

Acton Bridge Parish Council Meeting minutes

Date & time	2 nd December 2019 at 19:30	Location	Acton Bridge Parish Rooms
Attendees	R Holt (Chairman), T Brocklebank, C Ballantyne-Roberts, R Forbes, D Edwards, H Bayley, Cllr G Edwards CW&C, Cllr C Fifield CW&C, Mrs C Robinson (Clerk to the Parish Council)		
Apologies	D Hall, Cllr P Williams CW&C		
Absent			
Minutes written by	Mrs C Robinson (Clerk)		

The discussion commenced at 19:30

Agenda item **Notes & actions**

1. Apologies

Apologies for Absence - As noted above

2. Cheshire Community Action

John Heselwood of Cheshire Community Action had been invited to attend the Parish Council meeting to talk about Neighbourhood plans.

Mr Heselwood gave background of the independent work Cheshire Community Action do with communities such as Parish Councils to help them develop neighbourhood plans etc, since 2011. To date they have been involved with over 90 groups in CWAC and Cheshire East, 35 Neighbourhood plans in CWAC are in the process of being adopted. There is a cost, depending on size, to develop a plan, but there are grants available up to £9k and also some technical support.

Neighbourhood plans are legally powerful documents but need to have general conformity with the local plans CWAC have in place. Neighbourhood plans can fill the gaps for phasing, design, size, protection of local wildlife, green space and heritage assets etc. Mr Heselwood confirmed that Acton Bridge was an area afforded a high degree of protection from development due to being washed over by the green belt as per the NPPF and the CW&C Local Plans Parts 1 & 2. Additionally, Acton Bridge is not a designated 'Local Service Area' for development. Acton Bridge is considered 'an infill Village' for building purposes. Mr Heselwood quoted an example of the local Village of Comberbach where some new building has been identified but it is not permitted under NPPF and particularly the Local Plan Part 2.

The average time for a Neighbourhood plan to be completed is 3.8 years and they can take a lot of time and resource and must involve community consultations. It requires good governance and strong project management and is usually completed by a group of residents, not just the Parish Council. There needs to be a referendum with a majority of the turnout supporting the final plan before it is submitted. There is not a fixed template and they can be short and only cover one or two well thought out and evidenced policies. It should contain the vision for the next 10 years. A few examples of other local Neighbourhood plans were discussed briefly.

At the end of the discussion The Chairman thanked Mr Heselwood for his time, and Mr Heselwood agreed to send all the information discussed to the clerk to distribute to the Parish Council.

3. Declarations of interest

There was no disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Public Matters

There were 2 members of the public present.

One member raised two issues:

1. Flooding in the field in Station Road – there are problems with tree roots going into the drains (these are being removed) and the grids on Station Road that need clearing. This issue has been logged several times by both Cllr Forbes and Cllr

Bayley but there appears to have been no action. It seems the gully emptying schedule is not being adhered to. Cllr Fifield will look into the matter, Cllr Forbes to pass on ticket nos.

Action Cllr Fifield

2. The ditch in Hazel Pear wood needs cleaning out. It is property of the Woodland Trust. Chairman to give resident contact details. **Action Chairman**

The second member of the public raised the issue of the provision for affordable housing in the Village. Although the discussion on a potential Neighbourhood Plan has pre-empted some of the member's comments, they still made an impassioned plea for the Parish Council to consider first-time buyers, especially younger former residents when thinking about future plans for the village.

5. Minutes of meeting held on 4th November

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November with the amendments of T Brocklebank (from Brocklehurst) and Milton Rough (from Milton Road), were accepted as a true and correct record, and were signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising and review of last minutes

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council would ideally like to add a link or contact details for Action Fraud to the Parish Council website. **Action Mrs Robinson**

Speeding

The averages shown on the analysis of speeding vehicles are generally improving e.g. in November the % vehicles travelling over 30mph had reduced from 70% to 65%.

Bulb planting

The Chairman expressed some disappointment in the number of bulbs still to be planted. If they are not planted soon, they will rot. The areas bulbs have been planted will not be mowed now until the late spring.

Footpath 24

Cllr Ballantyne-Roberts noted the footpath was strimmed approx. 2 weeks ago and it has meant there is a big improvement.

Internal Audit

Mr Frith will conduct the 2019/20 internal audit, but won't commit to future years until he sees what is involved. The Clerk has also had email discussions with the Crowton Parish Clerk and they may be able to complete each others internal audits in the future.

Bank Account signatories

Change of signatories confirmed by Co-op. Further correspondence received by NS&I requesting additional form be completed. **Action Mrs Robinson**

Wildflowers

The work required on the land close to the Bowling Green (bottom of the recreation ground) identified for wildflower planting is moving along. **Action Cllr Williams**

Town Farm Quarry

Cllr Fifield advised the quarry won't be closed by 31st December, but the site road is going and the quarry work will be closed in a couple of months.

Remembrance Plaque

The Chairman advised there is a problem with the weight of the plaque, which impact where it can be placed. Solutions are being investigated.

Hazel Pear Wood workday

Cllr Forbes advised that another ½ day workday had taken place at Hazel Pear Wood last Wednesday (27th November).

Planning application for Station Road Nursery

The letter from the Parish Council in response to planning application 19/03689/FUL had been sent in and the Chairman thanked everyone for their input. The planning application does not appear to have a case officer Cllr G Edwards will call it in if it looks like the Planning Officer is minded to approve.

Planning Application comments	Cllr G Edwards informed the PC that the comments boxes had been removed due to GDPR and even though it was useful to see comments, it wasn't possible due to the complexity of how difficult it was to not to identify the submitter from their comments
Warrington Road residents	Cllr G Edwards chased the Highways agency last week, but they currently have other priorities due to the flooding. It looks like there may be a residents parking scheme.
7. Planning Applications	One planning application for an extension at the rear of 22 Milton Rough 19/04133/LDC which is not for the Parish Council comment as it is a LDC (Lawful Development Certificate) application.
8. Planning Decisions	<p>There have been two planning decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval for large extension at the Beeches 19/02047/FUL – Chairman suggested that Cllrs read the comments on the website to understand the approval grounds 2. Approval for Orchard End 19/03556/FUL– to knock down existing garage and place an extension on the site.
9. Financial Matters 9.1. Authority for signing cheques	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No cheques for approval
10. CW&C Ward Councillors	Nothing to report – most meetings cancelled whilst the General Election is taking place.
11. Reports from other meetings	No reports from other meetings
12. Joint Cemetery Committee Constitution	The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the change to the Joint Cemetery Constitution reducing the Committee members from 5 to 4 Parish Councillors for Weaverham and Cuddington Parish Councils and from 3 to 2 Parish Councillors from Acton Bridge. A quorum shall be 5 members with at least one from each Parish Council.
13. Correspondence	Marketing material received from Glasdon – Village gateways, and information received from CPRE. These were made available at the end of the meeting for Cllrs to review.
14. Village Matters	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr D Edwards enquired if Cliff Road is gritted in bad weather but was advised only the bus route is gritted. 2. Use of the Parish rooms car park by builders is causing ill feeling in the village. Cllr Ballantyne-Roberts advised she had collected litter, and mud on the road is also now also causing issues. Planning application 17/00686 – need to check if there are conditions within relating to contractor parking. The Chairman has consulted a solicitor who advised there needs to be evidence for complaints on the grounds of Health and Safety issues. The Chairman will speak to the builders again before considering any enforcement of planning application. 3. Cllr Ballantyne-Roberts reported that the 'Little Gem' Certificate for the artwork in the Station entrance was exceptionally well received by the children of the Pre-School. There are suggestions of a photo for the village newsletter. Where to display the certificate was discussed.
15. AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Bayley advised there was a high possibility that she would be leaving the village in April due to a planned house move. • The Chairman advised that at the next meeting the Parish Council will need to review the budget for 2020/21 to set the Precept, information to be sent out prior to the meeting. <p style="text-align: right;">Action Mrs Robinson</p>

16. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 6th January 2020, 19:30

The discussion closed at 21.50

Signed (Chairman)

Date.....