

| KIDDERMINSTER FOREIGN PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Trimpley Village Hall on Monday 16th June at 7.30pm | | |
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| Present Councillor Mr. B. Phillips Councillor Mr. S. Leigh District Councillor P Harrison 2 members of the public were present. | | Councillor Mr. R. Roberts Councillor Mrs. S. Thompson County Councillors J. Shaw and D. Morehead Mrs E Whitehouse (Clerk) |
| Police Report: Police were not present. Councillors were asked to name policing priorities for July – September. Clerk was to respond to police drawing their attention again to the speed of traffic in lanes, and in particular, the speed of the buses on the local 297 route. In addition, it was thought that some ASB was taking place in an “unofficial” layby, just above entrance to the Habberley Trail. It was noted that young people were parking there late evening, leaving litter, and heading off down the path on the opposite side of the road into Habberley Valley. Drug taking was suspected. Public Open Forum – Nothing raised. | | |
| The Parish Council meeting commenced with a Minute’s Silence in memory of Ben Corfield who had been a long-serving Parish Councillor and former Chairman, who had recently passed away. He will be long remembered with fondness by many people in the Parish, as a man with great local knowledge, and who could turn his hand to any practical job to offer solutions. | | |
| 1. | Apologies For Absence: Received and approved from Cllr. C. Holford, Cllr. C. Grainger and Dist Cllr. J. Byng. | |
| 2. | Declarations of Interest/Dispensations: Interests as previously minuted and declared on the central register. No new interests declared. | |
| 3. | Approval of the Minutes The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held Monday 19 th May 2025 were approved and signed. | |
| 4. | Annual Chairman’s Report for 2024/25 – Cllr. B. Phillips - He read his report on the past year, as follows: <i>“This is my 3rd time of being chairman and I must thank Chris Holford who I took over from. He handed the baton to me with KFPC in good health after a period of turbulence. I must also thank Elsie our clerk who has always made my time as chairman as easy as possible. She has been there on the end of the phone for every issue our parish has faced. Over the past 12 months, parishioners voted that Habberley Park was to be transferred to Kidderminster Town Council. This is something KFPC instigated in a bid to keep its rural identity for a little longer. Our lanes have again been looked after Chris Bunn and the parish council works very closely with him to rectify problems as they arise. This year we welcomed a new parish councillor Sue Thompson who has a wealth of knowledge from many years living in Trimpley and serving the community in numerous roles. She joins a wonderful team here at KFPC. Unfortunately Becky Norton decided to step down as a councillor which I reluctantly accepted as she had been just what KFPC needed and I wish her well and thank her for the time she put into to our council. We also saw Ian Hardiman retire as our county councillor. He has over the years made our parish a better place to live. We now have 2 new county councillors Jenny Shaw and Dan Morehead so I wish them well in their roles for the community. I'd like to end and thank each and every councillor for the time you put in each month and the support I have received in my year as chairman.”</i> | |
| 5.. | County and District Councillors’ Reports - County Councillors’ reports : Councillor Jenny Shaw: “Radar request for Hoarstone Lane My Liaison officer has spoken with the speed survey team who will look into the VAS data; however, the accuracy will not be ‘strong enough’ to do anything with it. He has therefore requested that a new speed survey be carried out by WCC, to allow you to make a proper informed decision of any further action you deem suitable. The last survey at the location was in 2016, but this is too old to use meaningfully - hence a new survey request. Blocked Drain on Northwood Lane After some discussion we do believe that in fact the drain is on a WCC highway and is WCC responsibility and that it has been blocked for some time and not been picked up when teams went around to map the drainage system. My liaison officer visited the location on the 2nd of June and had a good dig around; the gully is well and truly blocked with mud as well as the pipe that runs from it. He also thinks that the gully is not recorded on our systems. He will raise orders to have the gully cleaned and to register it, too. Blocked Covert at Eastham Farm on the Habberley Circular I have been informed that the new owner plans to carry this work out in July. Trimpley Lane Surface Break up The pothole repair completed last month was only a temporary repair resurfacing will take place, it is booked in for the 22nd of July. Buses down Trimpley Lane Head of transport operations confirmed that we have in the past requested a smaller bus on this route and we have been told that this is not possible. He has agreed to write to Select bus services who run out of Shropshire to ask the drivers to be more courteous, I will be informed if they send any response. Roadside / verge overgrowth on Habberley Lane My liaison officer has been checking up on this hedge weekly and will carry on doing so, he has managed to speak with a site manager who has said he will liaise with head office and the green team will also be sending out a formal letter this week (a stage one letter) asking the developers to trim back the hedge to try and get things moving. | |

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| | <p>Habberley Trail signage - this has now been removed from the verge as the metal poles were a danger to cyclists my liaison officer spoke to the owner this week on the phone, and he actioned it very quickly in fairness - He thinks he was trying to do it after the summer period in September, but this wasn't an option. They are looking at other options for signage"</p> <p>District Councillors' Report: None given.</p> |
| 6. | <p>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL:</p> <p>a) New Planning applications: None received as at date of meeting.</p> <p>b) Update on Previous applications: 23/0538/SCR Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion at Trimpey Reservoir, Eymore Green, Trimpey, Bewdley - Pending Decision. 25/0372/CLE Certificate of Lawfulness for Existing use as non-agricultural dwelling since 2015 – Hoarstone Lodge, Hoarstone Lane, Trimpey – Pending Decision</p> <p>c) Compliance Issues/Appeals and other planning matters –</p> <p>i) Oak Meadow Farm (Off Honeybrook Lane) - Appeal 24/008 Lodged re Enforcement Notice served – Decision awaited</p> <p>ii) 4 Honeybrook Cottages, Bridgnorth Road, Kidderminster – Appeal Ref APP/R1845/W/25/3359910 against refusal of 24/0767 Change of use of land to form extended domestic curtilage + garage extension – Decision awaited.</p> <p>iii) Enforcement matters in respect of Northwood Farm – Nothing further to report.</p> <p>iv) Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document – (comments to be made by Wednesday, 9th July 2025) - There have been a number of changes at national level which mean that the SPD requires updating. Clerk had circulated the links last for councillors to read pertinent documents. No official comment on this was made.</p> <p>v) Hill Farm – Horses are still in evidence in large numbers.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Progress Reports and other Outstanding Items Highway Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadside Hedges – Habberley Lane – (See County Councillor's report as above). Apart from the immediate concern re getting this hedge cut back, concern was also expressed about the on-going maintenance once the developer has finished all the building. It was understood that there was an obligation to carry out such site maintenance for 30 years, but concern was expressed about what would happen after that period. • Bus Service (297) through Trimpey – (size of buses) (See County Councillor's report as above). Although the bus company said they could not put on a smaller-sized bus, questions were asked if there was a reason for this. • Provision of a Defibrillator in Low Habberley – a discussion took place re possible places to install a device, with a suitable power supply and it was suggested by Dist. Cllr. Paul Harrison that the Clerk could request permission from the Community Housing department in respect of their properties in Valley Close. Clerk would follow this up. • Use of Parish Council noticeboards – it was decided that some notices in respect of the Church and Village Hall would be allowed on the 3-board noticeboards, but that Parish Council notices should take precedence. Often with notices the Parish Council had to display legally, there was insufficient space for other notices, particularly on the smaller noticeboards. |
| 8. | <p>Insurance of Members – Clerk advised that Zurich Insurance, our insurance providers, would not cover councillors or volunteers (or the Clerk) for personal accident if over the age of 75. Clerk had made all councillors aware of this, if undertaking attendance at any meetings, or representing the council in any capacity, and that they would do this at their own risk, and should take every sensible precaution. Enquiries to be made next year to compare price and conditions from other companies.</p> |
| 9. | <p>Local Government Reorganisation – a consultation exercise was being undertaken throughout the district as follows, with a deadline for submission of comments of Sunday, 29 June 2025.</p> <p>1) Replace all councils with one unitary council This would replace the county council and six district, city and borough councils with just one council for the whole of Worcestershire. It would provide all services from collecting waste to school admissions. The new council would geographically cover the same areas as Worcestershire County Council does now.</p> <p>2) Replace all councils with two unitary councils This means the county would be split into two new councils with one for the north of the county (Wire Forest, Bromsgrove & Redditch) and one for the south of the county. Each council would be responsible for all services in its part of the county. After some discussion with County Councillors' present it was affirmed that the larger the council, the larger the savings which could be made. As the status quo was not being allowed to continue by Central Government, and this reform was being imposed, concerns were expressed about outlying rural areas being poorly represented in a single large unitary council, being just a small part of 600000 electorate, as a single identity being - Worcestershire. However, response being required by 29th June, it was, on balance decided that a single unitary council would be financially preferable, and economic sense for all concerned. Clerk to respond accordingly.</p> |
| 10. | <p>Casual Vacancy – Clerk had received and circulated to all councillors application forms from Mrs. Elise Nolan-Thompson and Mr. Ron Collins. It was decided to interview both candidates, at the start of the July meeting, with a vote being taken at that time in respect of co-opting one of the applicants into the vacant seat.</p> |

