

ACTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th December 2017 at 7-30pm in the Parish Rooms.

Present R Holt Chairman
 S Pardoe Vice Chairman
 C Ballantyne – Roberts
 C Fifield
 R Forbes
 J Oliver

Apologies H Bayley
 D Hall
 Clr H Tonge CW&C
 Clr P Williams CW&C

There were two members of the public present.

1 Public Matters

None

2 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the 6th November 2017 meeting

With editorial corrections, the minutes were agreed and signed.

3 Matters Arising

Meeting of the 6th November 2017

Chapel Lane Playing Field

- a) The goal posts have now been installed and the pitch marked out. The field looks very tidy.
- b) There have been more reports of dogs being exercised on the playing field. It is believed that the owner is known and the Chairman offered to speak to them and explain that dogs are not allowed on the field.

Action Clr Holt

There is a sign excluding dogs but it was agreed that the sign could be better placed.

Meetings with CW&C Highways and TWM Ltd

Regarding the discussion on interactive signs and moveable signs together with assessment of actual bank reserves the Parish Council decided to press for further data and installation costs. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with TWM Ltd in Winsford to view the signs and discuss the many queries arising on the supply, costs and installation, this has been done. Action Clr Holt Completed

Five members of the Council had attended the meeting. It was agreed that the meeting had been very worthwhile and the Members were pleased with the results. A great deal of background information had been given and questions answered.

The review of costs and installation showed that the purchase of two signs would be possible. Long term maintenance and the ten year plan proposed by CW&C was discussed. TWM believed that this term is excessive in view of significant design changes that could take place in that time.

The more complex signs with data recording and downloading capabilities was also discussed. These had been found interesting in both cost and added value. Data obtained could be used in conjunction with Highways and Police activities.

The Chairman reported that he had been in touch with Highways over locations and installations. The response had been negative and had stated that, in terms of TWM and interactive signage, if they are to be installed via a private body these would have to be located off the adopted highway i.e. on private land and the on-going maintenance would be the responsibility of whoever installed it and the Parish Council. Additionally the Parish Council may need to examine if planning approval is required.

It was agreed that a way forward would be to have a meeting of all three parties so that issues raised could be resolved and perhaps decided. It was agreed that a meeting should be planned for early in the New Year.

Action Cllr Holt

The Parish Council then went on to discuss the proposed work to reline Hill Top Road and the welcome addition of the 'dragons teeth' markings at Station Road and Milton Rough. The members expressed disappointment that the safety island at the Hazel Pear junction had not been included in the work package. The Chairman said that he had urged Highways to include this work, particularly as it had been requested some months ago as a safety matter, but Highways had said that the work could not be done within the current package.

Cllr Fifield said he would ask Highways to respond as to why the work at the junction could not have been done.

Action Cllr Fifield

Superfast Broadband

Further to the road markings for installation of Broadband equipment, The Chairman reported that a resident has been in touch with Openreach about the markings and what appeared to be a site for a cabinet on Cliff Road. The resident had been informed that a cabinet could be located local to 66 / 68 Cliff Road. The Parish Council is concerned that there has not been any contact from Openreach or BT on the matter. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact Openreach (Mr Andrew Massey) on the proposed location of the cabinet.

The Chairman reported that he had sent emails to Openreach at the address that had been used in the communications with the resident but no response had been received. He will try to make contact by a different route. The Chairman again reported that he had not succeeded in making contact with Openreach and would try to establish, via the resident reporting the issue, as to what direction he had used.

Action Cllr

Holt Ongoing

Petal Walks

The Opening event had gone very well. It was reported that one of the Petal Walk signs (near the stile at Strawberry Lane) has been removed. Cllr Pardoe will check. Cllr Pardoe reported that the sign is in place.

Action Cllr Pardoe Completed

Village matters –

a) Town Farm Quarry

Cllr Pardoe reported on the correspondence he had with CW&C officer R Charnley on the use of the quarry site before the permitted time in the morning (7-30am) and on the frequency of vehicle movements. It is believed that the permitted number of movements is not being exceeded but Mr Charnley asked for evidence of the site being used earlier than allowed. Cllr Pardoe will liaise with residents to collect data.

Cllr Pardoe stated that he has tried to collect data but the conclusion was that the lorries are moving through the Villages before the permitted opening time but then parking up until they could enter the site at the permitted time.

Action Cllr Pardoe Completed

Cllrs Fifield and Pardoe had attended the meeting of Mr R Charnley and the Action Group. They had found the meeting unproductive. It was said that the volume of traffic appears to have reduced. The new planning application was going ahead. It is believed that it will be listed for discussion by the Planning Committee in the February meeting.

b) Seat at Junction of Cliff Road / Hill Top Road

The Chairman reported that ABCA has obtained a quotation for the installation which is in the region of £700. The total cost for purchase and installation would be more than the sum given by the CW&C Councillors from their budgets but as the cost would be split three ways, ABCA, WI and Parish Council, the excess should not be too severe. ABCA will progress the matter.

c). Flooding Cliff Road and Acton Lane.

The Clerk has reported to CW&C a blocked road gully near 7, Cliff Road. At the same time she discussed with the officer the flow of water continually running down Acton Lane. She was told that the Council are

aware of it and it is to be investigated. The Clerk has chased the issues with the Council. They have said that both issues have been investigated and work to clear the drains has been scheduled but as to when this will be done could not be stated.

d) Joint Cemetery Committee

It was reported that a new Clerk has been appointed.

4 Planning Applications.

Extension to 29 Cliff Road, (17/04343/FUL)

The Parish Council reviewed the application and decided that there were no objections or comments. The extension at the front of the property is not disproportionate. The immediate neighbour had also been consulted and had no objections.

5 Planning Decisions

Application for a two storey extension at the side of 58, Hill Top Road (ref 17/04503/FUL).

The application has been granted. The Parish Council had objected to the application on the grounds that the extension would more than double the existing floor area and would severely impact the openness on that side of Hill Top Road. The new proposal is far in excess of the earlier application (15/04055/FUL) for a single storey extension that had not been objected to by the Parish Council.

The Planning Officer has stated that the increase in size is not as big as the Parish Council had claimed and as some small outside structures consisting of a utility room and a store that had been attached to the property reduced the actual increase.

The Parish Council rejected this statement and were very disappointed that yet again, as several recent applications, National Guidelines were being ignored or interpreted at the discretion of the Planning Officers. The Parish Council expressed disappointment at the futility of spending considerable time and effort in making objective comments only for discretion being exercised in favour of applicants. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Planning Manager, Ms Fiona Hoare, giving the grounds of the Parish Council's concerns.

Action Cllr Holt

6 Financial Matters

6.1 Authorisation of Cheques

There were no cheques to be approved.

6.2 Other Financial Topics

a). The Chairman mentioned correspondence received from the Independent Auditors. In spite of the system being introduced such that Parish Councils with a turn-over of less than £25k would be exempt from the external auditors it now transpires that the PC have to exempt themselves from the Independent Auditing process. It was agreed that when the correspondence is received from the Independent Auditor the Parish Council will register exemption.

b). The Chairman mentioned that next month the Parish Council will need to assess the precept for 2018 – 2019. Matters to be considered will include the cost of the interactive signs.

7 CWAC Ward Councillors

Cllr Fifield mentioned that a number of consultations are taking place at present. He also said that there is no update on the Ward Boundary changes as yet.

8 Reports from other meetings

None.

9 Correspondence

CPRE- Countryside Voice – Winter 2017.

CPRE – Fieldwork – Winter 2017.

Ray Parry Playground Equipment

Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society – programme of walks January to June 2018.

Air Ambulance – poster for display.

10 Village Matters

a). Cllr Oliver expressed thanks to the people who looked after the flower tubs at the entrances to the Village.. It was agreed that the tubs had looked fine this year but now needed a 'clean-up'..

- b). It was mentioned that the road through Weaverham would be subject to emergency gas repairs from 4th December.
- c) It was mentioned that the Police speed detector van had been operating in the Village again.
- d). It was noted that Hill Top Road will be closed from tomorrow (5th) for the line marking work.
- e). The Chairman said that he had been contacted by the Police and Crime Commissioners office regarding the grant money and that he had co-operated in the completion on the use and benefits to be gained from the grant.
- f). The Chairman reported on a meeting that he had attended with Mrs Jane Evans and Mr Jason Norris Chair of the Bowls sub-section of ABCA regarding a replacement building for the bowls people. The Bowls people have obtained estimates for a wooden building at about £3000. The Chairman had explained to Mr Norris the procedure for submitting a planning application which would have to be done through the Parish Council as owners of the land.

11 A.O. B

No topics.

12 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd January 2018, starting at 7-30pm.