

HAMPTON LOVETT AND WESTWOOD PARISH COUNCIL WORCESTERSHIRE

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2020

PRESENT

Councillors:

Cllr G.D. Crow (Chairman)

Cllr D. Nunn

Cllr R. O'Sullivan

Cllr J. Pointon

Cllr. S. Wakelam

Cllr. F. Walker

Cllr. C. Ellson-Evans

District Cllr. T. Miller (Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council)

District Cllr. N. Wright (Wychavon District Council)

Ms Jemma Towers (RFO & Clerk)

The Chairman plus more than 2 members being present, there was a quorum.

1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There was no declaration of interest declared. It was requested that all forms were submitted to the Clerk to forward on to Wychavon.

2. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

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. There is a half hour at the end all meetings for the public to raise issues these could be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Clerk has sent a reminder email to all Councillors requesting that they confirm by email that they have read the Code of Conduct. Once all confirmation emails have been received, these will be submitted to Wychavon Council.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 4 December 2019
All agreed unanimously and signed.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

6. OTHER ITEMS

Bluebell Wood:

Cllr Crow confirmed that Bluebell Wood has been recently mowed and is hopeful that over the next couple of years its condition will improve. Further, the branches have been cut on the bridleway and Doverdale Lane.

Cllr Crow also discussed fly-tipping which had occurred in Doverdale Lane. Cllr Crow confirmed that he had discussed the issue with Cllr Miller. It appears that there is still rubbish at the site and therefore Cllr Miller to ask again for it to be removed.

SWDP Employment Land:

Cllr Crow referred to the map which was attached to the minutes from the previous parish council meeting. The Councillors had a detailed discussion regarding the current proposal, specifically the land which has been identified by Wychavon as being suitable employment land. Cllr Miller explained that Wychavon is currently waiting for the landowner to agree that his site can be used for this purpose. All Parish Councillors agreed that the land currently identified is not appropriate and Cllr Miller stated that from his discussion with Fred Davies, Fred Davies does not have an issue with the reallocation of land, but that this would be subject to *that* land owner's permission.

Further, Cllr Miller explained that the land, be it that currently proposed or alternate land proposed by the Parish Council may not actually ever be used. It is a requirement that Wychavon allocate a certain amount of land, but this is not to say it will be developed.

Cllr Wakelam questioned why it was the Parish Council's responsibility to identify alternative land within the Parish, especially as the land that has been identified is so unsuitable: in selecting the current land, Cllr Wakelam stated that there has been no consideration for the community and the impact that identification of this land could have on the sale of houses in the area. Further, that Wychavon has not considered the wellbeing of those living in the community. Cllr Nunn concurred and Cllr Ellson-Evans also raised the concern that the current highway system would not be suitable for the additional traffic that the employment land would produce, ultimately, it feels that Wychavon has simply "stuck a pin in a map" and the ramifications of such a decision have simply been overlooked.

Cllr Wright explained that as the land has been identified, Wychavon will not look for alternative land. However, if the Parish are unhappy, it is their responsibility to provide other options. Where another option is submitted, it is likely that Wychavon would accept it *as long as* the land owner's consent is obtained. Cllr Wright continued to explain that the land identified in Hampton Lovett and Westwood by Wychavon is part of a larger project which Wychavon are currently working on, and that it is possible that they won't necessarily look at the details for Hampton Lovett and Westwood until September 2020 at the earliest. That said if the Parish wish to submit an alternative plot of land, this should be done sooner rather than later. This explanation echoed an email which Cllr Crow had received from Reiss Sadler on behalf of Fred Davies, in which Fred confirmed that the current allocation is in compliance with legal and governmental requirements, but if the Parish were in disagreement, a new proposal complete with map and land owner's consent should be submitted for review.

Cllr Wakelam and Cllr Nunn agreed that the new allocation proposed by Cllr Crow looked acceptable but queried whether other options had been explored and whether the proposal was in the best interests of the electors of the Parish. Cllr Crow explained the difficulty of identifying other land and the complicated task of identifying who owns what land in order to obtain consent. In essence, the land is owned by pension and investment funds and therefore contacting the correct person is time-consuming.

Action: It was agreed by all councillors that the new proposal would be submitted to Wychavon. For the avoidance of doubt, the councillors confirmed that the current proposal is land on both sides of the A442 and the new proposal is land to the west of Southcross (both proposals are currently available on the Parish Council's website which can be accessed by Councillors and the public).

Solar Panels:

Cllr Miller addressed the issue of solar panels and explained that the introduction of solar panels on to any land within Hampton Lovett and Westwood would need to be accepted onto the grid. The infrastructure is not in place, and whilst this may be a possibility in the future, it is not something that Western Power can accommodate currently.

Great Horton Farm:

Cllr Crow confirmed that there were no issues.

Highways Slippage:

Cllr Crow confirmed that the County Council have resurfaced the two slippages, but whether this is fully addressed the issue is unknown.

7. PLANNING

Beechcroft Land Appeal Enquiry:

Cllr Crow confirmed that the appeal has been dismissed and that the full decision could be read on the website. Cllr Ellson-Evans explained that there is an outside possibility that a challenge could be submitted to the High Court but that the deadline for such a challenge is 10 March 2020. Cllr Ellson-Evans stated that to date, there had been no notification of such a challenge.

8. FINANCE

VAT:

Cllr Crow confirmed that he and the Clerk are continuing to work with the VAT office to recover VAT on services purchased by the Parish Council.

Payments up to 4 March 2020, as per Accounts presented by Clerk, summarised by Chair:

CHEQUE NO.	DESCRIPTION	£ AMOUNT
100815	Top Cut	£30.00
100816	Top Cut	£240.00
100817	Top Cut	£102.00
100818	Total Computer Solutions	£132.00
100819	Top Cut	£426.00
100820	Total Computer Solutions	£177.60

9. CORRESPONDENCE

HSBC:

Cllr Crow explained that he was currently dealing with a request from HSBC regarding the number of signatories on the Parish Council bank account. Cllr Crow confirmed there are four signatories and he was disputing further information which HSBC had requested with regard to the Clerk, given that they already hold such information.

10. CLERK'S REPORT

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Contractor signs:

Cllr Crow raised the issue of contractor signs being left after work carried out by contractors has been completed. Cllr Miller said that he would request that Ringway came and collected the signs.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3 June 2020