

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Grimley Parish Council

Monday 31st October 2022, 7.30pm
Peace Hall, Sinton Green

112/22	<p>Present: Parish Cllrs D Stanley (Chair), A Bretherton (Deputy), P Ayers, J Izamis, G Probert, S Wilson,</p> <p>Attending: DCllr Dean Clarke, Parish Clerk Lisa Stevens, 1 visitor from outside the parish.</p> <p>Apologies: Parish Cllrs A Atkinson, G Moore, CCllr S Richardson Brown.</p>
113/22	Welcome and information provided at the beginning of each parish council meeting.
114/22	Public open forum. Open forum does not form a legal part of the meeting. Nil
115/22	<p>Declarations of interest.</p> <p>Cllr Probert as resident and landowner adjacent to proposed site of solar farm. Cllr Probert voluntarily to take no part in planning discussions relating to the Birchall Green solar farm.</p>
116/22	<p>Minutes of previous meetings – Motion to approve previous minutes. 26th September 2022. Prps: AB Scnd: Duly approved</p>
117/22	<p>To receive the report of the County Councillor – Scott Richardson Brown.</p> <p>Detained due to clashes with other parish council meetings.</p>
118/22	<p>To receive the report of the District Councillor – Dean Clarke.</p> <p>Our DCllr noted the additional £900,000 needed in 2023 in order to pay increased wages due to inflation and to pay the ongoing maintenance and repair bills at Malvern theatre and Splash. Therefore, it is likely that MHDC will increase council tax as a result. MHDC has received an award for supporting town centres during the 2020 pandemic.</p>
119/22	<p>Planning - to consider, comment and resolve to respond to the following applications.</p> <p>a. <i>Standing order suspended to allow members of the public to join discussions. Prps: DS. Scnd: AB. Carried.</i></p> <p>21/01846/FUL BRL Solar UK limited - Development of a solar farm with ancillary infrastructure, security fence, access, landscaping and continued agriculture, to generate power to feed into local network. Birchall Green Farm, WR2 6NT.</p> <p>As an introduction, the Clerk noted the pre-existing motion by parish cllrs to object to this application and the mandate by parishioners to the same. Cllrs received a verbal update and the Clerk received a summary written report from the Solar Farm Action Group.</p>

	<p>The DCllr noted matters of procedure relating to planning permissions and existing resident responses that pre-date the latest submission by the applicant. Cllrs agreed it prudent to restate all important elements that have not been addressed by the applicant. Summary of concerns include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inaccurate claims of Biodiversity Net Gain. - Likely levels of herbicides used on site and how this will affect future use of the site post solar. Lack of consideration of soil as a resource. - Landscape, heritage and public amenity. Landscape character. - Probable escalation of percentage hedgerow removal. - Increase in CCTV and location of. - Noise impact assessment. <p>Motion to restate position and existing concerns and objections regarding the above. Prps: AB. Scnd: JI. Duly carried. <i>Standing orders reinstated.</i></p> <p>M/22/01376/HP Orchard House U6400, Sinton Green, WR2 6NS. Demolition of conservatory and erection of rear extension and detached garage. Cllr Bretherton noted that this property neighbours his own home and that the applicant has kept him informed as a courtesy of plans. Cllr Bretherton confirmed he has no declaration to make, as he does not consider himself or his property affected by this application. Cllrs noted the existing history of permissions at this property and supported this latest application with no further comments to make. Prps: AB. Scnd: SW. Duly carried.</p> <p>M/22/01217/HP Boatley Cottage C2069 Ockeridge, Wichenford, WR6 6YW. Replace one gate with two gates. Cllrs had no comments to make and supported this application. Prps: AB. Scnd: JI. Duly carried.</p> <p>Standing Item: To consider and as required arrange an extra ordinary parish council meeting for planning applications received after date of publication of this agenda. Nil items.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
120/22	<p>Climate emergency. To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.</p>	
a.	<p>Review of parish council declaration of a climate emergency. Cllr Stanley gave an introduction. The existing declaration is 3 years old. Opportunity to make an impact is minimal but a focus on biodiversity loss is imperative within this forthcoming review. After questions by the cllrs, the Clerk clarified that the existing declaration, signed and agreed by formal Motion, should play a part in guiding decisions made by the council, currently guides procurement procedures and plays an active part in how the Clerk prompts the Council.</p> <p>Motion: Cllrs agreed to look at the existing declaration and provide comments to the Clerk in readiness for the November meeting, at which input from the public would be sought. Cllrs agreed that a focus should be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - simplicity of words, - raising awareness, - encourage formation of a local action groups, and - highlight achievable options/projects, such as addressing food waste. <p>Prps: AB. Scnd: JI. Duly carried.</p>	<p>All Cllrs</p> <p>All Cllrs</p>

iii.	To consider option for retaining and reappointing strimming contractor services for tackling urgent bramble thickets adjacent to The Woodland access drive. Motion not exceeding £500 Prps: Ab. Scnd: SW. Duly approved . Clerk to liaise with CB regarding safety aspects and to appoint on same terms as before to max of £500.	Clerk
	Cllr Wilson asked about the possibility of grants towards care of the SSSI. Clerk to explore via WCC.	Clerk
122/22	Reports from other Projects and Representatives To discuss updates and formulate Motions not requiring written notice.	
i.	Defibrillator training for pre-agreed volunteers, 5 th December, 6pm, Peace Hall. Duly noted.	
ii.	Remembrance service arrangements. Cllr Stanley is to attend the church services and lay the wreath on behalf of the parish council.	Cllr Stanley
iii.	PCSO. To note the early retirement of Ness Snape with gratitude for service. Cllrs gave thanks to Ness and a note of thanks had already been sent.	
iv.	Peace Hall Management Committee update. Cllrs noted the reminder from the committee to pay £10 towards defib electricity annually.	Clerk
	a. To organise delivery and care of the Queen's Oak (to include discussion on remaining two oak saplings. Decision for future care and location). Cllrs noted the small nature of the existing trees, with concern that a high level of protection and maintenance will be required to ensure their survival. Cllr Stanley approved to seek quotes for larger mature specimens. Options for a plaque of remembrance can be considered once the trees are established. Prps: AB. Scnd: GP. Duly carried .	Cllr Stanley
	b. Replacement noticeboard at Peace Hall. As per decision made earlier in the year, with a budget of £700, the peace hall please to arrive at their preferences/spec and return to the parish council with ideas by end January 2023, in order that the parish council can arrange transfer of funds. Matter of installation may or may not be treated separately, depending on price. Cllr Bretherton to liaise with Hall Committee.	Cllr Bretherton
123/22	Finance and Administration To formulate Motions not requiring written notice	
a.	To note that precept (second half) £9795.00 was received 28/09/2022 from MHDC. Duly noted. <i>Cllrs to consider suspending standing orders if residents request to provide input on following item.. No member of the public attended this section in order to have input.</i>	
b.	Budget for 2023/24. Cllr and resident input/ideas for future projects. Clerk will present resulting finalised budget on 12 th December. Cllrs considered the options presented to them and agreed to consider in readiness for November meeting the options for raising the precept.	All Cllrs Clerk

	<i>Cllrs to reinstate standing orders if required. n/a.</i>	
c.	<p>To consider correspondence from Citizen’s Advice Bureau and Motion to provide a donation not exceeding £100.</p> <p>Cllrs noted the advice (nature unknown) provided to a number of residents recently and also noted the value of being able to refer residents to this service at times of need. Cllrs approved a donation of £100. Prps: AB. Scnd: DS. Duly carried.</p>	Clerk
d.	<p>To consider and Motion to approve a Section137 application for a grant of £100 from Grimley and Holt Primary School towards a 2023 Western Front Association talk and coffee event.</p> <p>Cllrs queried whether the public would be invited to this event. The Clerk confirmed that tea and coffee and cake are planned to be served to the public, though no other details are known as this time. Cllrs noted the importance of ensuring that the history of the parish is taught to the next generation and observed the war memorial inside the Peace Hall. Cllrs approved a donation of £100. Prps: DS. Scnd: AB. Duly carried.</p>	Clerk
e.	<p>To arrange the £50 supporting contributions to those community groups that have expressed an interest in Christmas tree events.</p> <p>Cllr Bretherton to receive £50 and pass to Sinton community. Cllr Stanley to receive £50 and pass to Grimley village community. Cllr Wilson to receive £50 and pass to Monkwood Green community. No other hamlets/groups had stepped forward requesting a donation. Groups are required to arrange their own health and safety and risk assessments. Prps: SW. Scnd: PA. Duly carried.</p>	Clerk
f.	To consider and motion to approve the payment of outstanding accounts. Appendix 1. Prps: JI. Scnd: AB. Duly carried .	
g.	To consider and retrospectively approve payment of urgent accounts, as per emergency Clerk procedures (Delegation to Clerk policy). Appendix 2. Prps: SW. Scnd: DS. Duly carried .	
h.	To receive and motion to accept September Bank Reconciliation 2022. Prps: AB. Scnd: GP. Duly carried .	
124/22	<p>Correspondence, dates for diary, items for future agenda.</p> <p>a) MHDC destination zero carbon emissions report to note only. b) Parishioner correspondence regarding allotment provision in Grimley parish. To consider a way forward, with appropriate budget for exploratory work. Scheduled for November 2022 meeting. c) Flooding in road outside Church Farm, Grimley. Soakaway and new drain to be installed. No further action from Parish Council at this time. d) Eroded grass verge Oak Hall Green (Oak Hall Farm Barn). Bollard to be installed. No further action from Parish Council at this time. e) Salt bins – residents and cllrs have been asked to keep an eye on salt levels in the parish green and yellow bins.</p> <p>To note that a Worcs resident has been provided with details of the Lengthsman contract for consideration.</p>	

125/22	<p>Date of next scheduled meeting Monday 28th November at the Peace Hall, Sinton Green, 7.30pm. The press and public are cordially invited to attend this meeting, which will be the annual meeting of Grimley Parish Council. <i>This meeting was subsequently rearranged to the 31st October 2022.</i></p>	
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Appendix 1 – Invoices/payments to be made (or date paid if contracted payment)

Grimley Peace Hall Foundation	Annual hire of hall for parish council meetings. Invoice 41 dated 25/09/2022 received 26/09	£350.00	VAT nil
PKF Littlejohn LLP	Statutory fee external auditor	£240.00	£40.00 VAT
Community Heartbeat Trust Ltd	Annual care package for Grimley village defib	£151.20	£25.20 VAT
Nest Pensions	October payment for Sept Clerk wage.	£40.35	VAT nil
Mr Simon Skeys	Lengthsman worksheet September received 2nd Oct 2022. Claimed from WCC 25/10/2022	£127.50	VAT nil
Mr Simon Skeys	Mowing invoice dated 30th September received 2nd Oct 2022.	£80.00	VAT nil
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly Expenses Oct 2022. Stationery, mileage, digistick to allow transfer of docs for minute binding. Homeworking allowance £10. Phone bill £5.	£62.62	VAT various
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Monthly wage Sept 2022	£553.42	VAT nil
Various, as nominated at PC meeting	Christmas tree community event payments as agreed at this meeting. £50 per event.	£150.00	VAT nil

Appendix 2 - Invoices/payments previously made under delegation to clerk policy.

Mr Lee Roberts	Lee. Strimming round petty whin, tackling brambles and over growth on Monkwood Green Common and SSSI. Payment made 26/10/2022	£246.50	VAT nil
Mr Ashley Roberts care of Margaret Leary	Ashley, Strimming round petty whin, tackling brambles and over growth on Monkwood Green Common and SSSI. Payment made 26/10/2022	£246.50	VAT nil
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Stinky Inks online printing ink order reimbursement as permitted in clerk delegation policy. 03/10/22	£11.99	2.00
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Poppy wreath purchase from Royal British Legion as instructed at Sept meeting. 13/10/2022. <u>B.T. notes that a wreath need not be purchased next year as there is already an unopened one in the church.</u>	£20.00	VAT nil
Mrs Lisa Stevens	Minute binding as permitted in clerk delegation policy. 14/10/2022 20% off as combined with another parish council binding project.	£50.00	VAT nil

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