

Acton Bridge Parish Council Meeting minutes

Date & time	4 th March 2020 at 19:30	Location	Acton Bridge Parish Rooms
Attendees	R Holt (Chairman), T Brocklebank, C Ballantyne-Roberts, R Forbes, D Hall, D Edwards Cllr C Fifield CW&C, Cllr P Williams CW&C, Cllr G Edwards CW&C, Mrs C Robinson (Clerk to the Parish Council)		
Apologies	H Bayley		
Absent			
Minutes written by	Mrs C Robinson (Clerk)		

The discussion commenced at 19:35

Agenda item	Notes & actions
1. Apologies	Apologies for Absence – None as noted above
2. Declarations of interest	There was no disclosable pecuniary interest.
3. Public Matters	There were no members of the public present.
4. Minutes of meeting held on 3rd February 2020	The minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd February were accepted as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
5. Matters arising and review of last minutes	
Flooding – field on Station Road	There continues to be issues with flooding on Station Road, the fields. There is flooding on the road, under a house and there is a problem with a particular culvert. Cllr Fifield is continually chasing with no response as yet. He is trying to get clarification on what has been done. A resident and Farmer are also in touch with the Highways Agency as well. Action Cllr Fifield
Bank Account signatories	NS&I have advised Clerk to redo the forms for change of address etc, as the previous ones do not seem to have been received. Action Mrs Robinson
Wildflowers	Cllr G Edwards is still waiting on the strategy, Acton Bridge will be a pilot area. Action Cllr G Edwards
Town Farm Quarry	Town Farm Quarry is gradually closing, the Clerk had been copied in on an Email from Kingsley (Crowton) PC to say they were happy with works.
Remembrance Plaque	The Chairman advised he had had contact with Winnington Church memorials and work was progressing.
Warrington Road residents	Cllr G Edwards advised there had been a meeting with Parking and Highways, parking tickets have been suspended pending a resolution. There is a need for a meeting with all parties, but it looks like there may be a residents parking scheme with a cost to residents in the region of £50 per year. The slip road continues to be dangerous to get in and out of onto the main road.
‘Little Gem’ Certificate	The Little Gem award and the award for the art project in the Station entrance were communicated in the Village newsletter.
Speeding signs	The sign outside the Parish Rooms has not been displaying speeds.

Ward Member budget applications	Budgets are now in progress for the coming financial year. As Acton Bridge under-claimed for the car park lights there will hopefully be an adjustment made in the next financial year.
Overgrown hedges	As hedges should not be cut March-September due to birds nesting, the letters to residents with overgrown hedges will be put on hold for now.
Planning Applications reviewed February	All letters and comments were submitted to the Planning Dept. only one has had a planning decision
Station Road Nursery	Cllr Forbes once again highlighted that the Nursery has been derelict for 5 years and needs to be returned to Green Belt land.
Removal of hedge	Cllrs G Edwards and Williams will chase up the issue of the hedge adjoining Acton Hall Farm with Planning Enforcement. The Chairman has been advised that Planning Enforcement were going to take pictures and pass on to the Tree Officer. Trees have also been felled by the Telecom Post. Action Cllrs G Edwards & Williams
Hill Top Farm additional building	Planning Enforcement have decided to grant planning permission under permitted development for the newly erected large building at Hill Top Farm. It will still need Building Regulations. The Parish Council are dismayed as this means they will have had no opportunity to comment on a formal planning application.
Neighbourhood plan	<p>There was further discussion on whether a Neighbourhood plan should be considered by the Parish Council, a few key points were raised and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing/starter homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is this confusing the issue – is it 2 different things? ○ Acton Bridge is not a local service centre, is it the right place for affordable housing? ○ Not sure of residents’ appetite for affordable housing • Washed over by Green Belt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If this is the best protection, why is a neighbourhood plan required? ○ Are there loopholes in the Green Belt protection? ○ CWAC Planning Dept. will take into account a Neighbourhood plan – it will give added protection and can be used to give more rigorous guidelines e.g. specify building materials, define architecture etc • Completing a Neighbourhood plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can include green spaces, light views to be protected ○ Can be concise ○ Takes time and resources as there needs to be a consultation process ○ Do the residents want one? What would they want in it? A survey will need to be completed ○ Could consider doing in two phases 1. Short term answering immediate concerns 2. Longer term to address other issues <p>It was agreed that clarification was needed from CW&C Planning before the Parish Council could make decisions on possible further action. Cllr Fifield to find out who the Parish Council can talk to at CWAC Planning dept. about concerns over whether a Neighbourhood Plan would enhance protection above current planning policy. An EGM could potentially be arranged to go and speak to this contact.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action Cllr Fifield</p>
6. Acton Bridge Parish Council Website	<p>A review of the Acton Bridge Parish Council website took place. The P.C. requested the Clerk review/update the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a link to the Neighbourhood Alert scheme for residents to register for alerts, could updates also be put onto the website? • Item for ‘Latest News’ should be considered at each Parish Council Meeting

- Remove any references with 'New website under construction'
- Add a line to the 'Council Meetings' page to say the public are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings and they have an opportunity to raise items under the 1st item on the agenda.
- Add 2020/21 Parish Council meeting dates
- Ensure approved minutes are loaded onto the website at the very first opportunity, as close as 4 weeks from the meeting as possible

Action Mrs Robinson

7. Planning Applications

None.

8. Planning Decisions

There has been one planning decision:

1. Approval for single storey rear extension to Rose Cottage 20/00027/FUL.

9. Financial Matters

9.1. Authority for signing cheques

No cheques for approval.

9.2. Preparation for year end audit

LJ Littlejohn will be contacting the Parish Council re the year end audit but as Acton Bridge PC accounts are under £25k there isn't a requirement for external audit. The Clerk will circulate the accounts for review following the year end 31st March 2020.

Action Mrs Robinson

10. CW&C Ward Councillors

Cllr G Edwards gave the following update:

- She has asked for the planning application for the Maypole Inn to be called in.
- There is work due on the play area, the grass needs to be rolled, aerated and cut and the football pitch marked out.
- Availability of sheep signs on social media and hard copy – it is legal to shoot a dog if it is worrying sheep, they need to be kept under control
- Climate Emergency is gathering momentum with some interesting initiatives being suggested
- Communications- the Rural Panel are looking at a rollout of fibre optics e.g. BT Openreach
- The Council are looking at CCTV on prime fly tipping hotspots
- There is a Community Transport Review
- 7th March is World Book Day
- International Inspirational Woman's day 8th March

Cllr Fifield added the following comments:

- The sheep signs should also include cattle – who can trample people when spooked and dog fouling is also a very serious problem for cattle farmers (it can make the cows abort early).
- There is a working group meeting to look at video conferencing in Winsford/Chester to aid things such as Planning discussions and reduce the need for people to travel. This helps with the climate emergency and could enable more speakers.

11. Reports from other meetings

Cllr Ballantyne-Roberts gave an update from The Joint Cemetery committee. The fencing has been erected on the new plot of land and hedging will be following shortly. Urban Landscapes are starting the Cemetery Extension on Monday 9th March with a quote for the works of £107k. A Project Manager has been appointed on behalf of the Committee at a cost of £3k for 10 days. The Solicitor for the Joint Cemetery Committee raised the question of who the Contracting Party should be, the decision has been taken that it is Cuddington PC (not the JCC) as they own the land.

12. Correspondence

- NSI are reducing interest rates, the PC may consider closing the account.

- 2 Brochures from Glasdon 1. Focus on Local Councils (bins, benches, bollards etc) and 2. Village gateways
- Cheshire Rural Arts Spring 2020 brochure

These were made available at the end of the meeting for Cllrs to review.

- Request from Norley Parish Council re how Acton Bridge arranged the checks on underground cabling prior to installation of the speed indicator devices. The Clerk will advise they contact the Highways Agency.

13. Village Matters

1. A garage on Cliff Road has been broken into and £1.5k equipment stolen.
2. The footpath on Hilltop road has been cleared and will be closed Wednesday to Friday this week (4th – 6th March).
3. There will be no further coppicing in Hazel wood due to the bird nesting season.
4. Coronavirus – the Government may be considering isolation for older residents, the Community Association may need to contact vulnerable groups in the village. An EGM may be required for plans and emergency procedures if there is a government enforced lockdown

14. AOB

1. Former Councillor Mr Pardoe had thanked everyone for his presents and was very grateful for all the kind thoughts.
2. A train survey has been sent around as part of the consultation process.
3. The trains are slow due to a slippage at the arches, this is affecting the Crewe to Liverpool southbound line.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 6th April 2020, 19:30

The discussion closed at 21.50

Signed (Chairman)

Date.....