

Parish Council Meeting Minutes - 12 August

Location: Village Hall

Chair: David

Clerk: Pam

Attendees: David, Pam, Graham, Helen, Peter, Sarah, Mel,

Apologies: Jason, Catherine, Paul and Pamela,

1. Apologies

- Apologies received from **Jason, Catherine, Paul and Pamela,**

2. Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were made.

3. Public Participation

- No members of the public were present; therefore, no questions were raised.

4. Correspondence

- Pam confirmed all correspondence had been dealt with.
 - Discussion on the **South Worcestershire Unitary Authority** letter circulated by Pam. Members noted concerns about the parish being positioned on the border between the new north and south authorities.
 - It was agreed to ask Mel for clarification on how the new authority structure will operate.
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5. Minutes of Previous Meeting (24 June)

- Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.
 - Members supported continuing the practice of listing **action items at the end of the minutes.**
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6. Parish Council Items

6.1 Planning

- No new planning applications.

- Concrete works at Larford Lane: still no updates; members expressed concern at the lack of response. (M/24/01718 refers).
 - **Neighbourhood Plan:**
 - David to contact two recommended companies to obtain costings for producing a neighbourhood plan.
 - Action: **David** to obtain quotes.
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6.2 Rights of Way & Highways

Footpath from Astley to Areley Kings B4196

- Graham reported the County Council engineers had inspected the footpath and were assessing the situation.
- Residents have raised safety concerns, especially for pushchairs.
- Action: **Graham** to request an update and timeline for the assessment.

Blocked Paths - Dunley 506, 508, 511 (re Astley and Dunley History Society)

- Three paths are severely overgrown; Graham has partially cleared one.
 - Lengthsman unable to undertake the work due to scale.
 - Council indicated the work may be added to next year's winter clearance programme.
 - Action: **Pam** to contact Michael George and George Crump to see if they can assess the paths.
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6.3 Road Signs & Traffic (SIDs)

- Highways have assessed locations and will install poles for the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs).
 - Unclear whether Highways will install the devices themselves.
 - Members raised concerns about liability if the council installs them.
 - Action: **David** to speak with Jason (on return from holiday) regarding installation requirements and qualified contractors.
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6.4 Christmas Event Planning

General Discussion

- Last year's brass band event was popular but too late for children.
- Aim this year: **earlier event**, more child-friendly, ideally **4-6pm on Saturday 19 December**.
- Handbell ringers tentatively available.
- School involvement discussed; concerns raised about lack of communication
- Members agreed to attempt a direct conversation with the headteacher Tracie
- Action **Pam** and **David** to contact Tracie

Entertainment Ideas

- Explore local group participation, village societies, musicians, drama groups.
- Suggestions included:
 - Handbell ringers
 - Local drama groups
 - Accordion player
 - Potential brass bands from Bewdley or Malvern
 - Helen to contact Peter Tomlinson, Midland Light Orchestra
 - Mel to check brass band contacts and availability for 19 December

Catering Options

- Consider hiring external caterers (fish & chips, pizza van, hog roast).
 - Tickets may be required to manage numbers.
 - Action: **Pam** to ask local fish & chip shop owners about availability.
 - Action: **All members** to explore entertainment contacts.
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7. District & County Council Update

- The decision was taken to have North and South iUnitary Authorities but little planning seems to have been done for this eventuality. There is much work to be done before election and transfer next year.
- Mel will be working to help the transition but also to ensure services are maintained.
- Mel to provide ongoing information on unitary authority changes

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- **8.Parish Clerk Employment Status:** The council reviewed the employment status of its clerk, Pam. It was agreed to maintain her current arrangement of paying her own tax for now but to investigate other options.

9. Any Other Business

- Peter gave a summary of proposed improvements to security at the village hall and asked if the Parish Council would provide a contribution to the cost of just over £3000. After a brief discussion the Parish council agreed by unanimus vote to provide 50% of the cost of a security camera.
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Action Log

Action	Owner	Deadline
Obtain neighbourhood plan quotes	David	Next meeting
Request update/timeline on Astley/Areley Kings footpath assessment	Graham	Next meeting
Contact local lengthsman (Michael George & George Crump) re: blocked paths	Pam	ASAP
Clarify SID installation requirements with Jason	David	When Jason returns
Contact brass band options (Bewdley, Malvern)	Mel	ASAP
Contact Peter Tomlinson Midland Light Orchestra	Helen	ASAP
Ask fish & chip shop re: catering	Pam	ASAP
Attempt meeting with school headteacher	David & Pam	Before event planning finalised
