

# Acton Bridge Parish Council Meeting minutes

<b>Date &amp; time</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021 at 19:30	<b>Location</b>	Video conference
<b>Attendees</b>	R Holt (Chairman), T Brocklebank, C Ballantyne-Roberts, R Forbes, D Hall, D Charlton, Cllr C Fifield CW&C, Cllr G Edwards CW&C, Cllr P Williams CW&C, Mrs C Robinson (Clerk to the Parish Council)		
<b>Apologies</b>	None		
<b>Absent</b>	None		
<b>Minutes written by</b>	Mrs C Robinson (Clerk)		

The discussion commenced at 19:30

**Note** – This meeting has been held using Zoom conferencing facilities. The structure of this meeting has been agreed by all Parish Council Members. The Agenda for the meeting has been circulated to all Members and has been published on the Parish Council web site, members of the public were invited to join by contacting the Clerk for meeting invite details.

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Notes &amp; Actions</b>
<b>1. Apologies</b>	Apologies for Absence – as noted above
<b>2. Declarations of interest</b>	No pecuniary interests were expressed.
<b>3. Parish Council Vacancy</b>	<p>Two applications had been received for the casual vacancy.</p> <p>Both candidates had been invited to speak at the Parish Council meeting for 2 minutes to give an outline of why they wanted to apply for the vacant position. Both candidates gave a separate presentation via video conference and as informed in the advert, no questions were asked. The Parish Council agreed to continue with inviting applicants present at the Parish Council meeting. After a discussion based on the applications received, and the presentations given, the Parish Council voted by a majority to co-opt Georgina Hayward onto the Parish Council. The Parish Council also agreed that the other candidate was also suitable and that they would like to encourage him to apply again in the future. The Clerk will contact Miss Hayward with the required paperwork, and Cllrs Holt and Brocklebank will contact the unsuccessful candidate to offer encouragement to apply again.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action Mrs Robinson, Cllrs Holt and Brocklebank</b></p>
<b>4. Public Open Forum</b>	There were no members of the public present.
<b>5. a. Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	Cllr Ballantyne-Roberts had spotted two missing apostrophes and a missing capital letter. In addition under Correspondence ‘consensus’ needed to be changed to ‘census’. With these amendments the minutes of the meeting held on 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 were accepted as a true and correct record.
<b>b. Minutes of the emergency meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	<p>The minutes of the emergency meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were accepted as a true and correct record.</p> <p>Both sets of minutes will be signed by the Chairman and returned to the Clerk at the first opportunity.</p>

## 6. Matters arising: a) a review of the December Parish Council meeting

<b>Flooding – Station Road</b>	Cllr Edwards did follow up, but the meeting has been re-arranged. <b>Action Cllr G Edwards</b>
<b>Bank Account signatories</b>	NS&I have responded to the Clerk’s letter. They have sent a form for withdrawing money and confirmed all Parish Councillors as signatories, a list of current Parish Councillors had been sent to them with a view to remove anyone no longer a Councillor. NS&I did not send details of how to close the account and have sent the annual statement to previous Clerk. The Clerk will look into how to close the account. <b>Action Mrs Robinson</b>
<b>Remembrance Plaques</b>	The re-dedication is on hold and likely to be delayed for a while given the current COVID-19 situation. C/F
<b>Warrington Road residents</b>	Due to circumstances the residents are no longer concerned and this is no longer required to be kept on the agenda.
<b>Warrington road drains</b>	Cllr Fifield did chase with no response, but events have overtaken this and it is now part of the flooding issues to be addressed separately.
<b>Ward Member budget applications</b>	The Parish Council will contribute 50% of the balance, after deduction of the Ward Councillors grant, to the gable end remedial works, once the quotes have been received and reviewed by ABCA. C/F
<b>Neighbourhood plan</b>	The Neighbourhood plan is on hold until the Parish Council can get consultation with the Council Planning Officers. C/F
<b>Speed data</b>	<p>The meeting with Highways was arranged but then cancelled due to the flooding, it has yet to be re-arranged. <b>Action Cllr G Edwards</b></p> <p>January’s speed data has been distributed to Highways, and also circulated to the Parish Council. The volume of traffic appears to have lowered due to the COVID lockdown, and partly by the equipment not functioning. Cllr Forbes commented the recent snow had lowered speeds only very slightly. Whilst there are 4 cameras in the village, only 2 have data capture. Cllr Forbes has tried to contact Michelle Gillet several times, to suggest where she might get better results with the speed gun. No success in contacting her as yet. <b>Action Cllr Forbes</b></p> <p>Cllr Hall observed when walking recently that the speed of traffic down Milton Rough from the station is way over the speed limit of 30mph. Cllr Fifield checked and confirmed that there had been some speed monitoring on Milton Rough on January 13<sup>th</sup> which is shown on the Weaverham, Cuddington Police Facebook page, but it only shows number of vehicles not a speed gun (which was away for calibration)</p>
<b>Maypole Inn</b>	Cllr G Edward’s meeting with Fiona Dunning (Localites) to look at creating a support hub in the village, had to be postponed due to the flooding. <b>Action Cllr G Edwards</b>
<b>Pedestrian Crossings</b>	The Clerk sent an email on the 5 <sup>th</sup> January with the suggested amendment (including ref to pedestrian crossings) for the Climate Emergency Plan consultation.
<b>Website updating and historical minute filing</b>	The Clerk has been sent electronic historical minutes that were previously stored on the old PC website from ex-Councillor Pardoe on the 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan. As yet, the Clerk hasn’t done anything with them, but she will find a way to store them electronically. <b>Action Mrs Robinson</b>
<b>Weaver &amp; Cuddington Beat community funding</b>	Cllr Holt incorporated comments from his discussion with Michelle Gillet and sent in the application form, yet to hear anything back, not even an acknowledgement.

<b>Circular from Scottish Power</b>	The circular was posted on the Parish Council website 12 <sup>th</sup> January.
<b>Hazel Pear wood</b>	Cllr Forbes informed the Parish Council that the 2 <sup>nd</sup> coppicing day was still to go ahead due to delays because of the weather and COVID.
<b>Speeding signs</b>	All the speeding signs appear to be working, despite a report to Cllr Ballantyne-Roberts that Station Road wasn't working.
<b>Station Car Park misuse</b>	Nothing further to update from the PCSO since her last report. Cllr Holt is still trying to get contact details to look at the possibility of CCTV at the station. <b>Action Cllr Holt</b>
<b>Grass Verges Chapel Lane/Orchard Avenue</b>	Cllr Fifield to chase as he hasn't heard anything in response to his report submitted on 4 <sup>th</sup> January. Due to flooding work and diversions, the verges on Acton Lane, Cliff Road, Hill Top Road and Warrington Road will all need remedial work from Highways in due course. <b>Action Cllr Fifield</b>
<b>Overgrown hedge letter</b>	Nothing has been heard from the residents in response to the letter sent, and no work has been done, CWAC need to be asked to take action. <b>Action Mrs Robinson</b>
<b>Station Hill Fence</b>	Report GS291248507- Darren Dean from CWAC contacted the Clerk on 5 <sup>th</sup> January, (as well as bumping into Cllr Forbes) as he checked the site. He agreed it needed attention, and felt the vegetation on the other side of the fence was responsible and was going to ascertain who owned the land and responsibility for repairing the fence, most likely Network Rail. Nothing heard since, but the report status on the website is: 'Investigation completed, work scheduled to resolve the issue'. Clerk to check if the work is to be carried out by CWAC. <b>Action Mrs Robinson</b>
<b>Precept 2021/2022</b>	The Clerk has applied to CWAC for a precept of £5,051 (they have confirmed receipt of application) on 12 <sup>th</sup> January.
<b>ChALC Speeding Questionnaire</b>	The Clerk returned the speeding questionnaire on 12 <sup>th</sup> January, with speeding as the number one issue for Acton Bridge PC.
<b>Enquiry re Acton Bridge Nursery site</b>	The Clerk responded as per the Parish Council instructions, on 12 <sup>th</sup> January and she has heard nothing since.
<b>ONS census information</b>	The ONS census information was put on the Parish Council website by the Clerk on 5 <sup>th</sup> January.
<b>Garden Waste Collections delay</b>	The Clerk put the information on the Parish Council website on 5 <sup>th</sup> January. The Clerk has received another notification that the garden waste collection is now suspended until 8 <sup>th</sup> March, much to the consternation of many local people.
<b>Vaccinations</b>	The over 70s are now getting appointments for COVID vaccinations at Kingsmead surgery.
<b>Style on footpath Top Hill Road to Strawberry Lane</b>	Cllr Hall reported the remedial work on the style had been done today (1 <sup>st</sup> Feb), and thanks to Cllr Hall intervening, they have also left the netting allowing dog access. The bridal path to the stream has been closed due to being badly damaged due to the flood water.
<b>Parish Council meetings 2021</b>	The dates for the monthly Parish Council meetings have been circulated and posted on the Parish Council website
<b>Matters arising: b) a review of the Emergency meeting 27<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	
<b>Northwich Isolation support</b>	The Clerk is still awaiting contact details for Northwich Isolation Support Group. Cllr Edwards felt the Group would not be able to ascertain the costs incurred supporting the Acton Bridge Flood victims specifically.
<b>ChALC meeting 29<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	The Clerk attended the meeting arranged by ChALC, the topic was crowd funding. The Clerk distributed a few notes on the meeting prior to the Parish Council meeting, but the summary was that crowd funding needed to be initiated quickly while issues/impacts

were still visible, you need to understand how it works, and it needs social media promotion.

## Contingency plan

Cllr Holt has circulated an example Flood Contingency Plan for the Parish Councillors to review. **Action All Parish Councillors**

### 7. Planning Applications

None received.

### 8. Planning Decisions

Official decision notifications received from CWAC in the last month for:

- **20/00020/FUL** - Maypole Inn 59 Hill Top Road, Acton Bridge – Approved (Already noted by the PC)
- **20/01924/FUL** - Application to erect one dwelling on the Land at Warrington Road – Refused (Cllr Holt has also emailed the Parish Council separately)
- **20/02813/FUL** - 49 Cliff Road - Extension to garage and raise the roof eaves – Approved (Noted at December PC meeting)
- **20/02894/FUL** - 6 Orchard Avenue - Demolition of existing front, rear extension and garage. Erection of single storey front extension, single storey rear extension and detached garage – Approved (Noted at December PC meeting)
- **20/03064/FUL** - Milton Heys Sandfield Lane - Demolition of existing conservatory; Erection of a single storey rear extension – Approved (Noted at December PC meeting)

**20/04191/FUL** - 23 Chapel Lane is still pending.

In addition to those sent to the Parish Council for consultation, **21/00069/DSM** - Telecommunications Site Wetton Lane had been Approved.

### 9. Local Flooding

Cllrs Williams and Edwards gave an update on the latest situation:

- The worst is over, and all evacuees are in or about to be in medium to long term accommodation. There are still 2 families at Hill Farm B&B and 3 in Dutton.
- There has been a hive of activity over the last 10 days by StreetCare, Highways, Localities and decontamination people. A team from the Canal and Rivers Trust are staying locally tomorrow, to possibly look at the sluice gates.
- In totality across Warrington Road and Sandy Lane (Weaverham) there are approx. 30 houses wiped out at ground floor level, 20 vehicles written off and probably 10-15 boats have been damaged. Cllr Williams guessed £3-4M damage.
- Emotions are running high and the blame game has already started, but it is too early to really understand exactly what has caused the flooding.
- The behaviour of drivers ignoring road closure signs and moving cones, during the flooding was appalling, and it is a relief no-one died as a result. Particularly an articulated lorry that caused a huge wave and chaos in its wake. Traffic management really needs to be managed better in a situation such as this.
- Cllr Williams heaped praise on Cllr Edwards for the work she has done in supporting residents. As all 3 CW&C Councillors have worked very hard together to help everyone involved, the Parish Council thanked them all.
- The next phase has definitely started, but the CW&C Cllrs will stay in touch with those residents who have been impacted by the flooding.

The discussion then started with all the Parish Council:

- There was mention of the flooding at the scheduled ABCA meeting, as a number of residents attended, and Cllr Fifield made a note of the actions.
- Cllr Holt pointed out that for the future, the Parish Council needed a Flood Contingency Plan. He has circulated a draft so that the Parish Council do not find themselves in the same situation again.
- Cllrs Williams and Edwards at a meeting with the Council Leader and Deputy Leader and pointed out that the emergency protocol should have put a Site

Commander in place with overall charge and the ability to co-ordinate and delegate.

- Cllr Charlton pointed out that the recently distributed review (2019 interim report) of the flooding in 2018 doesn't mention Acton Bridge at all, despite some houses on Warrington Road being flooded at that time. Cllrs Fifield and Williams had previously highlighted the omission, but it would appear to no avail. The interim report highlighted the need to check drainage and if it had been linked to flooding in Acton Bridge – would it have made a difference? Especially with the pool of water that formed where temporary traffic lights were placed in January. Houses were first flooded from the road, before it came in from the river. Traffic was sending large amounts of water from the road.
- There was very little coverage in the news this time of the impact of the flooding in Acton Bridge, and Weaverham, particularly compared with Northwich.
- The Riverside Inn was also flooded and has been shut and gutted.
- Insurance is likely to become more of an issue, one resident was told by her insurance company to check the small print as it didn't cover flood damage. They had changed the policy.
- Flooding on the Acton Lane side didn't change until they cut through the bank, pumps didn't make any headway. The estimate was 60 acres of fields were flooded to a depth of 4 feet.
- Acton Bridge needs to be recognised as an area prone to flooding:
  - There was flooding prior to the major event that was a sign of problems building, and should have been addressed
  - There needs to be a point of contact for emergencies, someone to take control, to stop traffic, co-ordinate sandbags etc
  - There needs to be a co-ordinated response to support residents that doesn't rely on the CW&C Councillors working ridiculous hours, they shouldn't have needed to do hardly anything. There is a flood team of one person currently at CW&C.
- It is likely to happen again, so the Parish Council needs to look at what role they should play.
- The flood water was higher than the flood in 2018, but not as high as 1946.
- Cllr Charlton will distribute his notes on the flooding to the Parish Council.

**Action Cllr Charlton**

## 10. Financial Matters

- a. Authority for signing cheques
- b. Bank Balances

There are no cheques requiring signature

### Total Balances as at 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

	<u>DR -ve</u>	<u>CR +ve</u>
Current A/c		5,007.63
National Savings A/c		919.62
Unpresented chqs as at 12/01	120.00	
		5,807.25
 <u>Summary</u>		
Total Balance B/Fwd @ 13/12/2020		6,189.45
Plus total receipts (NS&I Interest)		6.57
Less total payments		388.77
Total Balance C/fwd to 13/01/21		5,807.25

## 11. CW&C Ward Councillors

Cllr Fifield reported there had been no topics apart from flooding, with one exception – the CW&C Waste Consultation the Clerk had also circulated some high-level notes from a meeting she attended prior to the Parish Council meeting. Amongst the proposals are to

change the fortnightly bin collection to 3 weekly, and the bins would be larger (probably 4 wheelie bins). Garden Waste Collections could also be affected: stopping them completely, reducing collections over autumn/winter, charging for them. Cllr Fifield advised all Parish Councillors to respond. The details of the Consultation will be put on the Parish Council Website.  
**Action Mrs Robinson**

**12. Reports from other Meetings**

The Clerk has attended 2 meetings – ChALC crowd funding (reported under Matters Arising) and CW&C Waste Consultation (reported under CW&C Ward Councillors)

**13. Correspondence**

The Clerk and Cllr Holt had circulated various emails in the last month:

- 11<sup>th</sup> January Email circulated re. Book of reflections (and another 28<sup>th</sup> Jan) - A book of reflection has been opened online for residents to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Clerk will put the information on the PC website. **Action Mrs Robinson**
- Letter received from CPRE (The Countryside charity) welcoming to a new year with membership renewing 18/03/21, keep membership at £36.00 per annum. There is also a newsletter the Clerk can distribute to Parish Councillors at their request.
- CWAC Suspension of Garden Waste Collections until 1<sup>st</sup> March – email circulated 27<sup>th</sup> January, the Clerk to post on the PC website. **Action Mrs Robinson**
- Email circulated today (1<sup>st</sup> February) for CWAC Health & wellbeing services – the next session is Brio Leisure 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 6 – 7pm, for any Parish Councillor that wants to attend.
- Email today (1<sup>st</sup> February) circulated concerning the HS2 Consultation.
- The West Midlands trains stakeholder newsletter has been distributed by email today (1<sup>st</sup> February) to the Parish Council.

**14. Village Matters**

1. Following complaints from a resident (in relation to Key workers), Cllr Hall had registered with Highways that there was no grit in the salt bin at Strawberry Lane and Warhill Way. Cllr G Edwards had also tried to action and will chase up. **Action Cllr G Edwards**
2. Cllr Charlton reported that the drains on Acton Lane (away from the flooding) are heavily silted up and enquired if addressing this will be part of the flood actions. There is possibly a block in the main drains. Cllr P William agreed to send an email to StreetCare. **Action Cllr P Williams**
3. Cllr Forbes highlighted the issue of large articulated lorries exceeding the speed limit going through the village to make deliveries/collections at Forresters Poultry in Kingsley. Cllr Forbes will send details to the Clerk for her to write to Forresters and request that they ask their Contractors to stick to the speed limit. **Action Cllr Forbes and Mrs Robinson**

**15. AOB**

None raised.

**16. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at 19:30.

The discussion closed at 21:17

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date.....