

Witherley Parish Council

Atterton, Fenny Drayton, Ratcliffe Culey and Witherley

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th December 2021, 7.30 p.m.

At Parish Room, Witherley.

PRESENT: Councillors: R Reading (Chairman), M Simpson, D Flude, M Cook, G Robinson, A Waters, A Wright K Liggins, A Cartwright, A Brittain. **Other Attendees:** Angela Forsyth (Clerk), Borough Councillor Morrell, and 2 Members of the public. **Apologies:** Cllr R Trivett, County Cllr Harrison-Rushton
The meeting began at 7.32 p.m.

21/181: WELCOME, ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were sent by Cllr Trivett for personal reasons which was accepted, and County Cllr Harrison- Rushton.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to speak. 7.40 p.m. the meeting resumed.

21/182: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS: Cllr Simpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application 21/01196/FUL Drayton Grange Farm.

21/183: APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES SIGNED: The November minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

21/184: COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT: Was previously circulated listing meetings the Cllr had attended.

21/185: BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT: Staff shortages at HBBC planning department mean work is behind and being contracted out to other local councils. Voluntary Community Services (VCS) has been formed to provide support to the voluntary sector. Planning item was brought forward to discuss it with Cllr Morrell: 81 houses allocated to Witherley village on Kennel Lane, the number is high as there isn't a 5-year land supply for the Borough and houses are required to be built by 2039. There will be an opportunity to object when the Local Plan is publicly consulted early 2022. Parish Council will reject the allocation.

21/186: CRIME REPORT: Hare coursing was witnessed in Ratcliffe Culey causing damage to gates and Crops, and a theft from a car at the Red Gate pub. Crime is on the increase locally.

21/187: CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk had circulated a report prior to the meeting:

- Email from Witherley resident requesting litter picking equipment for ad hoc picking. Advised this is available in all villages in the parish.
- Email from Ratcliffe resident reporting ivy on the bridge requesting removal.
- Ongoing email communication with Fenny Drayton resident regarding the Church Lane verge and plans for replacing the play equipment in Fenny Drayton playing field.
- Email from a Fenny Drayton resident regarding fallen apples on the path in Fenny Drayton playing field. Will the council arrange to have them removed. Cllr Simpson said he would take a look, as the Council would not want to pay someone to go daily.
- 2 emails from ICO casework team inspecting two cases against the parish Council. These letters and associated information will be sent to Council solicitors. Clerk to report to Council.
- Frampton Planning agents requests the Council places a link on the Council's website to the community consultation for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange. Council agreed.
- Emailed HBBC enquiring what was required to submit the NDP. Letter to be written and posted.
- Letter received from a previous resident offering photographs. Council would like them, Clerk.
- Bank account signatory form requires wet signatures. Signed during the meeting.

21/188: CLERK UPDATE: Clerk had circulated the action report:

- Wildflower verges applied for Atterton, Atterton Lane bank, Kennel Lane Witherley and Church Lane Fenny Drayton. Residents rejected all but Atterton Lane bank, LCC rejected all but Kennel Lane. Council will not progress this project.

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- 4 cameras have been ordered via HBBC to be placed discreetly to observe fly tipping and dog mess.
- Laptop no longer uses wifi signal, has been repaired twice, is 6 years old, requires replacing urgently. Clerk to purchase replacement laptop and be reimbursed at the next meeting.

21/189: PLANNING APPLICATIONS: Clerk to respond to HBBC.

- 21/01196/FUL Drayton Grange Farm, Drayton Lane, Fenny Drayton – no objections.
- 21/01305/FUL Chapel Fields, Witherley – a public meeting was held 2nd Dec for residents to feedback. These comments and reference to the Core Strategy to be returned.
- 81 houses in Witherley was discussed in Borough Councillor item.
- Sheepy NDP consultation to be circulated and Council to decide response at January meeting.

21/190: FINANCE, CONSIDER REPORT FROM CLERK & CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE: Cheques agreed for:

• M & BG Limited	(Grass cutting)	£ 600.00
• A Forsyth	(Clerk expenses)	£ 29.76
• Screamons Ltd	(Payroll services)	£ 16.22
• Lee George	(Sign cleaning)	£ 110.00
• HMRC	(NICs)	£ 12.40
• Witherley Parish Room	(Room hire)	£ 97.50
• Two cheques to open the two new bank accounts total		£1000.00

21/191: AGREE THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: Council holds meetings in Ratcliffe Culey churches twice a year, and Fenny Drayton twice a year during the summer months when the weather is milder. The other seven months are held in Witherley which is warm and light. The schedule was agreed by the Council.

21/192: FLOOD DEFENCES – decide what action. Clerk to write to EA and LCC and Severn Trent for advice and possible meeting.

21/193: BUDGETING 2022/23 Clerk presented forecast expenditure, projects, allocated reserves. Council agreed budget.

21/194: DECIDE IF THE COUNCIL SHOULD APOLOGISE FOR SENDING VEXATIOUS LETTERS: The Clerk had circulated a report on the number of letters and the nature of the vexatious behaviours. The Council decided there was no apology required (majority vote).

21/195: GRANT APPLICATION FOR WITHERLEY PARSH ROOMS: Council instructed the Clerk to write a letter to the PCC requesting information of the ownership and plans for the future of the room.

21/196: MEMBERS HIGHWAYS FUND: The offer to fund one of two projects. Council decided to have the Mythe Lane Footpath re-surfaced to withstand the flooding.

VILLAGE UPDATES: Atterton: Gates now installed.

Ratcliffe Culey: Cllr Cartwright will check the ivy on the bridge and report to Clerk.

Fenny Drayton: VAS stats; Old Forge Road, Ave speed 24 mph, 85th percentile is 29 mph.

- Way marker fallen and fence post damaged, Clerk to report

Witherley: Highways signage abandoned at Post Office Lane, Clerk to report.

VAS stats Ave speed 22.9mph, 85th percentile was 32.3mph, number of vehicles entering Kennel Lane from the A5 – 28241.

21/197: ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING: Flooding, Precept, Parish room grant, Accessibility Policy.

Meeting closed: 10.25 p.m.