

HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council was held via video conferencing on Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 7.00pm .

Present: Chair :Cllr.M.Brooks, Cllrs. P.Vinall, N.Barker, D.Tremellen, J.Law, D.Thakrar, J.Marshall, R.Honeybourne, A.Honeybourne, R.Broome. D.Bayley,
Clerk: Mrs.E.Preston
Parishioners: 0

00.Parishioners Time - No Parishioners present.

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting. Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether the interest is entered in the register of member's interest maintained by the monitoring officer.

01 Apologies for absence and reasons for absence- Apologies received Cllr.Phipson – unable to access Zoom. Cllrs G.Court and A.Rodgers – work commitments

02 To confirm the minutes of the meetings dated 3rd and 17th November 2020 – RESOLVED to accept minutes. Chair to sign the minutes.

03. Matters Arising

CCTV – Tech Services working on system at present. Shropshire Council have agreed to the Oak Tree at the bottom of Hazelwells Road being trimmed back. Clerk to put work in hand

Youth Project – Update from Cllr.Vinall.

Land Corner Beech Street/Hazelwells Road – Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a parishioner about the condition of the grass verge at the corner of Beech Street/Hazelwells Road where vehicles are driving over it. – Shropshire Council are looking into this with a view to putting bollards up to stop vehicles usage. -

Report from SALC AGM – Cllr.D.Tremellen reported that the meeting had only been a brief meeting to deal with the election of officers and subscriptions for next year.

04.Correspondence (All correspondence emailed to Councillors)

SALC – News in Brief

Shropshire Council – Covid information

SALC – Census Information.

Shropshire Council – Community Tree Scheme

SALC – Healthcare press release

Shropshire Council – Warm Homes information

05. Planning

Reference: 20/04605/FUL (validated: 09/11/2020) - Address: 9 Sycamore Way, Woodhill, Highley, WV16 6DQ- Proposal: Erection of a single storey front extension and first floor side extension
Applicant: (9, Sycamore Way, Woodhill, Highley, WV16 6DQ) – **RESOLVED No Objections**

Reference:20/04581/FUL – 74 Yew Tree Grove – Erection of a first-floor side extension – **RESOLVED No Objection.**

06. Shropshire Councillors Report. R – Cllr.D.Tremellen

“Everything that has been going on since the last parish council meeting has been happening out of sight, except for the report in the Shropshire Star a week ago about my taking issue with Shropshire Council over the ‘CIL –

Highways Decision Report, Highley Place Plan Area’, which identifies nothing specific on which to spend £20,000 of our money to commission a feasibility report.

I was also annoyed that it “has considered the highways projects in the Place Plan area and made the following decision based on 2019/20 highways priorities and CIL funds available.”

“2019/20 highways priorities” that have subsequently been overtaken by events, not least of which has been the half job done on the B4555 at the Bridgnorth end of the village, the work stopping halfway along the worst affected part of the approach to Highley. And let’s not mention the stretch through the wooded part of the New Road, the bit you drive over on the way to the recently completed kerbing and resurfacing of carriageway on the stretch that most people had no issues with.

That Highways Decision Report tells us nothing and the recent experience concerning the work mentioned above tells us that we will be told what we are getting, when, and in what form only when it suits Shropshire Council.

Take the supposed condition that was supposed to have attached to the TC Homes development of 20 affordable houses off the Bridgnorth Road, a condition that recognised the dangers of the B4555 to children living on that estate. Earlier email exchanges and discussions on site had appeared to tie that condition into the negotiation of a Section 106 agreement in which provision of a crossing point adjacent to the site access was not just desirable but essential.

Weeks following the site meeting that Pete Vinall and I had had with Highways officers and representatives of TC Homes, I’d received word that the S106 had been agreed and signed, on the 27 October I wrote to all the senior planning officers involved, plus the head of planning, Ian Kilby, asking if what I’d heard was true, HAD the S106 been agreed? (Ironically, I have an email from TC Homes thanking me for asking that question of the council because they also had not had any word from the council about how things were progressing!)

I had heard nothing and none of my telephone calls had been acknowledged and so earlier today (24 November) I emailed Claire Porter, Head of Legal and Democratic Services...

‘Dear Ms Porter, you have on numerous occasions taken issue with my making Freedom of Information requests when, you have insisted, I have a perfect right as an elected representative to get answers to any legitimate questions I might need to ask on behalf of the community of 3,600+ I was elected to represent.

‘This forwarded email is an example of why I am forced by the action (or more usually failure to act) of council officers. Had I submitted these questions under a FoI request one or other

of the officers would have been obliged to respond with the requested information within the time now passed or face sanction by the ICO.

'Events have informed me that negotiations around the S106 between Shropshire Council and TC Homes have concluded without either myself or Highley Parish Council being informed of the outcome which, as nothing has been communicated regarding the provision of the crossing point to protect pedestrians at the site access, presumably means that the importance placed upon such a provision by the planning committee has been dismissed.

'My next action will be to make a Freedom of Information request to find out why my formal request for information (as outlined in the accompanying email) was not met.'

It's likely that I'll just get a statement back telling me either that the S106 has indeed been agreed or that it was decided that a S106 wasn't appropriate for a development of affordable houses on an exception site, and that it had been concluded that because Highways had not identified any significant risk from the location of the site access a crossing point adjacent to the access was not considered a legitimate reason for delaying the development.

Or words to that effect.

But it is all irrelevant, and anyway we have now got two funeral directors in the village, so consider that fact when we consider what contingencies we need to concern ourselves with."

07. – Parish Council email System – Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** that Councillors who were still having problems would contact Info sol to resolve their issues. Item to be left until the February meeting for further discussion. .

08. Finance:

S.J.MAINTENANCE	Maintenance Issues	455.00
S.J.MAINTENANCE	Maintenance issues	45.00
M..E.PRESTON	Salary	993.54
HMRC	Tax & NI	67.36
Web Orchard	Email issues	546.00
HI line Electrical	Christmas Lights installation	3351.26
Shropshire Council	Grant Severn Valley Country Park	4000.00
SLCC	Subscription	

Meeting Closed 7.50pm

Signed:Chair Date: