

## Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Members Present:** Cllrs Burrows (Chair), Cullen (Vice-Chair) Worrall, Guest and Longley.

**Officers Present:** L Law Clerk.

**Also present:** Cllr Jones-Williams and Cllr Richardson-Brown. Two members of the public.

**23/47 Apologies:** None received. All members in attendance.

**23/48 Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:**

(1) **Disclosable pecuniary interests.** None received.

(2) **Other registrable interests.** None received.

(3) **To consider written requests for dispensations.**

**23/49 To approve the minutes of the Council meetings:**

(1) It was **resolved** to confirm as a correct record and sign the minutes for the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Proposed Cllr Worrall seconded by Cllr Cullen. Chair then signed the minutes.

**23/50 District or County Councillor reports.**

**Cllr Jones-Williams (MHDC).** Wanted to highlight the Coronation Community Orchard scheme via a new grant for community groups, schools, charities, businesses, or resident's associations to create community orchards. Clerk to put information on the website. Cllrs asked about the increased HGV traffic on Lightwoods Lane re access to the sewage works behind. Clerk had also had a report of this from a member of the public, trying to determine where the HGV vehicles are visiting, clerk to investigate further. **Noted.**

**Cllr Richardson-Brown (WCC).** He has reported the issue of excessive HGV's at the turning of A44 and Lightwoods Lane. At county level there is a budget meeting tomorrow where it is expected to raise the precept by the maximum of 5% due to an overspend. Overspend by WCC is mainly due to three factors: adult social care, children with special needs and school transportation provision. A £20 million deficit is predicted by the end of the financial year, although they have reserves to use.

**Item 23/55 Road Safety in the Parish was moved up the agenda to enable Cllr Richardson-Brown to participate.**

Main points from the discussion on road safety:

There are multiple accidents on the A44 yearly, but some accidents are not indicated on reports from police and therefore reports are not accurate. That the parish council should keep a log of all accidents.

Worcestershire County Council do not want to change the speed limits, despite Cotheridge being a village. Speed indicators for speed around corners is advisory not mandatory. Cllr Richardson-Brown suggested that flashing VAS signs on some bends would be beneficial. Cllr Burrows questioned that WCC was being reactive rather than proactive to the speeding issue in the parish and not listening to the genuine concerns of the community. Cllr Burrows has been trying to access speeding data from West Mercia Police with little success. Cllr Jones-Williams suggested that we invite Jon Fraser from Worcestershire County Council to a meeting to discuss road safety issues in the parish. It was noted that there had been a visible increase in mobile speeding vehicles in the parish recently. Cllr Burrows to investigate if the parish council would be able to apply for the West Mercia PCC Safer Roads Grant.

Cllr Richardson-Brown Left the meeting at 7.35pm

**23/51 Public Participation:** A member of the public asked if there had been a decision on the ap-

peal for planning application M/22/01157/FUL land at Broadwas. Cllr Burrows replied that a decision had not yet been determined. There had been recent enforcement activity but Cllr Burrows has not had any communication from the officer involved, Cllr Burrows to contact the enforcement officer for an update. Another member of the public raised the issue of the bush between the school and Berryfields and children walk up to the school in the path of traffic as it covers the pavement. Cllr Burrows replied that it is linked with other works, that the delay has been in not having a clerk, that an invitation to quote has been sent out and if a quote was not accepted by the next meeting the council would ensure that this work be carried out as a specific task. Secondly, the lower part of the car park is in poor condition, and there was a hope the parish council would re-surface the area. There were concerns around children falling over and cars grounding out in the section between the lower and upper car park. Cllr Burrows replied that the council will be looking at the future use of Berryfields and technically the lower car park is for visitors of Berryfields. There is no formal agreement between the County Council the Parish Council and the school for use of that piece of land. Cllr Guest said that the parish council would look to the school for a contribution for re-surfacing the lower car park. Cllr Burrows said that the council is aware of the situation and to clarify the top car park is owned by the County Council the area the member of the public was referring to is owned by the Parish Council that has been used as a car park but is a matter and there may be room for compromise but on a joint basis with the school.

**23/52 Chairs Report:** Chair gave a brief outline of supplied written report. **Noted.**

**23/53 Clerk's Report:** Clerk gave an outline of supplied written report. **Noted.**

**23/54 Exclusion of members of the public and Press:** It was **resolved** that agenda items 23/62 and 23/63 would be held in private session.

**23/55 Road Safety in the Parish. See Above.**

**23/56 Policing Community Charter.** It was **resolved** that the policing priorities in the parish for the period of 1<sup>st</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 are:

1. Speeding

2. Anti-Social Behaviour

3. Cyber crime.

**23/57 Planning:**

**To comment on planning applications to be determined by Malvern Hills District Council:**

1. **M/23/01295/HP** Glenaran, Bromyard Road, Cotheridge, Worcester WR6 5LP.

**Single storey side extension. Approved 04/04/24. Noted.**

**To note the following Planning applications:**

1. **M/23/01454/HP** Walnut Cottage, Lower Lightwood, Lightwood Lane, Cotheridge, Worcester, WR6 5LT. Demolition of garage, WC, and porch structures. Erection of extension to dwelling, garden resurfacing additional parking and new render applied to the entire dwelling. Consultation ended 01/01/24. No comment made.

2. **M/23/01541/HP** Spring Meadow, Broadwas, Worcester, WR6 5NE. Demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage with annexe above. Consultation ended 06/01/24. No comment made. **Noted.**

**23/58 Finance:**

- (1) **Finance report:** It was **noted** to receive the finance report and it was **resolved** to pay invoices presented for payment.
- (2) **Bank Reconciliation Statements for December.** Members noted to receive the Bank Reconciliation Statements for December.
- (3) **To consider payment for HMRC to be made by Direct Debit from council bank account.** It was **resolved** that payments for PAYE to HMRC to be made by direct debit. Proposed by Cllr Worrall seconded by Cllr Guest.

**23/59 Draft budget 2024/25.** Members reviewed the budget and **resolved** to agree the budget for the financial year 2024/25. Proposed by Cllr Worrall seconded by Cllr Longley.

**23/60 Precept 2024/25.** It was **resolved** that the precept request to Malvern Hill district Council for the financial year 2024/25 will be unchanged from last year at a sum of

**£18,746.00.** Proposed Cllr Cullen seconded by Cllr Longley.

**23/61 Village Hall Management Committee Report.** A verbal report was given by the council representative, Cllr Worrall on village hall matters including: Four new members of the committee, chair of the committee had her baby, concerns on the booking of the village hall and uptake on rental, for the parish council to ask for the end of year accounts from VHMC and refurbishing the toilets.

**The next two items were held in private session:**

**23/62 Website Copyright Issue.** The current position and history was discussed by members and it was **resolved** that an amount will be offered to the group concerned to settle the issue.

**The Clerk Left the meeting for the next item:**

**23/63 Clerk's Appraisal.** The Clerk's appraisal was discussed by members and once the clerk rejoined the meeting the chair offered the permanent position of clerk at the current hours and rate of pay which the clerk accepted.

**23/64 Councillor's reports and items for future agendas.**  
Ask lengthsman to cut trees by the signage for the village hall.

Meeting ended at 8.55pm

**Signed:**

**Date:**