwood Lane. Drainage Work/Flood Alleviation from 15th Jan to 7th Feb 2020.

8/11/19- Ticket to Ride Report - a report was received from the Ticket to Ride Event on 11/10/19. Councillors noted the report. Cllr. Dale also reported that there was an attached application form for a grant from Glencora Fund towards an activity that will improve the lives and wellbeing of older people in the Malvern Hills area.

11/11/19 – MHDC Parish News Update- an interesting document was sent to the Parish Council although Cllr. Dale asked Cllr. Walton to report back to MHDC that the format would be much better as a pdf for uploading to websites etc.

8. Planning. – Report from Cllr. Pearce

18/01282: Upper Howsen Farm Cotheridge – Proposed demolition of existing farm buildings and use of site for 8 caravans/log cabins. Response submitted on behalf of the Parish Council raising no objections subject to appropriate conditions regarding road access, landscaping, drainage etc and on assumption that the application is for log cabins and not caravans. Approved by MHDC.

19/00532: 1 Cotheridge Court Cotheridge – Conversion of outbuildings into ancillary living accommodation.

Members agreed to respond to MHDC supporting this application.

19/00957: Stone Farm Broadwas – Conversion of former barn to dwelling. Response submitted subsequent to July meeting indicating that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.

19/00887: Elgar Coaches Lower Lightwood Lane Cotheridge – Demolition of existing dutch barn and construction of new coach depot. Comments submitted to MHDC.

19/01531: Greenlands Weston Hill Broadwas – Application under the General Permitted Development Order for change of use of a single storey building from agricultural storage to a single dwelling. The Parish Council is not formally consulted regarding such applications but, in view of the location of the property, members agreed that a response should be sent to MHDC expressing concern regarding the risk of flooding.

The next phase of consultations in respect of the revisions to the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP), called the Preferred Options consultation, started on 04.11.2019 and runs for 6 weeks. The significant direct impacts of the proposals on Broadwas & Cotheridge can be summarised as follows: -

There are no new development allocations in either Broadwas or Cotheridge.

The development boundary for Broadwas has been updated to incorporate the school, Berryfields Close and Highcroft Close.

Broadwas remains as a Category 2 settlement and Cotheridge as Open Countryside.

Significant new development including 1,000 extra dwellings and a new railway station is proposed at Rushwick.

Reference Point c, Councillor Pearce to explore with other Parish Councils whether there is any appetite to challenge the methodology used in categorizing villages.

With regard to Point d, members expressed concern regarding the impact of the proposed development at Rushwick on the surrounding infrastructure and agreed in principle to join with neighbouring Parish Councils in submitting an objection.

Cllr Burrows updated meeting on contact with MHDC and resulting visit to Zourka development (Church Lane) re residents concerns about amendments and apparent deviation from planned pedestrian access to main road. It is understood that the Officer could not identify any compliance issues but had agreed to monitor/raise concerns re walkway.

9. Defibrillator Checks:

Cllr. Burrows reported that there was no further update.

10. Gigabyte/Fibre connection for Broadwas and Cotheridge project: Update report from Cllr. Burrows.

We continue to liaise with Robert Stepniewski (WCC) and are in the process of agreeing to cover the whole parish for quotes from BT Open reach, in part because the national funding pot is not inexhaustible. There are 2 areas of the parish that are subject to quotes (pending) these are Little Green and addresses n the WR6 5NR area that fall within the parish and this is likely to contract for 15 addresses.

The process is proving a little hard to follow, but seems to take the following shape - Quote requested from BTOR for an area of addresses - cost is provided and set against potential income from grants and a contribution from BTOR - the level of take up determines the viability and the figures will vary depending on number of premises and location - we are seeking clarification as to any contractual commitment from an address that agrees to apply for the grant (though this is all managed through one point for them) in respect of the need to take up a BT line and fibre service (so as to access the higher speeds) for 12 months. We also want to be clear about whether FFTP is provided only on the basis of agreement to be included for the grant payment, or whether it is installed to all.

In terms of further actions and commitments from the Parish Council - it is recommended that we continue to contact and promote expressions of interest (We now share a data base of addresses with the WCC project) and act as a link for the 2 areas in the parish being considered and support a parish wide costing exercise.

Re the Parish Plan - I did agree to start drafting a summary of discussions so far and relate this to the role and responsibilities of the PC and its intention to look forwards on the basis of consultation as to what the future priorities might be. I am also going to address the potential and possibilities of us considering how we view and approach the idea of "Community Assets" in so far as this is helpful and relates to the role and powers of the PC under the 2010 Localism Act.

The ultimate aim I recall was to have a comprehensive but accessible document ready for the parish meeting to form the basis of discussion and then to focus our direction in years to come.

I had hoped to have a draft for next week but other commitments have meant that this is not yet at a stage where it would be helpful to share, however I can aim for the next meeting.

We need to consider whether we are the client with B.T. Openreach.

Further liaison and consultation with WCC officer to take place in order to proceed with a) contacting the addresses in the 2 areas subject for costing and contract, b) to conform Parish Council role as "sponsor", c) to agree roll out to all addresses in Parish d, Cllr's Cullen and Burrows to satisfy PC re outstanding issues and progress. NB Noted that PC now has full address list for Parish which requires some checking and confirmation of businesses.

11. Environment, Roady Safety and Speed Curtailment.

The Clerk wrote to WCC Highways to clarify Roundel 2 from the plan sent regarding installation of Roundels at Broadwas. A response was received from WCC Highways to say that on the Parish Council's request Roundel 2 (a 20mph Roundel) has now been removed from the plan and Roundel Order. This order has now been placed with WCC and we are awaiting installation details.

Cllr. Dale reported that due to excessive speeds on the A44 it may be worthwhile getting speed enforcement to undertake some checks. Action: Clerk and Cllr. Dale to discuss.

12. Berryfields. Update by Cllr. Brooks.

Cllr Brooks confirmed that there had been further flooding to the land being considered for further developing facilities and Open Space at Berryfields. He felt therefore that these areas of land were not practical for purchase. Cllr. Brooks Proposed that consideration for purchase of land be put on hold. Cllr. Worrall Seconded. Cllr. Burrows asked for further clarification on this and it was thought that should ideas come forward this could again be pursued.

13. Grand Plan.

Cllr. Worrall suggested that a coffee morning be organised at Broadwas Village Hall where local residents could explore what the village wants. Cllr's Dale, Brooks, Burrows and Cullen agreed to support this initiative in any way they could. Councillors thought this was a great idea. How we engage with our communities is the greatest challenges of the Parish Council. Cllr. Walton suggested going to "where people Are". One idea was to have a Parish Council stall at local events such as Summer Fêtes etc. The Parish Council agreed to give this more thought. Cllr. Brooks suggested the Village Hall would be a good way to engage with the community.

Environment-

Cllr. Dale suggested that maybe a community orchard could be considered. Cllr. Walton suggested a contact that may be able to help with donated trees.

14. Gladwish Land Sales Site-

Cllr. Brooks reported that the farmer renting the land has now moved his sheep to another piece of land. There are still problems on the site between the farmer, Gladwish and those currently residing on the land. Councillors decided that the current problem on this land was an Enforcement issue and that Cllr. Walton should be liaising with Aaron Black, MHDC Enforcement Officer and the Police who are both involved. From a Parish Council perspective, we have done all we can and we now monitor.

15. Progress Reports:

a) Treasurer's Report: copy circulated to Councillors and attached to these Minutes. All payments were Proposed by Cllr. Brooks and Seconded by Cllr. Worrall to be approved. All in favour.

A Bank Reconciliation to the 11/11/19 was circulated and approved at the meeting. Cllr. Brooks Proposed that it be accepted as a true record. Seconded by Cllr. Worrall. All in favour.

b) Clerk's Report.

Progressed all Matters Arising.

Liaised with MHDC regarding the 20120/21 budget.

There was a discussion as to whether there was a need for a Clerks Report, It was agreed that this would not be needed in the future, however one could be requested by Councillors, the Chair or the Clerk

c) RJC Report to 10th November.

Berryfields

Recycle bin is full and overflowing, does the council empty this? The Clerk was asked to ascertain more information from RJC regarding this issue.

Bolt was loose on timber climbing frame, I have re-tightened.

Mole activity is now moving onto the football pitch – any action required? The Clerk to respond to ask RJC to Monitor and report.

The leaves are still dropping onto the walking track, they may cause a slip hazard, Callum will clear again this week.

A pile of Brash has been dumped at the rear of the houses near the gate into the field and the Blue container – any action required? The Clerk to ask RJC to burn the brash

See Photos.

Inspected 10-11-19 by R.J. Cole

Broadgreen

Small pile of Tree cuttings have been put on the corner of the common – any action required? The Clerk to ask RJC to burn the cuttings.

Inspected on 10-11-19 by R.J. Cole

16. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda:

Cllr. Pearce asked for an item to be added to the January 2020 agenda for an update on the Right of Way to the Access/Gateway to Berryfields.

17. Date of April 2019 Parish Council meeting (2nd Monday in the month falls on Easter Bank Holiday Monday 13th April). The Councillors agreed to move this meeting forward to the 3rd Monday in the month to 20th April 2020.

18. Date of next meeting: January 13th, 2020 at Broadwas Village Hall at 7.30pm
Meeting closed at 9:30pm

Signed Chairman..... date.....

15A. Treasurer's Report.

Payee	Description	TOTAL
C Hirst	Clerk Salary Oct 19	£ 311.16
HMRC	Tax Deductions Oct 19	£ 77.80
RJC Landscaping	Berryfields GM	£ 254.00
C Hirst	Clerk Expenses to 11th Nov	£ 33.25
Adrian Bullock	Lengthsman Sept	£ 324.00
Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	£ 17.00
Glasdon	Litterbins	£ 583.70
TOTALS		1,600.91
Total Cash at Bank at 1 Nov 2019		
Treasurers Account		£ 22,537.78
Treasurer's Account Berryfields		£ 10,267.42
N.S. & I		£ 38,867.43
	TOTAL	£ 71,672.63
Receipts:		
		£ -
		£ -
	Total Receipts not previously reported	£ -