

Welcome to Acton Bridge

Editor's note: as part of its Transparency initiative, copies of the Parish Council's minutes will be placed on this web site after Council approval at the following Meeting, but are for information only. The printed edition is the only authoritative version.

ACTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd July 2017 at 7-30pm in the Parish Rooms.

Present	R Holt Chairman S Pardoe Vice Chairman C Ballantyne – Roberts H Bayley C Fifield R Forbes D Hall J Oliver Clr H Tonge CW&C
Apologies	Clr P Williams CW&C

There was one member of the public present.

1 Public Matters

The Village resident, from Station Road, raised the matter of the upkeep of the Nursery grounds and the removal of the buildings associated with the Nursery now that it has closed down. The resident said that he had checked the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and that the Local Authority can ask the owners to maintain the land.

Councillor Fifield declared an interest and temporarily left the meeting for the subsequent discussion on this topic.

The meeting considered the responsibilities of the Local Authority and the planning permission that had been granted for the buildings in association with the horticultural business. It was said that the land was originally meadow and has been and is accepted in all related planning applications to be part of the green belt.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would confirm the applicability of the Town and Country Planning Act and will write to the Local Planning Authority to request action. **Action Clr Holt**

2 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the June 2017 meeting

With small editorial corrections, the minutes were agreed and signed.

3 Matters Arising

June 2017

Actions arising from the AGM minutes

ii) An issue was raised on the use of Hazel Pear Wood by dog owners to exercise their dogs and the lack of attention by the dog owners to the dog waste. The Chairman has spoken to the Woodland Trust Warden who had said that he has some notices on the subject that he will display at the entrance to the woods. It was confirmed that the notices have been installed.

6 Financial Matters

Following approval of the accounts by the Parish Council, the audit statement has been completed by the Clerk and passed to the Internal Auditor, Mr Peter Young, for review.

10 Village Matters

a). Footpaths – Network Rail to be contacted re FP5 Old Lane to Milton Rough

Action Clr Holt

Post Meeting Note – During the Summer break. Network Rail has been contacted and the path has been cleared. – Action Completed.

b) It was noted that there is a PCSO surgery scheduled for 8th July.

11 A.O.B.

Further to the previous contact from Little Leigh Parish Council, Clr Pardoe reported that he had forwarded an article on Broadband to the Clerk at Little Leigh.

May 2017

4 Planning Applications.

a) Strawberry Lane – amendment to build one affordable house.

Covered under Item 5.

b) Station Road – Nursery Site

Covered under Item 5.

c) Land at Hill Top Farm

Following the submission of the Parish Council views to the CW&C PRow officer. The officer had discussed the problems with the planning officer and the applicants architect. The plans have been amended so that the existing route of the PRow can remain as it is.

Members of the Parish Council reported that a large hole has been dug adjacent to the path and masts installed. It was not known if these are permanent or for security during construction. Further checks on the work to be made by Members. Action All

d) Single dwelling at Wall Hill Farm

Covered under Item 5.

e) Stables, White House, Cliff Lane.

A letter has been sent in stating the objections and refusal requested. Covered under Item 5.

10 Village Matters

c) Clr Oliver raised the topic of spraying weeds along the gutters in the Village. Some have been done but the lengths beyond Chapel Lane appear to have been omitted again. The Clerk had chased again but the work has not been done. Will chase again. **Action Clerk - ongoing**

April 2017

10 Village Matters

b) Bench on Acton Lane

Clr Pardoe reported on the contact with Weaver Vale Cycling Club and the cost of a replacement bench.

After discussion with the Chairman an offer of £100 had been made as a gesture of support. A reply is awaited. Clr Pardoe will send another email requesting progress update. **Action Clr Pardoe**

February 2017

a) Swing bridge A49

Work is still scheduled to be completed in July. It was noted that the bridge will be totally closed during the nights of 5th and 6th July for resurfacing.

November 2016

a) Petal Walks

Clr Pardoe reported that the formal launch of the scheme, planned for Saturday 17th June, has been postponed. The new date is 16th September. The signs giving routes and information on the petal walks are being prepared. One of the signs is to be installed at the Parish Rooms.

October 2016

a) Speeding issues

Covered under item 8 Reports from other meetings.

4 Planning Applications.

a) Former Village Stores, 49 Hill Top Road.

Conditions attached to the 'Approval' are being addressed. Resolution of an item on noise control has been completed by the fitting of double glazing.

b) Scotches, 57 Cliff Road

Proposals for the internal modifications and change of use of the garage to living accommodation had been circulated. The Parish Council had no objections or observations.

5 Planning Decisions

a) Proposals for seventeen houses at the Nursery, Station Road

It was noted that the application had been withdrawn. This action was only a day after additional information by way of a 'Planning Statement' had been submitted by the applicant.

The Parish Council have objections to a paragraph in the document which purports to claim that the Parish Council have had initial discussions with the applicants on a number of topics related to the proposed development. There have not been any discussions. It was agreed that the Parish Council will write to CW&C objecting to the statement and Clr Pardoe will add a note on the Village web site to inform residents of the situation.

b) Stables, Whitehouse, Cliff Road

The application has been granted. Communication from the Planning Officer said that the Parish Council objections were valid but that approval could be given on consideration of the size of the building.

c) Strawberry Lane application

The plan for three houses has been changed to one house. The objections as agreed have been sent in. Also, as arranged for the initial three house application, Clr Tonge will call-in the application if the planning officer is minded to approve the new application. Clr Tonge also mentioned that it had been noticed by CW&C that the plan, as submitted for the single property, left space for a possible 'infill' addition. The applicant has resubmitted the plans that exclude the space for infill although the overall size of the plot has stayed the same.

Clr Bayley queried the management and continued operation as an affordable house. It is not known if a 'Social Provider' has been established.

It was agreed that Clr Tonge and the Chairman would speak at the Planning Meeting on the 1st August if the application was listed.

d) Single dwelling at Wall Hill Farm

The Parish Council has sent in a letter requesting refusal again. There is no news on the decision as yet.

6 Financial Matters

6.1 Approval of cheques;

Cheque for the Clerk's salary for April, May and June of £336.00 was approved and signed.

7 CWAC Ward Councillors

The topic of the cost of the interactive speed sign was raised and the CW&C Councillors thought that a sum of £750 could be granted to Acton Bridge from their 'Members Budgets'. This was welcomed by the Parish Council.

Clr Fifield reported that he has complained about the lack of maintenance to the playing field and the equipment. He has been informed that there are plans to upgrade the equipment. There is a schedule for the grass cutting which will be checked.

8 Reports from other meetings

a) Meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner following grant from Safer Communities Fund

Clrs Holt and Pardoe had met the PCC at Northwich Police Station. Clr Pardoe reported that they had had a long and interesting meeting. The PCC said that he took speeding in rural areas very seriously and applauded the efforts made by Acton Bridge. He would have liked to give more money for the interactive sign. The PCC suggested that the sign should be moveable so that it could be used at a number of locations. The Parish Council said that they had suggested this to CW&C but had been told it was not practicable.

The PCC spoke about his wish to increase the numbers of PCSO and for there to be an officer for each Ward. The officer could then allocate a part of their shift hours to each parish. He would like all the officers to be trained in the use of the speed gun.

b) Police and Crime Commissioner Meeting with Parish Councils

Clr Forbes attended the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. He reported on a very positive meeting and the topics on rural speeding that had been discussed, similar to recorded above.

c) Parish Council meeting with CW&C Highways

Clr Holt and Forbes together with Clr P Williams had met Messrs Andrew Hamman and Steven Bentley CW&C Highways at Phoenix House, Winsford.

The Parish Council (PC) mentioned further monitoring of speeding on Station Road now that the signs are in place and enforcement is ongoing. CW&C said it would not be done due to costs. CW&C did not know that monitoring had been carried out at Milton Rough.

Clr Williams said he would ask the Police for Milton Rough to be included with Station Road in enforcement action.

The PC gave CW&C the latest information on their available funds for the interactive sign. The PC said that approximately £3000 could be provided and asked CW&C for 'matched funding'. CW&C said that there is no money available to support the purchase. The PC said that 'matched funding' had been mentioned at earlier meetings. CW&C agreed to investigate and report back.

Clr Williams queried the possibility of spreading the costs over a period of time and that there may be other funding opportunities. He would enquire from Fiona Dunning. The Chairman said that the recent issue of 'Good Councillors Guide' gives methods of financing available to Parish Councils.

In response to a question on the re-lining of the roads in Acton Bridge, CW&C said that the plans have been produced and passed to their contractors.

Clr Ballantyne-Roberts queried the number of motorists that had been caught speeding on Station Road. The Chairman said that some figures had been given in the local 'Guardian' but included Weaverham as well so it was difficult to be precise but there were high numbers.

Post Meeting Note. In correspondence since the meeting, a proposal by the Parish Council to fund the purchase of the interactive sign and then fund the maintenance of the equipment over a period of time has been rejected by CW&C. Clr Fifield asked for copies of the emails and said he would ask CW&C what they are doing to assist the local communities.

d) Town Farm Quarry

Clr Fifield reported on the Working Party meeting of 16th June and the updates given by Mr R Charnley. The further information / plans that have been produced by the applicants have been reviewed by CW&C and considerable changes have been noted. The Planning Officer is considering if the changes can be covered by amendment to the approved levels and volumes or if a new application is needed.

A lot of work is being done by CW&C to prepare for the Planning Meeting on 1st August. Clr Fifield stated that he has informed CW&C that if the intention is to approve the changes he will 'call-in' the application.

9 Correspondence

Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society – Report and Schedule of Walks.

10 Village Matters

a). Work in Hazel Pear Wood – a work day is arranged for 11th July to remove Himalayan Balsam.

Coppicing work is planned for 19th September. Volunteers will need training.

b). The sign for the bend at Strawberry Lane / Acton Lane is obscured by growth. Highways to be notified.

Action Clerk

c). It was reported that the Environment Agency have been in the area checking for the presence of great crested newts.

d) Clr Ballantyne-Roberts mentioned that the footpath on the bend at Hill Top Road, that had recently been cleared of growth, was getting over-grown again. The Clerk to contact Highways. **Action Clerk**

11 A.O. B

None.

12 Date of next meeting

There will be no meeting in August because of the Summer break.

The next meeting will be on Monday 4th September 2017, starting at 7-30pm.