

HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council was held on Tuesday 4th February 2020 at 7.00pm at the Severn Centre, Highley.

Present: Cllr.M.Brooks - Chair - Cllrs. R.Honeybourne, A.Honeybourne, P.Vinall, J.Law, D.Bayley, J.Marshall, D.Thakrar, R.Broome, N.Barker
Clerk: Mrs.E.Preston
Parishioners: 6

00. Parishioners Time

Mr. Dean Boden explained about the proposed development of the Junior Football Ground. He said that with the increasing number of children joining the club they felt it was necessary to make toilet provisions. He said that the football club were going to put grant application for the Parish Council to consider at its next meeting.

Amended at March 3rd meeting : Cllr.Thakrar told parishioners present that it was not Highley Parish Council who were taking out a section 56 notice on Shropshire Council regarding the road.

Mrs. Mary Betteridge asked about the situation regarding the roads. Cllr. Vinall explained about the survey that the Parish Council were carrying out. Parishioners present offered to help with this.

Mrs. Diane Green asked if a litter pick was being organised as part of the National Spring Clean. Village Working Group to discuss this. Cllr. Vinall to coordinate with the parishioners. Mr. Edward Andrews to arrange for Shropshire Council to provide the necessary equipment.

Mr. Howard Shaw expressed concern about the proposed planning application for 20 affordable homes on land east of the Bridgnorth road. Chair Martin Brooks stated that this was going to be discussed later in the Parish Council meeting .

Declaration of Pecuniary interests: 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 or not the interest is entered in the register of member's interest maintained by the monitoring officer

01.Mr.E.Andrews and Mr.P.Bamford – Severn Valley Country Park

Mr.Bamford explained his position within the Rights of Way Department and his background with the LEADER programme. He was looking at way to make his department more commercially viable by contracting work out to other organizations and utilizing the skills within his department. They have been successful in securing European funding from DEFRA. With this funding they hope to tell the story of the heritage of the site. The refurbishment of the Visitors Centre is now complete and is fully open. Mr.Bamford said that they were keen to engage with communities and said that they would welcome the Parish Council if they wished to hold their meeting at the centre.

Mr. Andrews gave details of the events held at the park. He said that he liked to think that the park was a great asset to the area.

02. Apologies for absence

Apologies received Cllrs. M. Phipson and P. Atkinson, D. Tremellen- Illness. Cllrs. G. Court, D. Scriven – work commitments. **RESOLVED** to accept.

03. To confirm the minutes of the meeting dated 7th January 2020

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true and correct record. Chair signed the minutes.

04. Matters arising from minutes/Clerks Report:-

Parking Bays /Lines Coronation Street – Awaiting response from Shropshire Council.

Castle Inn Update – Awaiting Report from Shropshire Council.

Staley Grove -Hawk Development to visit the site.

B4555 Highley/Bridgnorth Road - Clerk written to Chelmarsh Parish council in reply to their letter to support their efforts regarding this road. Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that the Village maintenance working group to meet to look at ways forward with this matter.

Defibrillators – **RESOLVED** that we purchase two defibrillators. One for the village centre phone box and one for the Ashleigh Gardens phone box

CCTV – Equipment from Eon should be in stock end of February.

05. Correspondence

Shropshire Council Place Plans Publication – Village Working Group to discuss this.

Shropshire & Telford & Wrekin CC – Pop up Events

Shropshire Rural Bus Project Newsletter

SALC – Training Programme – 20th February – Fundamentals for Councillors

1Bike 4 Life Event 26th April 2020

VE Day 75th Anniversary – 8th – 10th May 2020

Community Led Housing – Training Course:

06. To look at any planning applications received.

20/00183/FUL – Proposed Residential Development Land East of Bridgnorth Road – Erection of 20 (affordable) dwellings with estate road, using existing vehicular access (re-submission) – **RESOLVED OBJECT** as none of the original concerns have been addressed. Highley Parish object to these proposals on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site. The original application was for 9 bungalows and was rejected. The new application is for 20 two storey dwellings. The Parish Council are also concerned about access to the site with the increased volume of traffic. The plans submitted make no mention of the public footpath/bridleway. The area is outside the building line and in an area of high landscape value within the Severn Valley

07. Severn Centre Report

Monthly Report sent to all Councillors along with Agenda for the next Halo Board Meeting .

It was **RESOLVED** that we ask the next board meeting to be postponed to another date to allow the addition of the following items to be added to the Agenda :-

1. Audited Accounts for the Severn Centre
2. Key Performance Indicators for the Severn Centre
3. Membership Update for Highley and Bridgnorth Centres, as per Cllr. Bayley concerns at last board meeting
4. Increase in Room Hire Charges
5. Annual three-party review of Contract (Shropshire Council/Highley Parish Council/Halo)

08. Response to Highways on Astbury Hall Development – As per Shropshire Councillors Report. Cllr. Thakrar asked for a letter to be sent thanking Cllr. Tremellen for an excellent report and that this be recorded in the minutes. **RESOLVED.**

09. Annual Parish Meeting – To agree topic for meeting

RESOLVED that we ask Philip Dunne MP to be the guest speaker at the Annual meeting on the 14th April 2020. Civic Awards to be awarded at the meeting. Village Working Group to discuss this issue at its next meeting .

10. Report from Village Working Group

Flowers/Flower Tubs - Proposed Colours for 2020 be Red/White/Blue in honour of 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

Container/Shed – Clerk to find a local stockist so that members can look at the Shed that she had quotations for.

Roads/Pavement Condition – proposed that a survey of all the road in the Highley Parish be carried out. Cllrs. Pete Vinall and June Law to co-ordinate. Councillor Tremellen to look into completing the section 56 notice.

11. Shropshire Councillors Report

“Back in September 2014 I wrote...

Perhaps democracy is increasingly irrelevant to people’s daily lives.

I was talking then about the way changes at Shropshire Council were impacting on the way the council engaged with the people of Shropshire, although more accurately I should say increasingly disengaged with the people of Shropshire, a process that, if anything, has increased since then. There are still a lot of people who persist in thinking that “the council” is still what they’ve always thought of as “the council” - it ain’t!. When, in 2009, the old district councils and county council became a single unitary council, changing from a committee system to one known as (and I kid you not) ‘Strong Leader Plus Cabinet’, Shropshire Council has increasingly become what I would call a “Service Director led administration”, where the directors of service departments, in close partnership with consultants, no longer just advise the elected councillors in the Cabinet but determine policy which is rubber-stamped by Cabinet portfolio holders and presented to ‘Full Council’ (which no longer meets monthly) where it is voted through by the majority of votes of the ruling group from which Cabinet is drawn.

Directors of Service and consultants are not answerable – and certainly not accountable – to the electorate whose lives they influence and who have to drive over the roads they have allowed to deteriorate to the point of absolute misery, adding insult to injury by forcing the electorate who pay the taxes that pay their salaries and consultancy fees to then pay for the resulting damage caused by their failure to do the job they’re employed to do.

For years the North Shropshire MPs and North Shropshire councillors who are nine of the ten members of the Cabinet have campaigned for the North West Relief Road around Shrewsbury.

‘The Department of Transport has agreed to give £54m towards the construction of Shrewsbury’s north-west relief road, with work expected to start in 2022.’

‘Steve Davenport, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: “The North West Relief Road will benefit not just Shrewsbury but the whole of Shropshire...”’

The full cost of the road is estimated at £71m, with the council to provide any remaining funds.’

Do the sums: £71m – £54m = £17m of OUR money.

I circulated the link to the document included in the pack I got in response to my asking for details of the highways work planned for the B4555, especially that work relating to the Astbury Hall chalet development, because I wanted to highlight that Highley hardly figures in it, the work being considered in the foreseeable future is along the length of the B4555 from Bridgnorth to Sutton. Sutton, for those of you who have yet to look at the maps accompanying the paperwork is the area around the Kings Arms corner. That’s it. Highley gets a passing mention as being on the route the lorries delivering the chalets will travel.

NOTE: In what follows, is taken directly from the PJA Technical Note: Response to Highways Comments.

The Astbury Hall development is one comprising 275 chalets. They are ‘park home-style chalets’...

During the development’s 14-15-month construction phase, there would be construction traffic in the form of construction employees, delivery of materials and delivery of the holiday lodges. The lodges will be delivered in two halves aboard heavy goods vehicles. Two lorries for each chalet. 275 x 2 = 550 lorries.

Five hundred and fifty ‘wide load’ lorry deliveries along the New Road, narrow in places, through the village from one end to the other, not turning off down Netherton Lane to Park Homes, or turning right up Barke Street and down Pit Bank to the caravan park, but continuing the five miles through The Gap at the entrance to the village, along the narrow and twisty stretch of Ingram Lane, through Chelmarsh then down Chelmarsh bank, around the narrow bend on the brow of the bank by the turn off to Dinney Farm and thence to the entrance to Astbury Hall itself.

Shropshire Council (SC) provided comments in its role as the local highway authority requesting further information. Chelmarsh Parish Council (CPC) and Eardington Parish Council (EPC) also provided comments relating to the highway’s element of the application. This note seeks to address those comments.

“Chelmarsh Parish Council (CPC) and Eardington Parish Council (EPC) also provided comments relating to the highways element of the application.”

And Highley? I took John Steven, the agent for the Astbury development, for a two hour round trip pointing out the problems for the delivery of the chalets and the route likely to be taken by holiday-makers coming to the area for the first time and therefore reliant on sat-navs that would direct them down Borle Mill Lane, I took him from the junction with the B4363, along Borle Mill and Netherton and then back around to do it again, this time along New Road, around the various estates to bring home the size of the place, and along the route his lorries would be taking all the way to Eardington.

2.4.11 The closest A-road accessible from the western construction access is the A456 near Kidderminster. From here, the A456 continues to the M5 in the east and the A49 to the west. Care is required in taking this route as there are 7.5t weight restrictions through Bewdley and there are other, shorter routes which are signposted as being unsuitable for heavy vehicles.

2.4.12 The route is described as follows:

- From A456 approx. 6 miles west of Kidderminster, turn right to A4117 (signposted Far Forest / Cleobury);**
- Continue for 4 miles, before reaching Cleobury Mortimer turn right to B4363 (signposted Kudos Blends, Old Station Business Park);**
- Continue for 5 miles, turn right to B4555 (signposted Highley);**
- Continue for 5 miles to western construction access.**

2.4.13 The main contractor will be responsible for ensuring that the construction traffic access strategy is communicated to sub-contractors and suppliers. At a minimum, the following communication will be provided:

- Written briefings will be provided to advise sub-contractors and suppliers of the access they need to reach to complete deliveries of plant / lodges;**
- Sub-contractors and suppliers will be issued with maps indicating routes to each construction access from the north and south (via Bridgnorth / Highley); and**
- Temporary signage will be installed at appropriate locations to ensure suppliers can find the site. The signage will be removed at the end of the construction period.**

I might just as well not have bothered. I mentioned the likely problems for both Chelmarsh and Eardington, but there is no sign of any concern for Highley from Chelmarsh and Eardington PCs.

My understanding is that plans for the B4555 take account of any negotiated S106 agreement to fund the repairs to the road and approaches to the SVR over-bridge at Eardington Halt, and the SVR under-bridge above the entrance to Astbury Hall at the bottom of Chelmarsh bank. From this you'll gather that the much-complained about work to permanently fix the potholes on the SVR over-bridge at Eardington Halt will not happen until the S106-related work is done probably AFTER completion of the main body of work.

As for the inevitable further damage caused by the Astbury Hall chalet-delivery lorries to the collapsed road at and just beyond The Gap at the top end of Highley?

From this next section you'll see that anyone thinking that situation will be addressed is seriously deluding themselves.

2.4.14 The following measures will be used to minimise damage to the highway or risk of accidents during the construction phase:

- Wheel washing facilities will be provided within both the eastern and western sides of the site;
- The highway will be cleaned or swept at regular intervals to remove any mud or deposits on the carriageway.

2.4.15 Any damage to the highway from turning goods vehicles at the accesses will be repaired to the satisfaction of the highway authority following completion of the construction phase.

Notwithstanding (or because of) what I said above, one thing I am determined on is that Shropshire Council will be held to account for what I am treating as the commitment expressed at **6.2 ‘Potential Impact of Development’**...

6.2 Road Condition:

6.2.1 A site visit on 22nd January 2018 identified that parts of the B4555 are in very poor condition due to the presence of potholes and carriageway deterioration. SC are responsible for the maintenance of the highway to an appropriate standard.

6.2.2 As described earlier in this note, SC has powers to recover additional costs of road maintenance during the construction period.

As I said at the beginning, the issues considered by this report from the developers relate to:

Section 1 - B4363 to Eardington; Section 2 – Eardington; Section 3 – Eardington to Chelmarsh Section 4 – Chelmarsh and Sutton.

Details of the **EXTENSIVE** post-development S106 work programmed for those individual sections are given in the report...

6.3.3 As described earlier within this note, a number of these measures are already provided on the B4555. A package of improvement measures which would be implemented by the developer has been prepared. Preliminary design drawings of these works are presented within **Appendix C**, with numbered sketches schematically indicating the location of these improvements within **Appendix D**.

9. Finance:

Eon	Street Lights	964.10
Highline Elect.	Christmas Lights	945.00
M.E.Preston	Salary	967.16
Npower	Street Lights	3459.37
S.J.Maintenance	Maintenance Contractor	300.00
Severn Centre	Room Hire	86.40
HMRC	Tax & NI	72.76

Signed CHAIR

Date:

Highley Parish Council meeting 4th February 2020

