

MINUTES OF THE 32nd PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF  
MAPPLEBOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2009  
at 8.15pm at THE VILLAGE HALL

1. THE CHAIRMAN OPENED THE MEETING AT 8.15pm
2. PRESENT - Cllrs. M. Green, J. Fitzhenry, N. O'Neill Thomas, H. McCarthy
3. APOLOGIES – Cllrs. S. Regan, G. Ward, L. Topham
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none
5. PUBLIC FORUM – no matters raised
6. THE MINUTES OF THE 31st PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2008 were accepted as a true record and signed.
7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – Matters arising from the last Parish Council Meeting

- CO-OPTING TO FILL PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The vacancy left by the resignation of Cllr. Fitchett had been formerly posted and the Parish Council were now able to Co-opt a replacement. Mr. Alan Crichton had put his name forward and the Parish Council circulated with his details. All Parish Councillors present were in agreement to Co-opt him onto the Parish Council. Cllrs. Regan and Ward had emailed their agreement.

Mr. Crichton was, therefore, Co-opted, signed his Acceptance Form in the presence of The Parish Clerk/RFO and was welcomed to join the other Parish Councillors to continue the business of the Meeting.

The Parish Clerk had prepared a letter of notification and thanks for Joannah Fitchett which was agreed and would be forwarded on.

- SPEED/SIGNAGE

The Parish Clerk had contacted Chris Fossey (W.C.C.) regarding the SpeedAware signage and speed checks on the Henley Road. She was advised that SpeedAware would return soon and a new schedule was being worked on. The de-restricted section would be reduced to 50mph which should have a positive effect approaching the 40mph signs. The Community SpeedAware Officers will also be regularly attending. The Police have set up a site and enforcement of the speed limit should commence once the speed limit is changed.

- A435 CONDITIONS & DOG ISLAND

The very poor condition of the A435 from the Dog Island south had once again been reported to Nick Wild at W.C.C. He had taken photographs and reported this again to their Structural Dept. for urgent repairs. In the meantime 'patching work' had taken place. This still concerns the Parish Council leaving an unsafe surface, possible chippings. The Parish Clerk would continue to chase.

A435 continued .....

Cllr. Fitzhenry had emailed the Parish Clerk regarding a website giving some details of 'Highway Maintenance Schemes 2008/09'. The Parish Clerk had forwarded this to the other Parish Councillors. It did not show the problems with the A435.

The Dog Island edge surface to east continues to be driven over by lorries. Nick Wild of W.C.C. said though agreeing that it does look bad, believes he could not get funding for any work and asked if the Parish Council would consider the funding. It was agreed by the Parish Councillors present to investigate the costs of a concrete edge base with 'attractive' surface. W.C.C. would possibly have to arrange some coning-off for Health & Safety purposes. The Parish Clerk to look into this. The island is maintained and the landscaping of it was originally paid for by the Parish Council, therefore, it was felt the work could be justified as a benefit to the attractiveness of the Village.

The Parish Clerk had chased up W.C.C. regarding the improvements to the road marks and 'interactive 40mph' sign at the bottom of Gorcott Hill. These were still scheduled for before the end of March but as yet no firm date. She again showed a diagram of the proposed work.

- WASTE

An email from S.D.C. giving details of the re-instatement of the green waste collection and new use for the disposal of kitchen waste had been received. A notice for general display for the Website and Notice Boards is due. An updated leaflet/calendar of collections will go out with the Council Tax bills at the end of March. The Refuse/Recycling Team are available until March to talk to Parish Meetings. As Mappleborough Green Annual Parish Meeting is 6<sup>th</sup> April it was agreed to ask them to come along. The Parish Clerk would make contact.

- FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The Parish Clerk had completed the list of information available in line with the Act, giving location/availability/cost of copies. This was on the Website and Notice Boards and copies were given to the Parish Councillors present and she would forward copies to Cllrs. Regan and Ward.

- COMMUNITY FORUMS

Notice had been received of the next Community Forum at 7.30pm on 18<sup>th</sup> February at Studley High School, preceded at 6.30pm by the Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team. This would go on the Website and Notice Boards. The Parish Clerk had noted that Studley Parish Council have the Notes of these Forums on their Website but as only part of these Forum's sometime refer to Mappleborough Green, she had not set-up a page for the Website. There is, however, a note of the Forum dates showing W.C.C. Website/Community Forum details.

- SCHOOL CROSSING

The survey team had completed the pedestrian and vehicle counts. No result had yet been received but would be due shortly.

Signed .....

- PRECEPT

A Precept request form had been returned to S.D.C. for the sum of £11,000 as agreed at the last Parish Council Meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008. The Parish Clerk said no spending so far had been agreed on any project. It was suggested that the work on the Dog Island could be allocated.

- COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL – CODE OF CONDUCT

The Parish Clerk had raised this at the last Meeting and emailed the Parish Councillors for any comments. No comments received, due date now elapsed.

- S.D.C. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

No action.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- DOG FOULING

Notification had been received 11<sup>th</sup> December from S.D.C. advising of their intention to introduce the enforcement of Fixed Penalty Notices for Dog Fouling. The Parish Clerk had emailed the Parish Councillors with details and a drafted a reply as representation had to be returned to S.D.C. in writing by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009. The letter had been agreed by the Parish Council. The letter pointed out that due to the 'lay-out' of the Village it would not be feasible for anyone to enforce these notices. In the two areas where previously there had been problems, dog waste bins had been sited and were proving successful. Notices could be put on the Website and Notice Boards stating that it is against the Law and also siting of signs around the Village in appropriate areas. Cllr. Ward had informed the Parish Clerk that he knew of an area where there is a problem, and Cllr. O'Neill Thomas also reported a problem in one section of Hays Lane near to the Old Chapel. The Parish Clerk had since received an email from Derrick Hassett of S.D.C. dated 30<sup>th</sup> January on the subject of Littler & Dog Waste Bins. The Parish Clerk to check costings.

- DONATIONS/APPEALS

This item is due to be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting but correspondence had been received from The Vicar, Richard Diemel requesting help with the overall maintenance costs of the Church grounds. It was agreed to leave this until the next meeting.

- STREET LIGHTING/MAINTENANCE 2009/10

The new schedule and costs had been received from W.C.C. The cost of maintenance for the three lights at Abbeyfields would rise from £19.27 per light to £21.31 per light plus v.a.t. It was agreed this should continue.

The Parish Clerk had been made aware that the lamp to the front of the Village Hall (within the grounds) had in fact been sited prior to Mappleborough Green Parish Council forming – it had been purchased by Studley Parish Council. This is on the same system as the outside Village Hall light which currently is not working. Cllr. Green said maintenance of the lamp should be considered again once the sign light had been fixed.

Cllr. O'Neill Thomas suggested considering lights on the A435 on the stretch from the Dog Island to Abbeyfields (mainly by the Village Hall). Cllr. Fitzhenry opposed. No further comments made.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Clerk presented a list of Applications Received/Granted since the last Parish Council Meeting.

**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

No. 08/03251/LBC Dated: 20.1.09  
Mrs. Carole Matthews, Yew Tree Cottage, The School House,  
Birmingham Road, Mappleborough Green.  
Proposed: Replacement of existing windows and door at rear  
of property with double glazed units in hard wood painted white  
or left in natural finish. Replace existing porch at front of property.

The Parish Councillors present had no objections/comments

**DECISIONS**

No. 08/02644/FUL  
Outhill Farm, Hardwick Lane, Outhill.  
Conversion of stable and hayloft to ancillary domestic accommodation.  
Date of Decision: 12.1.09. GRANTED

No. 08/02962/FUL Date of Decision: 8.1.09.  
Hill Crest Farm, Pratts Lane, Mappleborough Green  
Change of use of redundant farm buildings to 4 holiday lets (4 x 1 bed)  
Minor alterations and associated car parking. GRANTED

Conversion of stables/carriage store (The Coach House) to office use.  
NOT GRANTED

The Parish Clerk reported she had attended the Planning Committee Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January on behalf of the Parish Council and addressed them with the Parish Councillors comments.

Regarding the Application previously reported on at the Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December in respect of Les Topham Garden Centre (08/03057/FUL) the Parish Council gave no objections but Cllr. Fitzhenry had concerns regarding traffic entering and exiting the site from the A435. She asked that Mr. Topham consider some 'controls' for safety purposes. This was noted on the 'comments' reply to S.D.C. and agreed by all present.

In addition to the list circulated, an email notice of an Application (09/00096/FUL) had just been received (2<sup>nd</sup> February) regarding Arden Leisure Ltd., Studley Football & Social Club at Abbeyfields. No paperwork/drawings had yet been received.

At the last Parish Council Meeting some extra guidance was sought by the Parish Council when considering Planning Applications. The Parish Clerk had contacted both S.D.C. and WALC and passed on their comments to the Parish Councillors. Parish Clerk would copy for Cllr. Crichton.

Signed .....

9. DISTRICT and COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS  
No report received from the District Councillor, Cllr. Les Topham.

Cllr. McCarthy gave a verbal report. The Budget Meeting was taking place, Council Tax would probably be 3.79%. This would mean huge savings. There would be a standardising of mileage rate for Councillors giving £500,000 saving. Band D houses from £1127 (W.C.C. share).

Cllr. McCarthy announced she would not be standing in June. The Chairman thanked her for her work.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Emergency Planning

S.D.C. had advised of a review of the template for Parish Council Community Emergency Plans in conjunction with W.C.C. who currently issue these (updated by the Parish Councils). A workshop is taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> February at Elizabeth House between 7.00-9.00pm. The Parish Clerk will attend. Updates are due in May. A copy of the current Emergency Plan was given to Cllr. Crichton.

Communities in Control

A consultation documents from 'Communities & Local Government' had been received, regarding 'Code of Practice for Local Authority Publicity'. The Parish Clerk had looked through this and believed it to be more applicable to larger Town Councils. Additional copies can be obtained if the Parish Council required. The closing date for comments is 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

NALC Briefing L24-08 Power of Well-Being

Copies were given to the Parish Councillors (copies to be forwarded to Cllrs. Regan and Ward) stating the requirements a Parish Council must meet to be eligible for the powers. The Parish Clerk must have the Cilca Certificate and Parish Councillors must undergo training (about 1 hour). The Parish Clerk would clarify the powers again.

S.D.C. – Representative to the Standards & Ethics Committee

A letter had been received from Liam Nevin, Monitoring Officer, regarding vacancies for Parish Council representatives on this Committee. No Parish Councillors present were interested – Cllrs. Regan and Ward to be notified. The closing date is 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Mobile Emergency Numbers

A report had been received from W.C.C. Trading Standards advising of an idea from a Paramedic for putting 'In case of emergency' numbers on mobile phones. This follows his experience at accidents where unconscious people have mobiles but those attending the scenes did not know which number to contact. If the idea spreads it could prove very helpful in an emergency. ICE1 in a mobile against the person first to be called – ICE2 etc. Details have been put on the Website.

S.D.C. Open Spaces Assessment

The Parish Clerk had completed a questionnaire regarding the audit of all open spaces (which covers Village Greens, sports pitches, play areas etc.) pointing out that Abbeyfields Play Area equipment needs updating.

CORRESPONDENCE continued

Royal Garden Party

A Nomination Form had been received from WALC for the Royal Garden Party on 21<sup>st</sup> July. The Parish Councillors present nominated Cllr. O'Neill Thomas. Parish Clerk to complete and forward form.

Bromsgrove District – Draft Core Strategy

The Parish Clerk asked if details of this was still required. The Parish Councillors after looking through agreed the Parish Council should still be on the mailing list as some areas do cover those adjacent to the Village (i.e. Beoley).

Notice of WALC Briefing Day 7<sup>th</sup> March had just been received – Future of Parish & Town Councils including workshops including Planning Applications. It was suggested Cllr. Ward may be interested.

11. FOR CIRCULATION – none

12. DELEGATES REPORTS

The Parish Clerk had attended an Audit Briefing morning at Studley Village Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> January. She will write-up notes and circulate. She reminder the Parish Council that the Risk Assessment is due.

13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAID/FOR PAYMENT/FINANCE

Following approval at the last Meeting of the hourly rate increase for the Parish Clerk, the Chairman signed a letter of confirmation to her – one copy to the Parish Clerk, one retained by the Chairman.

The Parish Clerk handed out a list of payments made since the last Parish Council Meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> December together with cheques drawn for approval and signing (Appendix 1). She also produced Bank Statements covering 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The Bank Balance at that date was £14117.12 excluding cheques drawn for signing.

The Parish Clerk reported that WALC's subscription for 2009/10 would be £160.00. This is was agreed to continue.

The Parish Clerk gave a reminder to check the Website as it is always changing and she will be updating.

14. DATES OF NEXT MEETING & TO CONFIRM DATES FOR REMAINDER OF 2009.

The dates had been emailed to the Parish Council and provisionally booked with the Village Hall. These were agreed as follows:-

6 <sup>th</sup> April	Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Parish Council Meeting
5 <sup>th</sup> October	Parish Council Meeting
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Parish Council Meeting

- The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.40p.m. –

APPENDIX 1.

## Mappleborough Green Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009

### PAYMENTS MADE SINCE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (1<sup>st</sup> December 2008)

Cheque No.	Description	Amount	Date Paid
100270	D.J. Bennett, Landscaping	£65.00	3.12.08.
100271	Warwickshire, Solihull, Birmingham Training Partnership for Parish and Town Councils – Briefing Day (Audit)	£20.00	3.12.08.
100272	Admin. Expenses (Ink cartridge, folders, stamps)	£38.71	15.12.08.
100273	Broadband – December (new vat)	£20.54	15.12.08.
100274	Parish Clerk – Wages December less PAYE	£356.23	7.1.09.
100275	PAYE October/November/December	£249.10	7.1.09.
100276	2GeeDesign – Website updates December	£41.25	16.1.09.
100277	Broadband – January	£20.54	16.1.09.
100278	Admin. Expenses (Box files, Ink cartridges, Mileage and parking)	£78.44	16.1.09.

### CHEQUES FOR APPROVAL AND SIGNING

100279	Norton Protection, Envelopes	£49.45
100280	W.C.C. Annual Street Lighting Maintenance	£66.38
100281	Parish Clerk – Wages January less PAYE	£348.92

Signed .....

6<sup>th</sup> April 2009.