

**FLYFORD FLAVELL, GRAFTON FLYFORD &
NORTH PIDDLER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting held by ZOOM,
on Tuesday 19th January 2021**

Present P Wakeman S Densham C Bennett
D Waide(Chairman) J East R Davey

Cllr L Robinson, Cllr R Adams

Mark Broughton-Taylor attended as clerk

2. Declaration of Interest:

None

3. Public Participation:

2 members of the public attended the meeting. Concerns were raised about the continuing delays with the planning on Hilltop Farm. Further discussion was taken under this item on the agenda.

John Broderick explained that he was unable to provide the Christmas tree for the green at Christmas because the sizes available for planting were too small. He offered to provide a tree anyway and plant it if the council still wanted to go ahead. It was agreed that the offer should be accepted and a tree will be planted on the agreed spot on the green shortly.

4. Minutes of the 17th November and 24th November 2020

Minutes of the ZOOM meetings held on 17th November and 24th November were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Pauline Wakeman Seconded: Sadie Densham All in favour

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

No matters arising

6. Correspondence:

None.

7. Local Police Officer and Community Support Officer:

No report had been provided.

13. Broadband

The clerk reported that all the outstanding vouchers had now been validated but there were still 4 people who had not fulfilled the obligation to sign up to the FTTP service with BT for a year. The names of these people were shared with councillors and it was agreed that a personal approach would be made where appropriate.

8. Neighbourhood Watch & Smart Water

The stickers for the bins had been provided by the parish council and letters printed but due to the Covid situation it had been agreed not to distribute them through letter boxes until the lockdown was lifted.

10. Footpaths Officer

It has not been possible for WCC to officially approve the footpaths officer appointment because it is not possible to deliver the initial training under the present circumstances. Cllr Adams expressed his dismay that the County Council could not adapt to online training and promised to raise the subject with the appropriate officer.

The clerk reported that there may be some projects that the footpaths officer could progress on behalf of the parish council such as designing some walks for publication on the website. It was agreed that the clerk should discuss this with the footpaths officer.

11. Website and Communications

Ceri Bennett outlined her thoughts about updating the website and asked councillors to consider the suggestions for discussion at the next meeting. Ceri will share these ideas with councillors by email following the meeting.

Ceri also noted that our website did not sync with the template on the Wychavon site. It was suggested that Ruth Morgan should be contacted at WCC for further information on this connection.

Ceri also suggested that a parish council Facebook page might be a way of engaging with more people within the parish.

The clerk reported that some updates to the website were in hand and that these should be completed fairly soon.

It was noted that other parish councils had included more information on their sites and it was agreed to consider these issues more carefully.

The matter to be brought back for discussion at the next meeting.

9. District and County Councillors

"Firstly I look forward to joining you all tomorrow virtually and am sure we will appreciate staying in the dry and warmth of our homes in the depths of winter. I

Safe would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all our residents a 'Happier & New Year for 2021.' Hopefully the roll out of vaccines is now a top priority and I know of many who have already had their first dose or have appointments in place in the near future. There is light at the end of the tunnel but as we are seeing, the logistics involved will take some time.

The bad weather has tested our Emergency services further recently with flooding and then snow and ice. Parts of Wychavon experienced internal flooding around Christmas but I am not aware of any flooded households in the Flyfords but please let me know if anyone was adversely affected. Unfortunately more heavy rain is forecast this week so do alert me of any issues as a consequence of Storm Christoph. The EA have already issued flood warnings for our area for tomorrow and Wednesday.

Wychavon have announced that free parking in all Wychavon car parks will now continue until the end of January.

With COVID numbers rapidly increasing nationally including Wychavon the advice from Public Health Worcestershire is to continue to follow social distancing, wear a mask, wash hands and limit contacts and leaving your home. Please stay safe and encourage others to follow these guidelines which are the best way to fight this new variant of this disease which seems to spread more easily.

I have attached the latest guidance from Wychavon together with an update from our planning teams. Please could the attached information on Winter Warmer Fuel vouchers be circulated via the parish website and on notice boards. Also please find a brief summary of some highlights of some good results achieved by the District throughout the last year which is particularly noteworthy in such unprecedented times.

Updates from Wychavon and Malvern Hills Planning Teams - 5 January 2021

The following provides you with an update about planning, planning decision making and planning enforcement in Wychavon and Malvern Hills Districts at the current time. We will keep this under review and issue further updates as necessary.

Planning Team Capacity

Wychavon District Council and Malvern Hills District Council offer a wide range of key services to the community, most of which are provided through shared services. We are also supporting a number of partner organisations in the delivery of their key services. In order to ensure critical services continue, we will redeploy staff to different parts of our business. It is extremely likely that redeployment will impact on the ability of the Planning Service to process applications and respond to customers at both authorities in its usual form. It is also possible that statutory consultees may also be redeployed, further impacting on service delivery. As the situation develops, and if capacity begins to impact our ability to operate, we will let you know.

The team are now all working remotely and can be contacted by email (the most effective method) or by phone.

Pre-Application Advice

Our pre-application service is continuing. Please contact us in the normal way to take advantage of this service.

New Applications

For new applications submitted, electronic applications are easy to review and validate, with us all working from home.

Limited access to the office means that it will be difficult to deal with paper applications— so we would be grateful if everything is done electronically.

Case officers will put up site notices. Neighbour letters and media advertising will happen as normal.

Site Visits

We are avoiding site visits unless absolutely necessary (for example for urgent enforcement matters). The following will occur for 'site visits':

- Site visits are an important (but not necessarily essential) part of the planning process.
- Where possible our officers will rely on photos and web based images to make decisions.
- Where this is not possible, officers will speak to customers to seek more photos or provide video evidence.
- If photos are insufficient, officers may arrange virtual site visits (e.g WhatsApp video call) with applicants, and direct applicants to the parts of a site the officer needs to see.
- If a site visit is still required, case officers will liaise with applicants/agents to ensure that they take place in a risk free environment

Inevitably this is likely to have an impact on our ability to process some applications.

Decision Making and Planning Committees

Both Councils have operated virtual Planning Committee meetings since May 2020 and this will continue. Please see each Council's web site for Planning Committee meeting dates and access.

Planning committee meetings are taking place but are being held virtually and so the public are able to view the committee on You Tube on the Council's web site. Public speaking has been re- introduced and, once registered, participants can speak to the committee meeting, the details of which will be advised by electronic letter to those interested in a planning application.

All other decisions will be made in the normal way using our existing delegated authority.

Enforcement

We continue to temporarily suspend enforcement of planning legislation and planning conditions associated with those businesses providing services to the community in response to the coronavirus (where they are operating in line with current guidance on limiting the spread of the virus) at both authorities. This includes relaxing restrictions on these businesses such as:

- Hours of operation (i.e. increasing opening hours)
- Change of use (i.e. allowing pubs to operate as hot food takeaways)
- Additional service provision
- Delivery hours (allowing deliveries for extended hours)
- Temporary advertising providing information related to coronavirus

This suspension will last for the foreseeable future and be reviewed periodically.

Holly Jones, Director of Planning and Infrastructure, Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils

05.01.21”

The clerk remarked that in the past the parish council had been involved in civil contingency planning but this had lapsed over the past decade. It seemed evident that at the start of the pandemic there was very little planning in place by the local authorities and that it was a shame considering the efforts and co-ordination that used to be made in this area. He asked if this observation could be taken back to District and County for consideration.

County Councillor Report

Rob Adams encouraged people to take the vaccine when they are offered it as an effective means of bringing normality to the country.

The CC had observed an increase in domestic violence during the lockdown and a ‘Here to Help’ web page had been set up to offer some support.

Cllr Adams noted that more and more 20mph speed limits were being introduced around schools but the police were reluctant to enforce them.

Cllr Adams expressed his regret that there had been very little action concerning the A422 since the last meeting when he had expressed his optimism that something was going to be done at last. He would try and arrange a Zoom meeting with Barry Barns and other at highway and the PC to try and move things along.

Cllr Adams announced that he is going to retire at the next elections that are due in May. He had represented our parish on the WCC since 2005 and had also been on the District council since 1999.

10. Flyford Green

The parish council was thanked for the Christmas Tree which was erected on the green. Holly and mistletoe had been sold to raise money for the village green fund.

The application for funding from Severn Trent Community Fund had unfortunately not been successful. An application has now been made to the Wychavon legacy Fund and we have progressed through the first round. The clerk has attended the obligatory online training session and the second part of the application has to be made by 5th March. The proposed play equipment

suppliers have agreed to hold their price for this third attempt at funding. The clerk has submitted a pre-application enquiry to the planning authority to enquire whether planning permission will be required for the plans to the green.

11. Three Parishes Hall:

The clerk noted that the Christmas Tree that had been erected in front of the hall had been much appreciated and that the parish carol service had been held outside at the hall due to social distancing measures.

The clerk reported that the building works were going well and was able to share some photographs of the progress made. There had been some minor delays due to the weather but the contractor had mitigated much of this by moving on with the internal demolitions. The builders have been hit by the pandemic and at the time of the council meeting one builder was in self isolation but was due back the following day. Nevertheless, the clerk was hopeful that the hall would be ready to reopen in a limited way by the end of March if the lockdown restrictions permitted.

12. Transport Plan:

The clerk had circulated a draft Transport Plan which was presented by the chairman and himself. The plan was accepted without amendment and it was agreed that this would now go out to public consultation. The plan will be posted on the website and hard copies provided if required. An email will be sent to residents opening the public consultation and a hard copy will be provided in the telephone box in Flyford Flavell.

The above action was:

Proposed – David Waide. Seconded – Sadie Densham. All in favour

14. Neighbourhood Plan

Since the last meeting there had been email correspondence which all councillors had been copied into. The clerk relayed the main points he had made in his recent email (attached to the end of the minutes). It was agreed that if a Neighbourhood Project was to be undertaken it would require the support of the whole community. It was therefore determined that the case would be put to the community and volunteers asked to come forward. If there was sufficient interest then a training session would be set up with Neil Pearce of Avon Planning Services.

The above action was:

Proposed – Ceri Bennet Seconded – David Waide. All In Favour

Planning Applications

To report approvals

- i/. Hedges **20/02423/FUL**
 Bishampton Road
 Flyford Flavell
 Erection of new barn to replace 4 existing barns
- ii/. Copthorne **20/02402/HP**
 Bishampton Road
 Flyford Flavell
 Change of flat roof to a pitched roof, insertion of a mezzanine floor and single storey extension.
- iii/. Flyford Arms **20/02406/FUL**
 Old Hill
 North Piddle
 Retrospective application for the siting of a portable cabin, clad in timber to be used as a cafeteria.
- iv/. Jaspers Farm **20/02465/AGR**
 Grafton Flyford
 Prior notification of agricultural development for the erection of steel framed agricultural storage building.

To report withdrawal of applications

- v/. Mistletoe Barn **20/00991/HP**
 Lower Church Farm
 Bishampton Road
 Flyford Flavell
 Single brick extension with slate roof
- vi/. Flyford Arms **20/02409/ADV**
 Old Hill
 North Piddle
 Retrospective planning application for additional two sided signage for 'the flying fish' and 'Toast' at the Flyford Arms

Resubmission of Application for discussion

- vii/. Hilltop Farm **20/02435/S106**
 Old Hill
 Flyford Flavell

Application under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to discharge the requirements relating to legal agreements dated 11th August 1989 associated with planning permission W/88/0179/) and legal agreements dated 19th April 1995 associated with planning permission W/94/1074

Linda Robinson information councillors that Wychavon were in the process of taking legal advice concerning this application and until that was supplied no further progress could be made concerning the application. It was agreed to defer this to the next extraordinary meeting which would take place on 2nd February 2021.

15. Highways/Footpaths

The clerk reported that WCC had advised that lengthsman could continue to work if the parish council could provide a suitable risk assessment. The clerk had discussed this with the lengthsman and it was agreed that he would continue with his services but that he would be very careful with contact with other people.

Some fly tipping in Huddington Lane was reported.

16. Treasurer's Report:

Present Balances

The fourth quarter dividend will be 3.74p

Balances

Deposit Acc.	£60,259.69
Current Acc.	£3,807.19

TOTAL	£64,066.88
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General Fund	£11,078.73
Appeal Fund	£1,570.00
Grafton Society	£1,500.00
Village Green	£10,516.04

Precept

The clerk had presented some written examples of differing scenarios concerning the precept by email prior to the meeting. It was agreed to increase the precept by 4% as in recent previous years. This gives a precept of £12,760 and a Band D Council Tax demand of £43.62 for the year. This is still considerably below the national average of £69.89.

17. AOB

Sadie Densham reminded councillors that the CPRE Star Count and the RSPB bird count will take place this month. The clerk promised to send more details. The comment concerning star count precipitated a discussion about the light pollution from the tomato farm. A photograph was produced and the

Parish Council confirmed it's support for any action the Disritci Council could take to alleviate the situation.

An enquiry was made whether the Village Green sign had been ordered. The clerk confirmed that the order had been places last November and it was hoped that it would be supplied this summer.

The date for the May meeting was queried as there were two dates given out. The clerk confirmed that he had changed the date and that the correct date was May 25th.

18. Dates of Next Meetings: 2nd February 2021
(Online).

AGM 25th May 2021
13th July
14th September
16th November

Signed:

Date:

Addendum. – Clerks email re Neighbourhood Planning

Dear All,

As promised I have done some digging around about the latest position on Neighbourhood Plans:

Funding

The final date for expressions of interest for the 2020/21 funding package of £10,000 is 28th January 2021. However, any grant given has to be spent by 31st March.

The Neighbourhood Planning website does say that there will be funding for 2021/22 but it doesn't yet say what the amount will be and you can not yet make an application.

Scope of a Neighbourhood Plan

The government White Paper on planning last year says that the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan will change. Instead of it being a 'Supplementary Development Management Policy' it will be a "Design Lead" policy similar to an updated and enhanced "Design Statement". Again there is very little detail about what this means.

Effect of a Neighbourhood Plan

Andrew Ford suggests that unless a Neighbourhood Plan adds something to the existing SWDP policies it is difficult to see what it will achieve unless we wanted to protect some special part of the parish or special view for instance. Maybe Tolley's meadows or some of the Grafton Charity fields might be contenders but I think that they already have protection anyway. Even if it allocated sites, the slate is wiped clean every time the local plan is updated and there is another call for sites. As you know that used to be every 10 years, it is currently every 5 years but if the white paper becomes law it will be every 3 years. If the Neighbourhood Plan is still to be used as a "Development Management Policy" it would have to be updated along with the local plan.

Local Plan

The white paper proposes that local plans become less important in terms of the allocation of development and that policy will be driven more centrally using the zonal system. If the proposals become law it might be before 2024. But it is making slow progress at the moment. It is certain that the scope of Neighbourhood Plans will change at that point.

Present position

The present position is that Wychavon has a 7.9 year land supply. In other words as far as the local plan is concerned there is no pressure to allocate housing to the Flyfords parishes. It also suggests that this will still be the case after the next call for sites. If we did have a Neighbourhood Plan in place and Wychavon changed it's mind we would have two years protection until any housing allocation was made in the parish but after that it would have no effect.

Windfall sites

The local plan depends on some windfall sites and I expect that we will still have a few of these drop in but there does not seem to be any great danger of us being allocated sites unless the regime changes. Speculative applications will also fail due to the land supply unless of course it falls below 5 years which is unlikely at the moment.

My view for what it's worth is that we would be better off using our energies to fight the regime change as this could spell a very nasty change in fortunes. If you think that a Neighbourhood Plan will help there, then that would be a good way to go forward but there is very little to say that the new regime will respect neighbourhood Plans as "Development Management Policies".

I've said my bit now, so I look forward to your discussion tomorrow.

Kind regards

Mark