

KENSWICK AND WICHENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14th December 2015 in the Memorial Hall, Wichenford.

Present

Cllr G Britten-Long (chairman) Cllr J Panton, Cllr H Rendall, Cllr M Andrews, Cllr K Randall and Mrs S Sanders (Clerk to the Parish Council)

District Councillor B Williams and County Councillor P Grove also present.

15/103 APOLOGIES and APPROVAL of absence

D Richardson (away) D Richards (work)

15/104 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

Democratic half hour/public question time.

None present.

15/105 APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION.

No applications were applied for.

15/106 MINUTES

It was proposed to accept the minutes of the 2nd November as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Rendall and seconded by Councillor Panton.

15/107 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Chancellor unveiled his Autumn Statement and Spending Review on Wednesday (25 November). The full implications for us will not become clear until we get our spending settlement in December.

Funding for local government will fall by 24 per cent in real terms over the Spending Review period.

Worcestershire County Council will be able to levy an additional two per cent on their portion of the Council Tax bill specifically to fund social care and more money will also be available for the Better Care Fund to join up health and social care.

The nationally set Business Rate will be abolished and councils will get the power to reduce rates to support business and job growth

By 2020 councils will be able to retain 100 per cent of Business Rate income As part of the devolution agenda, and in return for retaining all Business Rates, councils will be expected to take on additional responsibilities. This could include administration of housing benefit for pensioners and the funding of public health, amongst others. A consultation on the proposals will be held in 2016.

There will be new measures to simplify the planning system to speed up house building People who spend more than four weeks outside of the UK will no longer receive Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit

Malvern Splash is receiving an investment of £100,000 from Freedom Leisure for a new café and reception area which will include a Costa Coffee. The work will start on 29 November and is due for completion by mid-December.

15/108 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

When the chancellor gave his statement on 25th November it was not made clear how local authorities would be funded. It was also hoped that the Carrington bridge in Worcester would be mentioned but was not. Robin Walker our MP said we are still in with a chance.

He also failed to mention how the Syrian refugees would be funded for years 2-5.

The county council are trying to find savings of £25 million without touching Adult services, children services and social care, although costs are still rising.

Adult services are not ring fenced and councils can increase the council tax levy by 2%. They intend to increase the council tax by 2% in Feb for childrens services, increasing it by 4% if needed. On a band D property, the increase of 2% would be £20 per year.

The police are putting on a 2% increase and the chancellor ring fenced them for the next 4-5 years.

The Whittington offices are moving to county hall giving them a revenue of £800,000 per year, but it means that 1200/1500 jobs have been cut.

15/109 PROGRESS REPORTS

Update on Kenswick Stables.

The environment agency was contacted about this case at the end of July and nothing has been heard since. The clerk was asked to contact them again. Worcester Regulatory Services replied to say that they do not cover health and safety on Farms, and then said they would find out who is dealing with it. We have now been told by the WRS that it falls to the HSE to deal with it.

Wichenford web site

This is still on going. The clerk and several councillors got together on 5th November to look at similar sites and to discuss what they would like. It will be created after Christmas.

Peg house wood.

Councillor Rendall the land agent and asked if they could ask the owners to contact the pc. Three have made contact and been made aware of the overhanging trees and been asked to cut them back.

Parish Defibrillator

We have lots of information on this and have spoken to the surgery and Martley Pc who have done the same thing we are looking to do, and it will be put on the next agenda.

Smartwater event

This was held in the memorial hall on 28th November and was attended by Ian White who was very helpful. Timers for lights, locks that shriek and personal alarms were given out. Unfortunately, not enough people came to justify making the village a smartwater village. It is now up to the police to see if they want to do it.

15/110 PLANNING

Applications pending since the last meeting. (For information only)

None

Applications refused/approved/withdrawn.

15/01033/FUL. Installation of standalone PV modules and associated infrastructure. Land at Green Farm and Bush Farm, Monkwood Green. **(refused)**

Applications to be considered.

None.

15/111 FINANCE

The balance at the end of August stands at £18,674.51

Payments were made to Lenghtsman, MHDC for uncontested election for Kenswick, GBL for hamper, and for the repair of the clerks computer.

The care of the millennium green was discussed. The chairman is to find out who the trustees are. If the committee disbands then the responsibility of the green falls to the parish council.

The clerk explained that a new mandate is needed as another signatory needs to be added. The chairman will speak to HSBC.

The acceptance of the finances was resolved.

15/112 LENGTHSMAN

Usual duties clearing leaves especially in the village. The footpath on the corner is very slippy with moss, the lengthsman has looked at it but the surface of the pavement is breaking up and needs looking at by the highways. The clerk was asked if she could get him to look at the footpath opposite the bus shelter and thank him for doing the ditches in Barbers Lane.

15/116 COUNCILLORS TRAINING

None.

15/117 TO REPORT ANY URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

None

15/118 CORRESPONDENCE

For decision by the parish council (Information only)

All Correspondence is now emailed to councillors.

15/119 COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS and ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

15/120 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Meetings were arranged for 8th February, 4th April (APM) 23rd May (AGM) 11th July and 22nd August 2016.

All will be in the memorial hall at 7.40pm.

PLEASE CHECK DATES and BRING YOUR DIARIES.

Signed.....

Dated.