

ACTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th March 2018 at 7-30pm in the Parish Rooms.

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

There were two members of the public present.

1 Public Matters

a) Town Farm Quarry

This item was brought forward from Matters Arising. Karen Lea-Swain (local resident and member of Stop the Tip Action Group) gave an overview of the latest information received from CW&C regarding the applications to go before the CW&C Planning Committee at the meeting on the 6th March. There are many discrepancies in the information supplied by the applicants, even as compared with the CW&C information, but Mr R Charnley (CW&C Planning Officer) was still recommending approval.

If the proposed sand extraction and soil reinstatement were to be granted it could mean an extra six years work at the site with thousands of extra journeys by HGVs through the Village.

It had been established that only certain, authorised, people could speak in opposition to the applications at the Planning Meeting and this has restricted the input from the Village e.g. Mrs Lea-Swain. Clr Pardoe will speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the meeting. The Parish Council greatly appreciate Clr Pardoe's taking on the task and his input at such short notice. Clr Fifield, who 'called-in' the application will also speak against the application and stress the impact on Acton Bridge residents.

Mrs Lea-Swain was thanked for her efforts throughout the opposition and for her input to the submissions that will be used in evidence at the Planning Meeting.

b) Temporary planning permission for mobile home on Station Road

Mr Whitlow, the applicant for the temporary planning permission (ref 17/05184/FUL), was present and said that he had been informed that his application has been refused. He said he believed that the Planning Officer had not understood the application and that he intended to appeal the decision.

Mr Whitlow also mentioned that he has received correspondence regarding exploration for 'fracking' activities on his land. The correspondence implied that he should take advantage of the offers to use his land because the situation could arise, if he refused but other landowners agreed, he would not gain any benefit from the fracking activities even though they could be taking place under his land.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council cannot advise on what action to take and that the Parish Council can only respond to applications after they have been formally submitted. Mr Whitlow was thanked for bringing the issue to the attention of the Parish Council.

The Chairman also pointed out that there is an anti-fracking group in existence and that the Parish Council has received correspondence from the group.

2 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the 5th February 2018 meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3 Matters Arising

Meeting of the 5th February 2018

1. Public Matters

Two residents of Hill Top Road raised matters of concern;

i) The condition of the surface of Hill Top Road and the number of pot holes.

The Clerk said that she has again been in touch on the pot holes and had been promised they would be attended too. Cllr Fifield has also originated work requests for pot holes in three locations on Hill Top Road but as yet no action has been taken. The requests will be chased. **Action Clerk and Cllr Fifield**

ii) The residents also complained about the number of HGV using Hill Top Road in spite of the 7.5 tonne weight restriction. They also said that milk lorries use the road but there are no milk producing farms in Acton Bridge. The matter had been reported to the PCSO at the recent surgery. Subsequently the residents had been able to supply the name of the Company and vehicle registration of the milk tanker to the PCSO. The Company has been contacted and the driver told not to use the weight restricted road.

iii) Dog fouling – a number of areas as well as Hill Top Road are in a bad state due to dog owners not collecting the waste from their dogs. There was general discussion on the need for more waste bins in the Village. Sites were suggested at the railway bridge in Chapel Lane (near the PRow), Milton Rough and along Hill Top Road. ABCA will be consulted for a site on Hill Top Road. The Chairman said that he has been in touch with 'Streetscene' and made a request for the bin at the railway bridge in Chapel Lane.

Cllr Tonge had mentioned that there is a consultation exercise being carried out by CW&C and residents should take the opportunity to take part in seeking people's views. It was confirmed that some residents have now responded to the consultation.

3 Matters Arising

Chapel Lane Playing Field

In spite of a new sign having been fitted at the field entrance from Chapel Lane, it has been reported that there have still been residents exercising their dogs on the field, although it is believed this has now stopped.

Superfast Broadband

Following discussions with residents, Openreach and Connecting Cheshire considerable work has been done on Cliff Road to connect services and to install the cabinet in the agreed position.

Planning Decisions

Based on several recent applications, the Parish Council are concerned that National Guidelines are being ignored or interpreted at the discretion of the Planning Officers. The Parish Council had expressed disappointment at the futility of spending considerable time and effort in making objective comments only for discretion to be exercised in favour of applicants. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Planning Manager, Ms Fiona Hoare, giving the grounds of the Parish Council's concerns. The Chairman has sent a letter. **Action Cllr Holt Completed**

The Chairman reported Mr Nial Casselden (CW&C Planning Team Manager) has replied to the letter and he has offered to come to a Parish Council meeting to discuss the issues. It was agreed that Mr Casselden be invited to a meeting. **Action Cllr Holt**

Interactive Signs

Further to the meeting with CW&C on the 7th Feb and the review of sites in Acton Lane, Hill Top Road, Milton Rough and Station Road, correspondence with CW&C has determined that the power supply at each location will be by the use of solar powered units. CW&C has agreed to organise the necessary permissions for work to be done on the highway to install the mounting posts for the signs at the agreed locations. An important development from the correspondence with CW&C is that the Parish Council can seek the competitive supply of the signs, their installation and maintenance, including the repositioning of the signs to the alternative locations. This is a significant change to the strategy and should enable the Parish Council to obtain cost savings especially in the long-term maintenance.

It was agreed that quotations would be requested from TWM Ltd and another Company that Cllr Pardoe had contacted at the outset of this project. It was also agreed that a meeting be requested with TWM Ltd to discuss content, costs and long term maintenance. **Actions Cllr Pardoe and Cllr Holt**

Best Kept Village

The competition is to be held again this year after the temporary suspension. Cllr Bayley agreed to represent the Village at a meeting in May and to complete the necessary entry forms for Acton Bridge to take part in the competition.

Action Cllr Bayley

4 Planning Applications.

Three new planning applications have been received this month but two had been resolved by decisions prior to the meeting, as follows;

- a) - Lilac Dell, Cliff Lane – application for a garage (18/00726/LDC) was granted as permitted development.
- b) – 56 Hill Top Road - Two storey side extension (18/00414/FUL) – application withdrawn.

The remaining application was for 25 Chapel Lane - Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension (18/00683/FUL). The single storey extension is to be basically the same size as the conservatory. The Chairman had checked with the neighbour and they have no objections. The Parish Council have no objections or comments.

5 Planning Decisions

a) Temporary planning permission for a period of three years for a mobile home to house an agricultural worker (Application No: 17/05184/FUL) – The application has been refused (as mentioned by Mr Whitlow under item 1).

b) Cllr Bayley mentioned that she has been told that other landowners in the Village have been contacted about fracking activities.

6 Financial Matters

6.1 Authorisation of Cheques

Cheque for £336.00 being the Clerk's salary for January, February and March was approved.

6.2 The Clerk confirmed that BACS notification has been received for the payment of £1,000.00 grant from the Members Budgets has been received.

7 CWAC Ward Councillors

Cllr Tonge mentioned the discussions that had taken place on the budgets for 2018 - 2019 and that an increase of just under 5% has been agreed for 2018 / 2019.

He also said that there had been discussion on the use of an unallocated £6 million and it had been decided to carry it over to next year's budget.

8 Reports from other meetings

a) Joint Cemetery Committee

The Committee has a new Clerk (Carol Robinson).

The Acton Bridge contribution to the management of the facilities for 2018 / 2019 will be £125.00.

The CCTV equipment has been installed.

9 Correspondence

Correspondence has been circulated.

10 Village Matters

None.

11 A.O. B

No topics.

12 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd April 2018, starting at 7-30pm.