

**Stoke Bliss, Kyre and Bockleton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Stoke Bliss Group Parish Council.**

Clerk: Carole Hirst – 07903 377066 – stokeblissgroupclerk@gmail.com

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7.30pm at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall**

**Present:**, Cllr. Thomas; Cllr. Farmer; Cllr. Adams; Cllr Williams; Cllr. Middleton, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. Yarnold.

1.8.19 **To consider apologies for absence:** Cllr. Powell, Cllr. Penn, Cllr Pollock; **Absent: None.**

**2.8.19 Declarations of Interest:**

- a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests for the start of the new term of office.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

**There were none.**

3.8.19 **To Consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) None Received.**

**4.8.19 Parishioners' comments:**

The Local Volunteer Footpath Warden for Stoke Bliss gave an update on her work since the last meeting. She has managed to get a detailed map of the parish of Stoke Bliss. She would like help in identifying who owns which land in Stoke Bliss so that she can schedule visits. She has some metal signs for "Keep Dogs on Leads" and "Close the Gate" which Councillors could suggest locations. With WCC Footpaths Officer the Footpath Warden is looking at reclassifying some of the Parish footpaths. She has cleared some footpaths at Grit Hill.

The Clerk offered to upload anything hat the Footpath Warden required onto the Parish Council website including a procedure for reporting footpaths. The Footpath Warden would send a procedure through to the Clerk.

**The meeting will be adjourned for Public Question Time**

The time allocated is at the discretion of the 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.

5.8.19 **To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019** –Subject to amending the date in Minute Reference 8.5.19 from Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Cllr. Adams Proposed and Seconded by Cllr Farmer that the Minutes be approved as a true record of the meeting. **All in favour.**

6.8.19 **Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019.** The Clerk raised that Cllr. Thomas had spoken to the Planning Enforcement Officer at MHDC regarding the Animal Rescue Centre enforcement issues raised at the AGM in May. The Clerk reported that there

had been no further update from Aaron Black, Enforcement Officer MHDC. Cllr. Thomas agreed to chase this up and report back.

**7.8.19 Co-option of Peter Basford and Charles Rea onto the Parish Council.** Cllr. Yarnold Proposed and Cllr. Middleton Seconded that Peter Basford and Charles Rea be co-opted onto the Parish Council. All in favour.

**8.8.19 WCC County Council and MHDC Councillor update reports.**  
**WCC Cllr. Pollock report.**

**1. Council Members**

As I said to the new Tenbury Town Council meeting last month, it was good to see so many new faces on the Council. I wished them, as I wish all of you, a very enjoyable and productive period representing the views of your local residents. As I wrote in a recent column in the Tenbury Advertiser, the community is very dependent on people coming forward to offer their time and expertise on civic matters. The contribution of councillors like ourselves is vital to see that the very best decisions are made concerning the provision of services in the area.

It is not widely acknowledged that people such as yourselves do not receive any remuneration, but you can be the subject of complaint when matters don't turn out the way some people might like. I am very aware of the selfless devotion to duty expressed by the service of councillors in all the 18 town and parish councils in my division, and I trust the service you all give is recognised by your communities.

**2. County Council Affairs**

There was a full Council meeting two weeks ago, and there were six notices of motion, only three of which were debated, but one paid tribute to the efforts of people like yourselves, working in Parish Councils for the benefit of the community. There were many supportive comments from across the chamber and the political spectrum, in response to some unwise words of a Labour councillor, who appeared to discount your worth. He was not present, but his group leader, Cllr Robin Lunn, spoke warmly of the contribution made by volunteers, such as yourselves.

I presented a report on our minerals policy. There are many mineral deposits in the County, of various types, and these are grouped into corridors. We have had four calls for sites for development, as the intention is that this county, like all others, should seek to provide essential minerals from their own resources. These corridors are all published, so anyone can see where they occur, and where, at some time in the future, they may be exploited.

At the full Council, we had a delegation of residents from the Lea Castle area, near Kidderminster, concerned about the possibility of a new quarry being excavated near them. This will need to go through the full planning process, and I sought to reassure them that the County would be vigorous in ensuring any conditions applied were fully observed.

One overriding principle is that we will not allow District Council to permit building over areas where valuable minerals are to be found, even if there is no demand for them at present. Germany has fallen foul of this principle, and various villages and old churches are in the process of being demolished to liberate lignite found beneath them. This should never happen in this county.

In Cabinet the previous week, we approved the development of Adult Social Care, a burgeoning area of concern and expenditure, and one where we are all keenly awaiting the much delayed publication of a new adult social care policy from central government. In recent years we have been dependent on one-off grants to cover the increases in costs and we would all appreciate a long term solution to the problem.

We will also heard the report on the results of the extensive consultation on the future of our libraries. For reasons that are not worth rehearsing, there was a prevailing feeling that some libraries were in danger of closing. This report to cabinet demonstrated that the required savings have been achieved without any such closures, as had always been the policy.

Tenbury library is this safe in its current form and people should be re-assured that it will stay open. We had thought we could host the Post Office, but that would have been for a rent. For better or

worse, there were other offers that would not require remuneration, and the Post Office is in process of finalising arrangements with the preferred host.

The new facilities should be up and running by mid-Autumn. In the meantime, the post minibuss will be making regular trips to Leysters for those who need transport.

### **3. South Worcestershire Development Plan revisions**

The SWDP covers the three southerly districts of the county and is undergoing a thorough revision to reflect expected increases in population numbers in the light of the National Planning Policy Framework, the NPPF. This will require the provision of more houses in the county and the plan is intended to indicate the preferred areas for such new housing.

Villages in the Tenbury division have seen a lot of new building in the last few years and there are plans for more such estates. Your residents may be aware of the controversy that surrounds such developments, when they appear to change the character of the village. A common complaint is that there are no jobs for new people in this rural area, but I have been keen to see the plan is not predicated on the minimising of distances to travel to work. Pursuing such principles, for whatever reasons, would lead to the impoverishment of rural areas.

At present, some 26% of county residents live in "rural areas", while only 13% of new building takes place in rural areas. Current plans seem to indicate that the latter balance of only 13% of build being in rural areas should continue to 2040. I am not sure that is sensible.

### **4. Countryside Show**

I was very impressed with the attendance at Tenbury's Countryside Show on Saturday. It seemed to me that there were more people there than ever and they certainly had a huge range of entertainment for their enjoyment.

More sheep and cattle in the show classes, more old vehicles and tractors, and numerous temptations to buy a brilliant range of foodstuffs. In addition the horticultural tent had some wonderful exhibits of vegetables, flowers and cakes.

At a time of such national uncertainty, it was heartening to see such a positive statement by exhibitors and attendees alike in the health of the countryside. Long may it continue.

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: Bridget Thomas and Tony Penn**

Recycling Collection.

The Government has published its response to the various consultations earlier this year with regards to the Resources and Waste Strategy. Other responses came from local authorities, trade bodies, businesses and consultants. The next step will be to work with local authorities, waste management businesses, as well as other organisations to develop more detailed regulations and guidance to implement consistency in recycling. 2023 is the target year for measures to come into effect. Local authorities will receive additional resources to meet any new net costs arising from the policies when implemented. The Government will work with local authorities to progress to full consistency.

The Head of Planning, Gary Williams who has retired after 43 years serving the public. He will be missed but his replacement has already been selected.

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK: A litter pick morning starting from the Pump Rooms in Tenbury took place on 31 July. It was well attended with several children ready to don the yellow waistcoat and armed with black bags we all set off around the town. Claire Vaughan from Malvern Hills was present to give cakes and tea/coffee to the willing volunteers.

Climate Emergency: A climate emergency meeting was held at Malvern Hills on 23 July. Officers and councillors on the environment policy development panel are currently busy researching and engaging with community groups and partners to generate ideas to go into our final action plan.

The panel is keen that all members are involved in helping to generate ideas, and they are looking at holding a workshop session in September.

In the meantime, the panel would like suggestions of projects or actions we could undertake in each of the following areas. 1. Energy reduction. 2. Waste reduction. 3. Carbon reduction or capture for promotion. 4. Promotion of biodiversity. Claire Vaughan would like comments on this issue.

Latest Economic Summary.

The July 2019 addition of the Worcestershire monthly county economic summary has been published. The claimant count in Malvern Hills (in June 2019) for those aged 18 to 64 was 745, which was an increase of 20 on the previous month and up to 250 for the same period 12 months ago. It is worth noting that the claimant count figures now include all universal credit claimants who are required to seek work and be available for work, as well as all Jobseeker's Allowance figures.

#### 9.8.19 Finance

- a) **Approval of the payment of Accounts up to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019.** Cllr. Framer Proposed and Cllr. Adams Seconded that all the payments below be approved and paid. All in favour.

#### **Payment Schedule Aug 5th 2019**

Payee	Description	TOTAL
Stoke Bliss Village Hall	Hall Hire 5th Aug	20.00
C Hirst	Clerk June Salary	£ 136.17
HMRC	June HMRC Tax	£ 34.00
C Hirst	July Clerk Salary	£ 136.17
HMRC	July HMRC Tax	£ 34.00
C Hirst	Expenses 20th May to 4th Aug	£ 107.31
Bockleton Village Hall	Hall Hire 20 May	£ 18.00
J Moore	Lengthsman May 19	£ 236.00
J Moore	Lengthsman June 19	£ 236.00
Zurich Municipal Insurance	Insurance 2019/20	£ 316.88
ICO	Data Protection	£ 35.00
C Hirst	Aug Clerk Salary	£ 136.17
HMRC	Aug HMRC Tax	£ 34.00
BWP Creative Ltd	Parish Council website costs 2019/20	£ 158.78
MHDC	Election Costs	£ 108.00
Total payments		£ 1,746.48

- b) **Receipts received up to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019.** 29<sup>th</sup> April-MHDC Precept 1<sup>st</sup> Payment £1,777.00;

7<sup>th</sup> June WCC Lengthsman £236.00; 24/6/19-WCC Lengthsman £118.00; 26/6/19-WCC Lengthsman £236.00; 23/7/19, WCC Lengthsman, £236.00. **Total Income to date 2019/20 £2,603.00. Noted.**

- c) **Bank Reconciliation as at 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019.** The Clerk reconciled the accounts to date with the Chairman of the Council reporting that cash at the bank at 5<sup>th</sup> August was £2,630.43. **Noted.**

#### 10.8.19 Planning

- 19/00620/FUL- Land at (OS 5911 6269), Quarry Cottage, Romers Common, Bockleton- Erection of 3 loose boxes with tack room and fodder storage for private equine use (including change of use)- **REFUSAL**
- 19/00672/FUL- Barretts Bank, Stoke Bliss, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8QJ- Proposed agricultural livestock building. **Approved 26/7/19**

#### 11.8.19 Correspondence.

- **29/7/19- West Mercia Police- On the Beat Newsletter. Action: Clerk to place as a news item on the Parish website.**
- **QCC Public Notice-Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (C2097 Kyre)(Temporary Closure). Proposed Order:** to close part of C2097 Kyre from its junction with B4214 Kyre to its junction with Herefordshire County- New Customer Water Connection. **Anticipated duration: 3 days Commencing: 9 September 2019. Noted. Action: Clerk to place as a news item on the Parish website.**

#### 12.8.19 Any other business-

- Cllr. Middleton raised that she had seen the Lengthsman who asked whether the Parish Council were happy with his work. Councillors agreed that they were happy and the Clerk agreed to write to the Lengthsman thanking him for his work and letting him know they were happy with his work to date.
- Cllr. Yarnold reported that the parish roads were needing many pot-hole repairs. The Clerk asked Councillors to write an email to the Clerk with description of potholes including their location and the Clerk would then report them to WCC Highways through their website.
- Cllr. Yarnold also discussed a proposed road resurface Bank Street Kyre to Wigley Bank Kyre which was previously scheduled for resurfacing in February 2019 and was later postponed. Councillors requested that the Clerk ask Cllr. Pollock for an update on when this would be rescheduled.

**13.8.19 Date of next meeting – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019** at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall

The meeting was declared closed at 8.07pm

Signed..... Chairman of the Parish Council

Dated.....