

ACTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th January 2019 at 7-30pm in the Parish Rooms.

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

Two members of the public were present for part of the meeting.

1 Public Matters

A resident from Sandfield Lane again raised the matter of parked cars obstructing the bend, and hence access for his farm vehicles, on Sandfield Lane. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contact Highways and ask them to liaise directly with the resident (mobile phone number given, but not shown here). **Action – Cllr Pardoe or Holt**

Former Parish Councillor Mr J Oliver came to thank the Councillors for their contributions to his leaving present and card, and he also expressed his appreciation of the kind words of Chairman C Robert Holt at the WI Party in December.

7 CWAC Ward Councillors

Since there were no Planning Applications or Decisions on the Agenda, it was agreed to bring this item forward, so that Cllr Tonge was not detained unnecessarily.

There were no new topics from either Ward Councillor, as it is a quiet time of year.

Cllr Pardoe asked whether Ward Cllrs were automatically provided with copies of the Electoral Roll, since we had had trouble in obtaining them. A contact name was provided, and [post meeting] Cllr Pardoe has obtained the current edition, subject to the usual strict rules on usage, and passed it to Cllr Holt.

2 Approval of Minutes

a) Minutes of the December 2018 meeting

The minutes were reviewed, and with negligible editorial corrections were agreed and signed by Cllr Pardoe. After some debate, it was decided not to redact the line in 3(e) about the covert operation of the relocated Interactive Speed Indicating Devices (ISIDs), since it had been discussed in open meeting and the record should stand.

3 Matters Arising

From December 2018 Meeting

There were no significant matters arising, not covered below.

From November 2018 meeting

Item 1 Public Matters – Meeting with Vicky Cropper London Northwestern Rail

- a) Cllr Bayley said that she has been in touch with Vicky Cropper regarding the volunteer work at the Station and had discussed items where the volunteers could assist. Vicky Cropper was pleased to have been contacted and will arrange a date to meet Cllr Bayley. **Actions - a date has now been agreed for Cllrs Ballantyne-Roberts and Bayley to meet Vicky Cropper at the Station on Friday 11. January.**

Item 10 Village Matters

- b). It was reported that the 'No Through Road' sign at the entrance to Strawberry Lane was almost at ground level and additionally obstructed by the hedge. Cllr Fifield offered to enquire about relocation of the sign.
Action Cllr Fifield

c). It was reported that a large building, of timber construction, has been erected at the rear of 25 Chapel Lane. The Enforcement Officer is back at work and has said that she will visit the site shortly. **Action Cllr Holt Ongoing**

From October 2018 Meeting

Public Matters Item 1(b) - A resident of Strawberry Lane raised an issue of the state of the road at the inner end of Strawberry Lane. It has now been established that the road is Adopted up to a point beyond Alder House. Andy Hamman from CWAC has offered a site meeting. **Action Cllr Fifield – Ongoing and Cllr Hall.**

Item 3(a) Footpaths and Public Right of Way

FP 24 - CWAC have said that they will only undertake one cut per year, which is inadequate, as this is a strategic part of the Petal Walk. Cllr Fifield will press for FP24 to be prioritised, with at least two cuts per year. The PC does not wish to encourage volunteer action to reduce CWAC's obligation. Cllr Pardoe offered to contact Saltscape colleagues from Weaverham to see whether joint action might help. **Action Cllr Fifield – Ongoing, and Cllr Pardoe**

3c) Dog fouling – Waste Bins

Subsequent to the approval of the grant from the Members Budgets, fresh contact had been made with the CW&C representative on the provision and the emptying of the bin together with emptying of the litter bin on the Parish Room car park. CW&C had queried if the Parish Council can pay by cheque but no other action has taken place. The Chairman will check on progress. **Action Cllr Holt - Ongoing**

3e) Interactive Signs (ISIDs)

The value of the recorded data to the Police was discussed and it was agreed that the data should be forwarded to the Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner. **Action Cllrs Pardoe and Holt**

The possibility of more signs being purchased was to be discussed in Financial Matters 6.2.

Cllr Fifield had previously mentioned that Weaverham Parish Council had been showing interest in the ISIDs, and could be contacting Acton Bridge PC for details. It was also mentioned that Crowton PC has been showing interest. However, as far as is known, neither body has been in touch with AB PC.

4 Planning Applications

None

5 Planning Decisions

None

6 Financial Matters

6.1 Authorisation of Cheques

A cheque was approved for the Clerk's Salary (October – November – December 2018) of £339.00.

It was noted that £40.00 VAT was to be reclaimed from HMRC in respect of relocation of ISIDs paid to TWM Ltd.

It was noted that the Bank Mandates would need to be amended following the retirement of Cllr Oliver and possible appointment of new Councillors following the Elections in May. It was agreed that the Mandate amendments could be postponed until then.

6.2 Precept for 2019 / 2020

The PC Chairman Cllr Holt had helpfully provided some figures as the basis of calculation of the amount to be requested in Precept for 2019 /2020. Councillors considered these in detail and also in the context of (a) a possible purchase of an addition ISID and (b) a new Clerk to take over from Mrs Holt in due course. Cllr Forbes suggested that an ISID without the Data Logging facility would achieve a considerable saving and this was agreed in principle, since the signs with logging could be relocated as necessary. This would still act as a visual deterrent, without increasing the burden of data downloading and processing.

It had previously been hoped that the precept might be reduced from last year's £5,000 to the 2017-18 figure of £4,000, to emphasise to Parishioners that the previous two annual rises had been a "one-off" for the ISIDs. However, the additional provisions for a potentially more expensive Clerk, general inflation and a possible contribution to ABCA towards Parish Room maintenance rather precluded this, even before a third ISID was budgeted for. In addition, further subsidy of an ISID from either the Police and Crime Commissioner or the Members' Budget cannot be relied upon. As Cllr Ballantyne-Roberts pointed out from her own Council Tax Bill, a zero percent change shown against the Parish Precept figure would be a welcome contrast to the inevitable percentage increases from CWAC, the PCC, Fire etc. It was decided unanimously that the Precept Request should be for £5,045, which from Cllr Pardoe's work on the spreadsheet provided by CWAC (and owing to the slightly different Tax Base) would result in exactly zero change in household taxes across all bands.

[Item 7 was taken earlier]

8 Reports from other meetings

a) Joint Cemetery Committee (JCC). The draft JCC Constitution had been circulated to the Parish Council and the latter's return comments forwarded to the JCC, but a new revision of the Constitution seemed to be unchanged, except for a spelling correction. Cllrs Ballantyne-Roberts and Bayley were of the view that although (apart from the spelling correction) the comments of Acton Bridge PC had not been reflected in the revised document, it was being adopted formally by the JCC in this version.

9 Correspondence

None

10 Village Matters

a). The timing of the relocation of one or more of the ISIDs was considered, and it was decided that this should be discussed at the PC Meeting on 4. February. Although it is felt that there should be a sign on Station Road as soon as practicable, the relocation itself might await the installation of the third device, if it were purchased, with the benefit of additional data collection and analysis in the meantime, so that only one such installation / relocation exercise was required.

11 A.O. B

None.

12 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 4th February 2019, starting at 7-30pm.

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