

SEDGEBERROW PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Sedgeberrow Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30th of June 2021, at 7.15pm at Aston Somerville Village Hall.

Present Cllrs E Kearsey (Chairman), S Morris, R Hunt and C Jackson.
In Attendance The temporary clerk, County Cllr E Eyre and 3 parishioners.

Public Question time

2 parishioners spoke and the notes are appended to the minutes.

1. Register of Apologies: To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Pratt.

2. Declaration Of Interests.

Councillors were reminded to update their registers of interest and to declare any Disposable Pecuniary (DPI) and their nature.

3. To Consider the Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Meeting Held On Thursday 27th May 2021.

The minutes of the meeting having previously been circulated, were agreed as a true record and will be signed at an appropriate time.

4. To Consider the Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Meeting Held On Wednesday 17th March 2021.

The minutes of the meeting having previously been circulated, were agreed as a true record and will be signed at an appropriate time.

5. To Appoint a New Parish Clerk and To Agree Terms for The Temporary Clerk.

Mrs Loise Gerber was appointed as clerk and will commence work on the 8th of July 2021.

The council agreed the terms of the temporary clerk, the temporary clerk will hand over on the 8th of July.

The council thanked Jackie Shields for helping the council through a difficult time.

6. Planning.

a. To consider applications to date.

21/00219/CU Orchard Farm Cheltenham Road Sedgeberrow. The council has no planning reason to object; however, the council would like the public footpath to remain in its present position across the site, and not be diverted.

b. To ratify decisions taken between meetings

I. 21/01183/FUL Various Buildings at (OS 0240 3834) Lower Portway 66 Winchcombe Road Sedgeberrow. The council objected to this application by a majority decision.

II. 21/01358/FUL Forge Cottage 58 Winchcombe Road Sedgeberrow. The parish council has no objection to the change in Condition 2, but all other previous conditions should remain in place.

III. 21/01212/HP The Frickles 107 Main Street Sedgeberrow The council would like to raise a concern. This long length of dropped kerb adjoins the dropped kerb to the field entrance, storm water coming down the slope of the road could not be contained within the road.

- IV. 20/00612/LB The Stables Rear Of The Mill Winchcombe Road Sedgeberrow. The council objected full details available on the Wychavon site.
- V. 20/00172/HP The Mill Winchcombe Road Sedgeberrow Evesham. The council objected full details available on the Wychavon site.
- c. To report decisions taken by Wychavon. None to report.

7. Finance.

- a. To approve invoices for payments.

The following invoices were approved for payment: -

0053	J Shields	Temp clerk	£864.29
0054	Limebridge	Grass cutting	£350.40
0055	Aston Somerville	Hire of Hall	£22.50
0057	St Marys Church	Donation to church for use of the meeting	£25.00
0057	St Marys Church	Donation to Grass cutting	£1,000.00

- b. To ratify payments made between meetings.

The council ratified the payment of the following invoices between meetings.:-

0047	Microsoft	365	79.99	
0049	Limebridge	Grass Cutting	£350.40	
0050	Came and Co	Insurance	£605.17	
0051	M Woodhouse	Lengthsman	£777.00	
0052	ICO	Fee	£40.00	
0056	Worcs Calc	Subs	£577.31	Replacing 0048

- c. To Receive Bank Reconciliation and accounts to date.

The following remittance had been received.

Wychavon DC	Precept and grant	£5933.00
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The accounts had been circulated to all councillors via E mail.

8. Correspondence for information.

- Mr P Jones has resigned from the council, Wychavon has been notified.
- Tewkesbury Garden Town – GWPCA – the council agreed in principle to be part of this group.
Action. Clerk to contact Bredon Clerk.
- Shortage of burial space in the Churchyard – The council agreed to contact Mr Stow, as he had kindly given a small piece of land previously.
Action. Clerk to converse with Cllr Pratt before writing to Mr Stow.
- Grant request for mowing of the burial ground in Sedgeberrow – see item 7a.
Action. Clerk to write to the Church wardens to ask for a prediction of mowing costs in November this year for year 2022-2023, so it can be included in the precept for that year.
- The Parish Games – the council agreed, due to a time constraint, in principle to enter the games this year. Cllr Morris to organise, as it involves a small financial commitment this item will be ratified at the next meeting.

9. To Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020 -2021.

Cllr Jackson proposed, Cllr Hunt seconded, and it was agreed by all to approve the Annual Governance Statement, it was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

10. To Approve the Accounting Statement 2020 -2021.

Cllr Hunt proposed, Cllr Jackson seconded, and it was approved by all to approve the Accounting Statement, it was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

11. To Approve the Internal Auditors Report.

The internal auditors report had been circulated to all councillors.

12. Neighbourhood Plan Update.

The chairman had been unable to respond to the derogatory comments made by members of the parish, due to a complaint raised anonymously, by Mr Barclay, Mr Loomes, Mr Rennie and Mr Leonard, to the Monitoring Officer at Wychavon. Whilst the case was being investigated by Wychavon the Chairman had respected the anonymity of the case until the outcome was announced. The complainants themselves broke the anonymity at the May meeting.

The chairman would also like to correct councillors that stated that the 'Parish Council', was under investigation. The complaint had been made against Emma Kearsley personally, Emma has been cleared of all the allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct.

When Mr Barclay wrote to the Monitoring Officer in the first instance, he was informed that this complaint would not affect the Neighbourhood Plan process.

The council has used valuable resources and lost its clerk, due to demands for information that are either in the public domain or will be once the draft plan goes out to Consultation.

The disgruntled members of the parish regarding the outcome of the survey carried out, need to respect the views of the whole parish.

The process of compiling a Neighbourhood Plan is not restricted to a time scale, however the Sedgeberrow plan is time critical due the the update of the SWDP.

All the information on compiling a neighbourhood plan can be found at

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning>

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/component/fileman/file/Documents/Planning/Neighbourhood%20Planning/Neighbourhood%20Planning%20guide%202016.pdf?routed=1&container=fileman-files>.

Update from the steering group.

The formulation of the draft plan has been slow due to resourcing issues at Brodies (the consultants) and Wychavon, however it is hoping that this will be completed by mid-July, once the draft has been approved, it will be sent to Wychavon for consultation for 6 weeks.

A flyer will be printed and delivered to every house, informing that a copy of the draft plan will be available on the Sedgeberrow Website, however a hard copy will be available, if requested.

Cllr Morris stated that she felt a hard copy should be delivered to all.

13. To Receive the Following Reports.

- a. County Councillor.
Appended.
- b. District Councillor.
Appended.

14. Progress Reports For Information.

- a. Clerk.

A report had been circulated to all councillors to include.

- Contacted the ICO, Wychavon legal and CALC regarding the various FOI requests.
- Responded to the FIO requests as advise by the above.
- Completed and returned the internal Audit to Duncan.
- Arranged the June meeting, sent out summons and notices.
- Worked out how to update the website and have put June notice on.

- New updated worksheets have been received from Highways and forwarded to Mr Woodhouse.
 - Completed and returned Annual Lengthsman agreement to Highways.
- b. Speeding/safer community speed watch.

An officer had been present in the newly provided bay.

Action. Clerk to thank them and ask when they will be coming again.

c. VAS.

The clerk had audited the paper trail of the VAS, there has been a bit of confusion, the VAS is currently in Mr M Woodhouse garage. Due to Covid the suppliers and Highways have been unable to carry their role in the installation. I have inquired as to whether the VAS could be returned for a full refund, however this is not possible as it was made to measure and also it was made 2 years ago. The clerk has arranged for Worcs Highways Engineer to contact the Supplier, who will come out and give advice on site. I understand a meeting has been arranged to include Mr Woodhouse.

Once the new sign is up and running, sites for the old sign can be considered.

d. Defibrillator.

There appears to be some confusion over the siting of the defibrillator,

Action. Cllr Jackson agreed to contact another Electrician, with a view to putting in the Lychgate.

e. Smart Water signage.

Highways have now put up the signs.

15. Items For Future Agenda and Councillor Reports.

- Co Option of councillor.
- Election of Vice Chairman
- To Appoint Representatives To The Following, Worcestershire Association of Local Councils, Village Hall, Police Group, Transport, Tree Warden, Flood Warden.
- To Review The Councils Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and other policies.
- Communications/ Newsletter.
- Village Hall Trust Fund.
- Roles and responsibilities of individual councillors.
- To Ratify Sedgeberrow entry to the Parish Games.
- Building at the School.

Parishioners have commented on Mr Woodhouse work in the village.

16. Date Of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 21st July 2021, venue to be agreed nearer the time.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm

Signed

Date

I have been fully immersed into Council life and business and have received a warm welcomed by all officers and fellow members alike, who have all been keen to help.

After being elected I immediately started what is being a comprehensive induction program with more to come. The aim being the quicker I furnish myself with the knowledge the quicker I will be highly effective to represent our Ward.

I have been asked to be a substitute on the licensing committee and planning committee which after my District council planning training I sat on this month.

I have been asked to be involved in the full budget review with Overview and scrutiny, which reviews the full Wychavon budget giving me a good insight early on.

I have also been asked this week to be a full-time member of the Community funding advisory panel which deals with all the grants, S106 and new homes bonus. I'm delighted to take on this position as it fits well with where I want to make a difference, particularly in communicating what is available for parishes was one of the things I stated in my original selection.

Wychavon items to draw your attention to, the taxi licensing policy in line with government guidelines to increase safety measure such as safeguarding is out for consultation.

Anyone in the parish who is either a taxi driver or uses taxis regularly, particularly children or vulnerable can comment on the consultation.

Ward specific, I've met with the planning officer and neighboring councilor's to review the reserved matters for the next tranche of housing by the football ground.

The issue I raised was measures to reduce or illuminate light pollution into the open countryside. It is deemed a twin development, but it is right on the edge of the settlement and unless managed will transmit light across much of our rural countryside.

Parish specific, for Sedgeberrow, based on parishioner concerns, I have asked for the Lower Portway application to be called in to committee, as it does not comply with the development plan.

Sedgeberrow - Cllr ELIZABETH EYRE COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – June 2021

COUNTY

Covid

Confirmed cases in Worcestershire have decreased by **2%** in the last 7 days, as of yesterday Worcestershire rate stands at **21** cases per 100,000. The current England rate is **64**. The West Midlands rate stands at **46** per 100,000. **16** cases per 100,000 in Worcester. Redditch is **45** cases per 100,000, Malvern Hills is **5** per 100,000, Wychavon is **6** cases per 100,000, Wyre Forest is **23** per 100,00 whilst Bromsgrove is **35** cases per 100,000. 21st June news – there are further cases of the Delta variant recorded in Worcester.

Community Collect service is now available for people to collect lateral flow tests designed for use at home. Here2Help Worcestershire continues to support individuals and is pro-actively working with individuals who have been asked to self-isolate.

Planning support is being provided to schools for school testing for pupils.

Care Homes: indoor visits to care homes are now permitted with 5 nominated visitors, although only 2 at any one time.

100% of schools in Worcestershire are open compared to the national rate of 99.9%. Attendance is 84.5% currently with a national average at 84.1%.

There is more than 3 months stock for all PPE items at current issue rates. The supply of free PPE has been extended to unpaid carers.

Libraries are now open from browsing and face to face sessions are also returning including story time sessions. The mobile library service is back in operation.

Registration Services continue to be open but by appointment only, with limitations to available services during the national

Economy & Infrastructure

home to school transport has resumed following schools reopening.

Household Recycling Centres across the county are all operational and have been very busy.

Traffic volume is at 93% of pre-Covid levels.

Bus travel is currently at 21% of pre-Covid levels

Major infrastructure project work continues, within current Covid restrictions.

13% of Worcestershire employees were furloughed through the job retention scheme at the end of March. Reminder that the Here2Help website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help is the first point of contact if people want to offer assistance or gain support. The other option is the telephone contact number which is staffed 8am-6pm 6 days a week – 01905 768053.

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on www.carersworcs.org.uk or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.

Local issues:

Planning SWDP - We are pushing ahead to stage 19 – submit 2023.

Business support is still available: again <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/business/covid-19-information-for-businesses>

Tewkesbury Local Plan – I am pleased to see the site at the top of Winchcombe Road was removed. I hope my submission, on behalf of Sedgeberrow, which the inspector graciously allowed, has helped a bit. Of course speculative developers can submit.

Weight limit classification of Winchcombe Road request to change. Response from WCC Strategy Team:

Downgrading a road's status does not reduce the amount of traffic a road carries. Instead, it reduces the amount of funding that Worcestershire County Council can secure from Government to maintain the road. Looking at the DfT's traffic counts, this route has an AADT of less than 2,000 vehicles a day, and low freight volumes. (Roads in Basdey can have 9,000/day). In both national and local terms, these are deemed to be low traffic volumes which would not justify a route being downgraded or bypassed, if assessed using the Government's Transport Analysis Guidance. The reality is that traffic is a necessary evil; local traffic and freight vehicles represent local people's jobs and livelihoods. The local economy relies on accessibility to markets. If traffic is artificially suppressed (i.e. through a road closure or freight ban) or re-routed (i.e. with a bypass), this can have serious unintended consequences, such as loss of business, local job losses, reduced accessibility to key services, loss of bus services, re-routed traffic into other sensitive areas (such as Broadway, in this case!)

I have gone back to them advising

the A46 is your bypass, Sedgeberrow is no longer a diversion for A46, though local people use it. Highways England now signs out to say do not go through Sedgeberrow but SAT NAV does not help us.

Why we need downgrade - health and wellbeing, play and risk, tranquillity all-important for people in a rural area.

VAS sign – Barry is assisting

Community speed watch: applied for Sedgeberrow to be in this scheme. Will depend on the current speeds. I have requested a further speed survey in Winchcombe Road. There is a new officer leading on community speed watch that I have yet to meet.

Gilders: Outcome outstanding

Isbourne Catchment Group Phase 1 Funding 'Hailed a Success' Despite a challenging couple of years, with two wet winters and a pandemic, the Natural Flood Management (NFM) project delivered jointly by Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and the Environment Agency (EA) with the support of the Isbourne Catchment Group (ICG) has seen the installation of many small, low-cost interventions across the catchment, which collectively will help slow the flow of water and make a difference to flooding in downstream areas, as well as create wetland habitats.

As the end of the initial phase of funding is reached it is satisfying to be able to report that through liaison with landowners, farmers, and contractors within the Isbourne catchment, the project team now has 101 NFM features in place. I have a request from Sue re Stanway land checking with Wendy. Critically, the EA and WCC view the results to date as very promising and plan to continue the project, at least for the next six years, building on and adding to what has already been put in place.

Public Question time.

Parish council meeting 30 June 2021 notes from public question time

Comments from Mr Philip Jones

1. I note from the agenda for this meeting that the items requested to be included at the last parish council meeting and for other meetings dating back to February 2021 has not been included.

I am somewhat disappointed bearing in mind I tried over many months to get items included on the agenda and you may well remember at the last meeting on 27th May 2021 where I expressed my wish to have included in the minutes a record of where I asked at the March 2021 PC meeting "what does it take to get an item on the agenda to be discussed with this Parish Council". The fact that this has not appeared on these minutes and has not appeared on previous ones as well as numerous requests being made to include these agenda items just bears out the fact that I was being ignored and was one of the reasons why I resigned because trying to get anything done was proving impossible.

2. Referring to the background paper of October 2020 are we to get clarification on the indicative housing requirement which states for years 2021–2031 as one house required and for years 2031–2041 14 houses. In light of this why are we bothering to select sites that are much larger in our neighbourhood plan?

3. What is being done about improving Parish Council communications and not answering the concerns of parishioners about lack of transparency, in light of the amount of questions posed in open forum by parishioners recently. The lack of responses, the lack of inclusion of questions in the agenda and the sheer number of freedom of information requests. How does this Parish Council propose to respond to concerns that it is seemingly being evasive and not communicating intentions and plans?

4. What is the status of the MOU submitted on in June 2020 and its validity for the insuring six months bearing in mind that this document is stated as having to be reviewed after a minimum of six months?

5. There has been an offer of a neighbourhood development plan briefing by Mr Chris Devereaux – Little are the Parish Council intending to take up this offer and have a meeting to inform parishioners about the process of neighbourhood plans?

SeSaME Report to the Parish Council. 30.6.2021

Home Energy

The remainder of Home Energy Survey forms should have been delivered and completed over the next couple of weeks. ActonEnergy will then begin collating and reporting on the results.

Community Energy

The Scoping Report commissioned by SeSaMe to identify whether there are any potentially viable community renewable energy schemes in the Sedgeberrow Parish, and which could assist in reducing carbon emissions has now been completed by Sharenergy.

They have been exploring these possible energy technologies: solar photovoltaics; solar thermal; heat pumps; and wind turbines.

As Sedgeberrow is off the mains gas grid most heating is by Oil and LPG boilers, and hence the Parish has an above average carbon footprint.

All has been funded by the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF).

Once the report has been shared with the key parties to the Report and SeSaME members, we should be able to present it for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan, as requested in SeSaME's submission at the March 17th Meeting.

If the site is included in the Neighbourhood Plan and further work verifies the financial viability of the scheme then a Phase 2 RCEF application could be made to take the scheme through planning and development stages. The consideration of

significant impacts and any community concerns would need to be addressed at the Planning stage once a detailed proposal has been submitted.
Mike Parker. Chair of SeSaME

Isbourne Catchment Group

Phase 1 Funding ‘Hailed a Success’

Update June 2021

Despite a challenging couple of years, with two wet winters and a pandemic, the Natural Flood Management (NFM) project delivered jointly by Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and the Environment Agency (EA) with the support of the Isbourne Catchment Group (ICG) has seen the installation of many small, low-cost interventions across the catchment, which collectively will help slow the flow of water and make a difference to flooding in downstream areas, as well as create wetland habitats.

As we reach the end of the initial phase of funding it is satisfying to be able to report that through liaison with landowners, farmers and contractors within the Isbourne catchment, the project team now have 101 NFM features in place.

Critically, the EA and WCC view the results to date as very promising and plan to continue the project, at least for the next six years, building on and adding to what has already been put in place.

Works to date have been spread across the catchment including at Charlton Abbots, Sudeley, Laverton Hill Farm & Village, Upper Farmcote and Didbrook. We are grateful to landowners who have cooperated so extensively, but in the next phase we are hoping that other landowners will also commit to work, especially as they can now see the evidence of schemes in operation.

The works are many and varied and a selection of the interventions are detailed below:

The Farmcote tributary, has had 18 interventions at the top of the catchment. This is a combination of leaky dams, attenuation areas and the utilisation of an old mill pond to create additional storage and wetland habitat. The drone photo captured by a PhD student from the University of Worcestershire highlights the amount of storage created at Upper Farmcote.



Downstream from the Upper Farmcote project, the team has worked closely with H A Day and installed 14 interventions upstream of Hailes Fruit Farm and a further 18 interventions at Didbrook, including reinstating a meander.



Laverton Hill Farm has had a series of wetland ponds along spring lines created. These will hopefully evolve into established wetlands, but also have the capacity to store additional water during times of heavy rain. To date, 9 of these ponds have been created along with the planting of 500 trees.

Hillside tree planting will cause run-off flows to be intercepted and increase the rate of infiltration.

Other measures which can also help to slow and attenuate flows include hedge planting, contour ploughing, the use of cover crops and field aeration to name just a few.

Natural Flood Management is now an 'accepted' strategy fully supported by government as a practical and cost-effective solution to flooding challenges.



The Isbourne Catchment Group is grateful for the massive contributions from Brian Smith of the EA and Wendy Bufton WCC NFM project officer and we look forward to working with them on the next phases.

Additionally, the natural flood work undertaken to slow the flow in the Isbourne has encouraged others to raise concerns and seek solutions. Through Winchcombe Town Council, GCC Highways will be working to reduce the flow of water onto the roads at times of heavy rainfall. Part of the challenge is the run-off from fields nearby which damages roads and threatens to flood residential properties. Winchcombe Business Park properties continue to suffer when the River Isbourne rises after heavy rain and stormwater from higher ground floods across the B4632. Added to that, the scale of recent rainfall which led to significant undermining alongside the very popular riverside path. Natural flood management can be one contribution to reducing these impacts.

If you would like more information or would like to discuss how NFM could work on your land, please do get in touch either with the ICG at icg@sedgeberrow.com or Wendy Bufton Natural Flood Management Project Officer directly on 01905 843735, Mobile 07548 148301 or Email wbufton@worcestershire.gov.uk

DRAFT