

Bitterley Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the meeting held at Bitterley Village Hall On Wednesday 8th July, 2015

PRESENT

Chairman: Mr HCH Chance

Members: Mr RJ Osborne (Vice Chairman), Mr DT Price, Mr HWJ Watkins,
Mr C Chillingworth, Mr PJ Martin, Mrs AM Holman, Mrs K Wheeler, Mr DW Rogers,
Mr P Lawley-Jones

Also present: Mrs S Jones (Clerk), Shropshire Councillor Richard Huffer

1) To receive apologies and reasons for absence: Mr DE Bowen (Illness),

2) Declarations of Interest.

None

3) Public Participation session. (16 members of the public attended)

Mr HCH Chance (Chairman) gave a brief rundown of the duties of a Parish Council.

There are a number of residents that are generally unhappy with the parking situation at the school. It was discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting, but the Parish Council has had no further input since then. There is a meeting arranged with the Working Group and Glyn Shaw from Shropshire Council highways to see what the alternatives there are which are safe and viable. There is a layby where people are asked not to park all day, but they do. The school are hoping to be able to create 18 spaces at the bottom of the sports field, so this should take the pressure off the amount of cars that park on the road. There are only a small number of options. Shropshire Housing Association are going to tidy the layby to make it safer. The School Governors are taking the lead, and there are 2 members of the Parish Council who are Governors. Neighbours of the school will be consulted on any proposals, but there may be scenarios that do not please everyone. A question was asked why the Village Hall car park is not used to park in, but this option has been available for many years and it is still not used. A comment was made that people should be prohibited from parking by the School, but this was felt to be unviable. Another comment was made that people are parking unlawfully: On junctions, on zigzags.

Mr HCH Chance was requested to make representation to the Working Group that sorting out the staff parking should be the first stage and then to see what effect that has, before taking the next step. The question was asked where the money was coming from for this project and Mr DW Rogers said that money has been set aside by the school for pay for the works. It was felt by members of the public that communication is poor with the school and the residents, could the Parish Council ask if some residents could be invited on to the working group? The chairman said that this matter had been discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting and at this meeting and that agendas for both had been displayed in all the noticeboards in the parish and on the Parish Council website, and that there had been reports in West of the Clee parish magazine and the school newsletter. He could not see how communication could have been better but he would ask the working group to have more representation by residents. The school is going to investigate encouraging the children to travel on the bus that are not entitled to for free, and paying for them to do so. Will there be a public meeting after the staff parking is done? The next meeting is the 13th July. Everyone is working towards the same thing so it should be a joint decision what proposals are made.

There were 8 caravans camping to the east of the village on the 12th June, a resident wished to know if the Council had been contacted by the Metal Detecting Society or the landowner Mr Wheeler that where there, and if they didn't require a licence to be there what exemptions were made?

Mr HCH Chance reminded people that the Parish Magazine "West of the Clee" covers the area from The Heath to Caynham and the subscription is £6.00 per year, and that Bitterley Parish has a Facebook page. There were no other questions so the chairman thanked members of the public for attending and invited them all to stay for the rest of the meeting to learn of other matters which were pertinent to them, at which point most left the meeting.

4) To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 13th May 2015. The minutes were **APPROVED** and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be signed and **ADOPTED** as a true record. Proposed by Mr P Lawley-Jones and seconded by Mr C Chillingworth. Minutes signed by the Chairman.

5) Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May, 2015

None

6) Roads:

a) The Clee Stanton road has been re-tarmacadamed, but the bridge by Kites Nest Farm, Henley Hill has been knocked in the process, clerk to contact Shropshire Council **ACTION**

b) The passing place on the road from Henley to Bitterley has no tarmac on it. Clerk to report to Shropshire Council **ACTION**

c) There is a nasty pot hole Bitterley side of the old railway bridge by the point-to-point course. Clerk to report to Shropshire Council **ACTION**

d) Mr C Chillingworth met with Mr Glyn Shaw from Shropshire Council about the speeding at Henley. The sign that is currently there does not give sufficient warning of the junction. The "Slow Down" sign isn't sited to encompass both lanes. GS said that it is already in hand to have a separate sign for both Bitterley Lane and Henley Lane. GS is willing to consider an advisory 40 MPH speed limit, sooner rather than later. GS is going to investigate the road surface on the bridge. The chairman thanked Mr Chillingworth.

7) Footpaths in the Parish

a) The road in Middleton is too narrow so a footpath will in encroach into the road. Shropshire Council where going to ask Mouchel to do a survey, could the clerk ask SC what alternatives were looked at. **ACTION**

b) Investigate the proposed footpath called the Dhustone Way, between Ludlow and Titterstone, clerk to find out who the portfolio holder is. **ACTION**

c) Shropshire Council has surveyed the footpaths in Bitterley. There is a footpath behind the Village Hall towards Clee Stanton Road that has been cleared by volunteers who are trying to keep the paths clear.

8) Planning Applications

a) **Planning application decisions already made**

None

b) **Planning applications for consideration**

None

c) **Planning Application Pending**

14/02442/OUT: Outline application for residential development: Proposed Residential Development South Of Paddock Side, Middleton.

14/03530/FUL: Proposed Agricultural Workers Dwelling At Shop Farm, Dhustone Lane and an Affordable Dwelling.

9) Financial Matters

a) Cheques signed since last meeting

Chq 531	Coopers (Bus Shelter Fencing)	£50.73
Chq 532	SJones (HMRC)	£39.95
Chq 533	Zurich Insurance	£304.87

b) Cheques signed at this meeting

Chq 534	S Jones (Salary)	£257.26
Chq 535	S Jones (HMRC)	£64.40
Chq 536	PCC Cleeton St Mary	£325.00
Chq 537	PCC Bitterley Parish	£450.00
Chq 538	P Warrington (Bus Shelter)	£250.00
Chq 539	S Jones (Bromfield Sand&Gravel & cartridge)	£79.37

Councillors noted that payment for the use of the clerk's own computer, heating, lighting, wear and tear and other items were usually covered by the remuneration package but on this occasion there had been an unusual amount of printing to be done.

c) Financial balance. £1803.20

10) Correspondence:

- a) Shropshire Councillor (Cleobury Mortimer) Madge Shingleton has asked if anyone would like to make a representation about the 2L Bus Service between Ludlow and Kidderminster. The service is experiencing a number of issues and Mrs Shingleton would welcome people's views. Mr P Lawley-Jones said that he had waited for the bus for an hour due to it breaking down so he would write to MS. **ACTION**

11) Reports

a) Speeding through Middleton

The speeding surveys should be carried out shortly.

Until the signs had been delivered, GS was not aware that it was different to what has been requested (pedestrians in road ahead). As there had been such a delay, GS had to make a quick decision as to proceed or not. The sign relates to a speed limit ahead, so it needed to be in close proximity to the speed limit threshold, hence the current position. GS has offered to erect a mirror opposite, to assist visibility. GS would prefer to leave the interactive at the Bridgnorth end where it is for now as he doesn't want to be in the position of having taken the sign down to be moved and then the consultants come along and lay the tubes for the survey as the whole idea was to gauge what impact the interactives have on speeds entering the speed limit. GS clarified why the signs at both ends are different. The sign at the Ludlow end is situated just inside the speed limit, as was originally agreed. The standard interactive within a limit is the circular speed limit repeater type which lights up if you approach it at more than the pre-set trigger speed. This is in accordance with current DfT guidelines on the placing of such signs. However the sign at the Bridgnorth end is sited outside the limit, as was originally requested by Parish Councillors. This precludes the use of the type of sign in place at the Ludlow end which should only be used inside the limit. GS had originally agreed to put a sign up beyond the large tree which would have been the "Pedestrians in the road" type triangular warning sign with a "Slow Down" message which would have illuminated when approached at higher than the pre-set trigger speed. Somewhere along the line his instructions were misinterpreted and the sign actually delivered for erection was the exclamation

mark “speed limit ahead” type. DfT guidelines on the placing of this type of sign state that they should be outside but in the proximity of the speed limit entry point. Anxious to avoid more delay and in a very tight time frame GS had to make a decision on whether to erect it or not, as the post erection gang were awaiting instruction. Hence we arrived at the current situation. GS believes that, given the sign that we have, it is in the right location relative to the limit entry point. It is felt that it is not acceptable that it has took so long (2 years) to complete. Philip Dunne MP has now put an article in the press taking some of the credit. The Parish Council has been told in the past that there cannot be a chicane (build out, pinch point) on the road as there is no street lighting etc. There is a “build out” in a village called Little Milton in Oxfordshire, Clerk to ask why something similar cannot be done in Middleton. **ACTION**

b) Parking at Bitterley School

This had already been covered during the Public Participation Session.

c) Parish Council Website

The clerk is continuing to work on updating the information onto the website with Mr Forster. The Village Hall Committee to send any information about the hall they would like to see on the website.

d) LJC

Councillor Richard Huffer has been replaced by Andy Boddington as Chairman. The application for a solar farm at Henley was widely discussed along with the usual reports. Planning Department is employing Dyanne Humphries (ex Planning Officer) as a consultant to clear the back log of applications.

e) Parish Plan Update

Progress is being made on identifying the current priorities.

12) The next meeting: will be held on **9th September at 7.00p.m.**

The dates of further Meetings: 11th November 2015, 13th January, 2016 and 9th March 2016.