

**Minutes from a meeting of Crophorne Parish Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 7pm At the Village Hall**

**1. PRESENT:**

Chairman B Annis      Cllr J King      Cllr S Smythe      Cllr W Clive      Cllr M Rowell      Cllr C Hall  
District Cllr T Rowley      One Parishioner

**2. APOLOGIES** – were received from County Cllr E Eyre and Cllr Segar

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr King – Village Hall

**4. MINUTES** from Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were approved, proposed Cllr Clive, seconded Cllr King – all in favour.

**OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – Points raised by parishioners in attendance:

- Rooftop Property – parishioner in attendance referred to overgrowth from neighbours property, now affecting his property and vermin have been seen. Parishioner has made contact with Rooftop but nothing has been done. Clerk to contact Rooftop on his behalf once photographs have been received from parishioner

**5. PLANNING:**

- Kimberley's Field and Sites – B4084 – still awaiting site visit to establish layout of sites
- 21/00750 – 7a Evergreen Bank, Main Road – Change of use to gypsy caravan site for up to six caravans including no more than five statics/mobile homes – *awaiting decision by WDC – objection has been made by WCC highways*
- 21/00566 – Oakfield House, Main Street – erection of front and rear extension, replacement gates and internal alterations – *approved by WDC*
- 21/01255 - Mead House, Brook Lane – proposed single storey side extension – *approved by WDC*
- 21/01303 – Land Pershore Road, Haselor Lane) – Change of use of land for siting of 10 holiday chalets and facilities block – *approved by WDC*
- 21/01196 – Bredon View, Smokey Lane (Coran Dean)– Change of use of land for sensory play area facility – *approved by WDC*
- 21/00999 – Evergreen Bank, Main Road – change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for one gypsy / traveller household with 2 x caravans, including no more than one static caravan together with the erection of an ancillary amenity building - *awaiting decision by WDC – objection has been made by WCC highways*
- 21/00365 3 Brook Cottages – proposed two-storey side extension – *awaiting decision by WDC*
- 21/01493 – The Pound, Main Street – remedial works to main house and garage with replacement timber conservatory. *Awaiting decision by WDC – it was noted that the Conservation Officer has no objections to this application*
- 21/01978 – Land North of Blacksmiths Lane – outline application for the development of 4 self-build bungalows and improvement of access - *notification of this application was received too late for inclusion as an agenda item, but it was considered that this should be discussed at a full meeting. An extension to comment by 5<sup>th</sup> October has been granted by WDC, and will be an agenda item at the October meeting*

**6. VILLAGE HALL** – Cllr King reported that the Chairman had now stepped down as he had moved from the village. A new chair has been lined up. Painting, plumbing and electrical works are ongoing. S106 monies have now been received and paid for the improvements to the Sheppey (including matting parking area and new access). A new mower has been purchased. Picnic in the Park event to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> September and bookings are now starting to increase.

**7. HIGHWAY MATTERS:**

- B4084 Croptorne to Hampton – It was recorded that the worst affected areas in need of siding out as a priority are between the traveller site on the B4048 and the junction to Charlton – alternating from different sides of the road. The clerk would report this to County Cllr Eyre.
- Visibility railings, Brook Lane – the overgrowth in the small field / orchard will be cut early October. The clerk had emphasised to the landowner that the brook / culvert should be kept clear of debris.

**8. COUNTY CLLRS REPORT:** Cllr Eyre sent in a report – attached to these minutes

**9. DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT:**

- Next meeting of WDC Planning Committee 16<sup>th</sup> October – nothing affecting Croptorne
- SWDP – delay in next stage of consultation due to Covid during the past 18 months and the delays in getting reports from consultees
- Traveller Site Consultation – outcome following consultation awaited
- Minerals Local Plan – a modified document (in excess of 1,600 pages) from the Inspector is out for consultation. Key issues will be identified and narrowed down

**9. PROGRESS REPORTS / UPDATES**

- (a) Lengthsman – work requests:
- Top of Brook Lane / B4084 – clearance to enable visibility
  - To ensure signage is clear – Brook Lane
- (b) Community Infrastructure Levy Fund – To look at options regarding use of CIL funds for traffic calming measures. *Clerk to chase WCC for a meeting with Cllr Annis*
- (c) Community Speed Watch – It is hoped that the scheme will soon be up and running again. The clerk has been asked if Croptorne is still interested

**10. FINANCE:** Payments for approval / made since the last meeting:

SO	Clerks Salary	337.80
SO	Clerks Expenses	16.22
1064	Lengthsman June	144.00
1065	ICO Renewal	40.00
1066	Barrier Sheppey	15058.80
1067	Lengthsman July	144.00
SO	Clerks Salary	337.80
SO	Clerks Expenses	16.22
1068	Clerks PAYE	62.80

Accounts had been circulated to Cllrs for approval – *Approval of accounts and payments, proposed Cllr Rowell, seconded Cllr Hall – all in favour*

**Account Balances:**

Current Account (*after unrepresented cheques*):      **£ 14,286.27**  
 Deposit Account:      **£ 5,022.49**

**11. BROADBAND UPDATE** - Cllr Segar was not at the meeting – no report available

**12. DEFIBRILLATOR** - Following previous discussion it was agreed that we needed to ensure that everyone knew the access code to the defibrillators, and that this should not be confused with the location code (which needs to be clearly displayed on the unit). It was agreed that a ‘fridge magnet’ for every household be provided

with the **ACCESS CODE** clearly marked, and improved signage be placed adjacent to the defibs. With the **LOCATION CODE** clearly identified. Cllr Hall offered to organise the signs and the clerk would get the location codes confirmed by the ambulance service

**13. NETWORK RAIL, CHARLTON** - Cllr Smythe reported on a Zoom meeting he attended with representatives from Fladbury and Charlton, re additional works to be carried out by Network Rail. Scheduled to start 13<sup>th</sup> September and to continue to the beginning of December. Cllrs from the parishes will continue to have regular meetings with Network Rail

**12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS / FUTURE DISCUSSION:**

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October at the Village Hall at 7.00pm

## Croptorne - Cllr ELIZABETH EYRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT September 2021

### County Issues

**Worcestershire Children First** - Her Majesty's Inspectors for Ofsted visited Worcestershire County Council children's services last month to review the quality of practice at the Family Front Door (FFD). Headline findings said the local authority had made strong progress in improving the quality of practice for children and families in receipt of services since the last inspection in June 2019. Leaders have established a positive culture of commitment to continuous improvement across this service area, supported by particularly strong quality assurance arrangements. The early help partnership is now well engaged in the delivery of services, and most schools in Worcestershire have an early help offer, bespoke to the needs of their community.

**Covid:** cases in Worcestershire are increasing. The Worcestershire rate stands at 266 cases per 100,000. The equivalent England rate is 321, West Midlands rate stands at 319 per 100,000. Individuals testing positive is 7.8% overall in Worcestershire.

**Here2Help Worcestershire** continues to support individuals and is pro-actively working with individuals who have been asked to self-isolate; self-isolation is increasing demand.

**Schools Planning support** is being provided to schools for school testing for pupils. On the last day of term, there were 186 outbreaks in 80 schools with 105 collapsed bubbles, 7135 affected overall, 527 staff, 6602 pupils. 99.3% of schools in Worcestershire were open compared to the national rate of 98.5%. Attendance was 71.6% currently with a national average at 75.2%. WCC is working with Worcestershire Children First, as home-to-school transport is resuming following schools reopening.

### Local Issues

**21/00999/CU** – Evergreen Bank, Main Road – change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for one gypsy/traveller household with 2 x caravans, including no more than one static caravan together with the erection of an ancillary amenity building

Local Planning Authority recommended planning permission not be granted until Highways receive some further detail on the access proposals. In terms of accidents/incidents on the B4084, highways can only take account of accidents police have recorded. There appear to be only two accidents that have occurred close by, one of the accidents was classified as being fatal (2018).

**Highway response 5/July/ 2021** seeking similar information requested to the above application, speed data, collision/accident data, and clarification on the uses currently happening on-site, in addition to clarification regarding the proposals and access to see if the access meets current design guidance.

**Agents' response to Highways 31/8/2021** Google Streetview clearly shows that the roadside verge is in excess of 2.5 metres wide. The access is located on the outside of a bend in Main Road which means that clear visibility can be obtained along the nearside kerb for distances in excess of 215 metres to the east and west. aerial photographs with the 2.5 x 215 metre visibility splay shown by a yellow line sent to clerk. In the case of a single-carriageway, non-trunk road, the speed limit is only 60 mph and, the imperative to maintain a constant speed of traffic along trunk roads does not apply. As a result, visibility requirements are much reduced. This means that there is a considerable margin for safety at the access to Evergreen Bank. Agent conclusion: a plan, sent to the clerk, shows the vehicle tracking for a vehicle towing a caravan turning left out of the site. This illustrates that, with a road width in excess of 8 metres, this manoeuvre can be completed without venturing onto the wrong side of the road.

**I am awaiting Highways' response** to the agent's assertions.

**Community Infrastructure Levy Fund –WCC re traffic calming options – Cllr Annis** to meet with WCC officers to discuss - no further information as to whether the meeting has taken place.

**Speeding and traffic calming:** see above

**Community Speed watch-** a new officer is in post covering a large area. Assessment needed before promoting.

**Junction Field Barn Lane / B4084 – Cllr Smyth.** The parish has repeatedly made a good point and even explained the issue with trailers but WCC has advised “they won't be able to reconsider the hedge at Field Barn Lane. It was borderline when first inspected and a considerable amount has been cut. BB is happy to reinspect following any further growth but cannot do more on this issue.

**Field Barn Lane Passing Bays** A request had been made for them to be put on the WCC 'list' for action: tidying up and making larger if possible, adding a passing bay if possible. Informed in July that advisories had been raised, they had been **surveyed for work but not scheduled.**

**Hampton to Pershore Cycle way** Emily Barker to come back to me re the history – no response yet. Active travel meeting tomorrow. Update, background, and map sent to clerk. Questions asked:

1. Where all the cycling S106 monies from Hampton and Pershore went, over say the last 4 years.
2. Why there were several feasibility studies '93 onwards but no planned implementation.
3. If the small area in Fladbury ( start of Porter's path coming from Station Road) which is not wide enough to meet Sustrans requirement for a horse/man/walking and cycle to progress in line, can be overcome by a flexible approach.
4. When might the parishes learn of the date when this project may start and finish given the S106 monies and LTP4 hooks for this cycle route?

### **Footway, B4084 to Hampton - siding out Hampton to Cropthorne**

1. Request for grass to be strimmed until a proper assessment can be carried out on in respect of resurfacing Query 49 - The grass cutting for B-class roads will follow on from the A-class roads. The date for this has not yet been given.
2. Requested cabinet member come and see this site for himself.
3. Requested siding out
4. Trying to get better policy and budget to improve footways next to A and B roads.

### **Background facts**

BB 24<sup>th</sup> June: machine for siding out work, was not suitable. Footway needs to be in quite a good condition for siding out work to be completed.

B4084 is not suitable for siding out due to its condition and would benefit from reconstruction.

There are five advisories raised at various points

Engineers have not allocated resources so far.

### **Head of Highways RB - 24/6**

- core maintenance budget is used for all footways, including those adjacent to A roads.
- programmed work is very much based on our asset management data and hierarchy of needs (footway usage, including vulnerable users).
- siding out budget whole county circa £200k per annum
- work is usually carried out during the warmer summer months.
- Before committing to this work, we need to assess the area and carry out trial holes to understand the footway condition.

- Siding out in rural areas can often reveal a very old, damaged footway and what we don't want to do is to create a safety issue.
- Siding out is principally cost-effective, but there are also the traffic management costs and tipping charges to bear in mind, significantly increasing the cost of work.
- An advisory was raised on the footway along the B4084 following your enquiry and those from two residents.
- WCC will shortly assess this area, carry out the required trial holes and obtain an indicative cost for the works.
- stretch is about 2700 metres and there will inevitably be some sections that will require resurfacing and thus increase the cost.

### Questions

- A. Does the parish have an area it wishes to prioritise?
- B. Does Parish have funds to put to the project if so how much?

**Neigh Lane** – Not enough room for a footway

**Broadband** –Cllr Seager. WCC can support if needed,

### Minerals Local Plan

1. 'Planning permission will be granted' wording versus 'planning permission will be supported' wording was debated during the examination hearing sessions, Inspectors made their position clear in the hearings. "planning permission will be granted" is followed in each policy by the tests which need to be met. The Plan is to be read as a whole and within the context of planning law. This means that decision-makers will give appropriate weight to each policy and other material considerations at the time of each planning application. In their view, the suggested change of phrase would be beyond what could be an Additional Modification. The original wording was not "unsound" if any party were to submit additional evidence or legal interpretation as to why the phrase is unsound, they would consider it.
2. Inspectors' Report procedure: the last stage in the examination procedure Consultation on the Main Modifications. The Inspectors could consider any representations made in response to that consultation. They could choose to hold further hearing sessions if significant issues are raised, before issuing their report. Once their final report is received, it will be put to Cabinet and Full Council for a decision as to whether to adopt the plan. The Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan Main Modifications consultation was withdrawn for technical document reasons but has now been restarted, with a deadline of 12 October.