

MINUTES OF THE 26th PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF
MAPPLEBOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 4th FEBRUARY 2008
at 8.15pm at THE VILLAGE HALL

1. PUBLIC FORUM – One member of the public was present and asked about the A435 de-trunking. She was told that this was on the Agenda for later discussion.
2. CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING OPEN AT 8.20pm
3. APOLOGIES – None received. Cllr. Topham and Cllr. Fitchett were not present
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none
5. MINUTES OF THE 25th PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of 3rd December 2007 were accepted as a true record and signed.

6. MATTERS ARISING

- VILLAGE BOOKLET

The Parish Clerk had circulated a draft booklet and contact list to Parish Councillors prior to the Meeting. It was suggested that some details regarding the Cricket and Football Clubs could be included. Cllr. Green advised some changes to the Church Services and the Parish Clerk would make contact with the Church Warden to confirm details. The list of Councillors should also be included on the inside cover.

Cllr. O'Neill Thomas agreed to have her telephone number included. Quotes had been obtained for 500, 750 and 1000 but it was agreed that 500 would be sufficient.

Cllr. Fitzhenry agreed to deliver copies in Pratts Lane. The Parish Clerk would proceed with an updated draft and circulate to Parish Council for final agreement before printing. Councillors agreed on the photographs in the draft – further photographs would be added where applicable.

The Parish Clerk handed out a sheet showing 'Awards For All' expenditure in the current year showing estimated spending and balance available. She advised that of 17th January 6685 hits had been made on the website. She suggested altering the front page of the website to make 'visitors' more aware of Notices/News and to put ongoing information on a separate page. Parish Clerk to progress this.

- ABBEYFIELDS PLAY AREA

The Parish Clerk had heard nothing from Cllr. Topham following his agreement to look into the updating of the equipment. She had emailed but would chase this up again.

- SPEEDAWARE

The Parish Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Tim Hamson, W.C.C., advising that following the speed survey carried out on the Henley Road by the School at our request, 'some non-compliance of the speed limit' had been found. New equipment was to be used shortly and possibly could be applied to our site but it would be several months before this occurred.

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Following receipt of a letter from the Road Safety Engineer at W.C.C. regarding the Speed Limit Consultation Review – A & B Class Roads, it shows the Henley Road as remaining at 40mph. The Parish Clerk had asked Parish Councillors if they thought it worth asking for reducing this to 30mph. The Council believed this would not be considered.

- A435 DE-TRUNKING

Cllr. Regan had sent a letter to the Chief Executive of W.C.C. giving the Parish Council's concerns over traffic on the A435 and asking for details of any plans now that W.C.C. are responsible for the road. The reply agreed in principle with the problems and that a by-pass was the solution but also pointed out Government funding looks at problems in the West Midlands Region as a whole and it was unlikely that such funding be available in the near future. The County Council is proposing to look at transport infrastructure requirements across Warwickshire. Cllr. Regan was not happy with the reply.

Cllr. McCarthy confirmed that no money is available even though W.C.C. supported a by-pass. She suggested the Parish Council may consider asking for traffic calming. It was felt this would not be considered especially on the approach from the dual-carriageway. Slow signs or hatched marks further up Gorcott Hill were possibilities.

Cllr. Regan asked what the procedure is for action – lobbying for calming commencing on the dual-carriageway, and what money is available. The Parish Clerk was asked to contact Clerks at Studley and Coughton for responses and ideas, and then put a draft letter together for Parish Council consideration. Cllr. Regan said John Maples MP to whom a copy of his letter had been sent, had contacted him offering to meet.

- STUDLEY FIRE STATION/FIRE FIGHTERS APPEAL

A donation of £200.00 had been sent for the Appeal Fund and receipt received.

Cllr. McCarthy had contacted the Parish Clerk suggesting putting on hold a petition letter regarding any closure of Studley Fire Station in view of the Atherstone tragedy. She was, however, pleased to report that £85,000 had been granted to the Fire Station for refurbishment and their area had been widened and recruiting was taking place. This all strengthened their remaining operational.

- ADVERTISING OF FUNCTIONS

The Parish Clerk had posted notices on the Website and Notice Boards with Council policy.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Clerk reported details of 3 Planning Applications since the last Meeting plus an additional one received:-

07/02860/FUL	Moat House Farm, Pratts Lane Replacement garage	Granted
07/03384/FUL	Rose Court, Haye Lane Entrance Hall	No recommendations
07/02829/LDE	T. Tandy, Land at Gorcott Hill Private recreation use	No recommendations
07/02844/FUL	T. Tandy, Land at Gorcott Hill Replacement fence/hard standing	No recommendations from Parish Council

Concern had been reported to the Chairman by some residents regarding Notice of a Public Footpath Diversion in Pratts Lane. The Parish Council studied the details from the Parish Clerk and no objections were raised.

8. ANY OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- DONATIONS

The Parish Clerk reported that a donation of £250.00 each had been made in December 2006 to the Village Hall and the Church for grass cutting, and asked if Council required the same being made this year. Cllr. Green absented himself from any decision making. It was felt by the rest of the Parish Council that this be an annual donation with looking at possible inflation increases. Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill Thomas, seconded by:

Cllr. Salmon. Parish Clerk to raise cheques or £250.00 each. She also reminded Council that a

donation of £50.00 was made to Studley Parish Council last June towards the running of the Friday Shopper service – this would be raised again at the June meeting.

- SANDBAGS/FLOOD HELP

The Parish Clerk advised that a further 100 sand bags had been collected and 2 bulk bags of sand delivered to Cllr. Greens. Cllr. Regan had 50 of the bags. We have just under 200. She advised that an email had been received from S.D.C. regarding bins for storing sand were possibly going to be available – cost met by S.D.C. Cllr. Green said he preferred the bulk bags for ease of moving with his tractors.

Cllr. Fitzhenry commented on the water in Pratts Lane where flooding occurred in July. The Parish Clerk said she had been chasing Nick Wild at W.C.C. regarding gulley cleaning and a raised man-hole. She would chase again urgently. Cllr. McCarthy suggested the Clerk write with copy to Mervyn Hancocks, Nick Wild's superior.

9. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr. McCarthy distributed her report. Discussion took place on West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. It was felt that Parish Council would be happier if the housing allocation was nearer to Bromsgrove than Mappleborough Green, and that Birmingham and the Black Country have more space. Wynyates Triangle could be vulnerable – at the moment this is a buffer zone. W.C.C. is resisting the Redditch overflow.

Council asked the Parish Clerk to draft a notice with details of housing numbers etc., to go on the Website and also to accompany the Village Booklet. Concerns should be made that there is no exit onto the main road south and no infrastructure. Comments are needed by 23rd May.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Clerk had written again to English Partnerships regarding High House Farm. The reply just confirms that some essential repairs and maintenance had been carried out to the roofs on the house and barn but there was no further update.

A letter had been received from Warwickshire Lieutenancy Office Shire Hall regarding award nominations – no action.

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The Parish Clerk had received an email from S. Lewis, Alcester Police with a Newsletter listing recent crime. The Council asked for it to be emailed to them. The Parish Clerk asked if the Council thought it worth her attending the 'PACT' meetings – Cllr. McCarthy thought it could be useful and was surprised that Mappleborough Green does not have them.

A reply had been received from Royal Mail, Redditch concerning the request for a Post Box by the School. Their engineers have the necessary paperwork and are just waiting for a utilities map from Severn Trent before they proceed.

A letter and consultation document had been received regarding Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England. Comments required by 15th February. Parish Council had none.

11. FOR CIRCULATION

The Parish Clerk gave Councillors some more information received on New Model Code of Conduct.

