

Acton Bridge Parish Council Meeting notes

Date & time	5 th December 2022 at 19:00	Location	Parish Rooms, Acton Bridge
Attendees	T Brocklebank, D Charlton, R Holt, R Forbes, D Hall, L Wakefield, Cllr C Fifield CW&C, Cllr G Edwards CW&C (until 20:00), Mrs C Robinson (Clerk to the Parish Council)		
Apologies	G Hayward, Cllr P Williams CW&C		
Absent	Michelle Gillett (PCSO)		
Minutes written by	Mrs C Robinson (Clerk)		

The discussion commenced at 19:07

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Notes & Actions</u>
1. Acton Bridge Average Speed Camera Proposals	<p>No residents attended the Public Open forum.</p> <p>The Clerk had circulated figures to the Parish Council showing the potential impact on the precept request, to the Parish Council, based on the latest installation and maintenance estimates, prior to the meeting. This also included a comparison of Acton Bridge's precept to other Parish Councils.</p>
2. Apologies	Apologies for Absence – as noted above
3. Declarations of interest	No pecuniary interests were expressed.
4. PCSO Update	The PCSO's November report was circulated to The Parish Council by email 29 th November. No incidents have been reported in Acton Bridge. The next PCSO weekly surgery will be held on Tuesday 6 th December 12:00 – 13:00, at Acton Bridge Parish Rooms.
5. Public Open Forum	<p>There were two members of the public present. They were interested in 2 items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The latest Parish Council update on Planning Enforcement 22/00174/EMCOU.• The issue reported to CWAC about the holes/broken manhole covers, that CW&C and the Utility company have failed to rectify (reported in Feb 2022). Cllr Fifield agreed to follow up with CW&C. Action Cllr Fifield
6. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th November 2022	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 th November 2022 were accepted as a true and correct record.
7. Planning & Enforcement	<p>a. Planning Applications – one application had been received for consultation by the Parish Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) 22/03652/FUL – 19 Warrington Road, Acton Bridge - Demolition of existing conservatory, single storey side and rear extension. First floor rear extension to include balcony. The Parish Council agreed the comments following discussion at the last meeting: 'the Council's only concern was the proposed addition of the balcony and possible interference with privacy of the adjoining property (Reference SPD House extensions and domestic outbuildings Section 3.1 Residential Amenities).' Action Mrs Robinson <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">ii) 22/00747/FUL – Former Nursery, Station Road - single storey extensions and conversion of former retail building to a residential dwelling (Revised drawings posted 13th October). The Parish Council have not been asked to submit comments, but following the meeting between CW&C Planning and

Cllr Edwards, and the subsequent comments submitted by the Parish Council, this application has been called in. CW&C Planning Committee meeting to review this application is expected to be held 12th January 2023 in Ellesmere Port. At the last meeting the Parish Council agreed a member of the Parish Council would attend. Cllr Forbes could attend, to be decided at the January Parish Council meeting. **Action Cllrs Holt & Forbes**

- iii) Additional Applications –The Parish Council has not been asked to consult and submit comments on any further applications following distribution of the agenda. The Parish Council have not been asked to consult on **22/04298/LDC** - provision of a new stable in the garden - Acton Cliff Farm, Cliff Lane, Acton Bridge (Lawful Development Certificate application)
- b. Planning Decisions - No decisions had been received. The following application has been withdrawn on the Planning Portal:
- **22/01572/FUL** - Erection of a single storey timber garage and a timber garden gazebo. 58 Hill Top Road, Acton Bridge.
- c. Planning Enforcement
- i) 22/00174/EMCOU - Clyden 17 Hill Top Road - use of Shepherd's hut for holiday accommodation. Appeal reference: 22/00096/ENF. A new Enforcement Notice has been issued with a close date for appeal of 12th December, if there is no appeal the owner has 1 calendar month to conform to the Enforcement Notice. The Clerk has not been told about any appeal as at 6th December.

8. Update on actions to be taken over residents' concerns - Orchard Avenue Hedges & Playground

The Clerk had circulated a 2nd quote for maintenance of the playground area prior to the meeting for an estimated £1,500 + VAT per annum. Inspection costs, Insurance etc will be on top of this. Cllr Edwards has arranged for CW&C to meet with herself and the Clerk at the area on 8th December and the Clerk has asked CW&C for an estimate of the financial implications of any potential asset transfer. **C/F** Pending information from CW&C on any adjustment for Special Expenses.

9. Decision on Acton Bridge Average Speed Camera Proposals

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated indicative costs and the impact on residents Council Tax bills based on 2 options for the Average Speed Camera proposals. The Parish Council had a detailed discussion on the issues faced by residents due to continuous speeding (shown by the Speed Indicators), speeds of over 80 mph being regularly captured. They also discussed this proposal and other options for trying to manage speeds through the village.

The Parish Council unanimously decided to go ahead with the Average Speed Camera proposal, option 1, with a couple of possible changes, as and when required. Whilst the lack of attendance for a discussion by the residents (Agenda item 1) was viewed that there was no objection to the proposal, the general consensus of the Parish Council was that more information should be disseminated before a final decision to increase the Precept to approx. £8,469 (from £5,200 2022/23) was made. This figure does not allow for any uplift to the precept for other reasons (see 12c) and would be an increase of approx. £10 per year for Band D residents. These figures would be in line with other Parish Council precepts.

10. Review of Parish Councillors Register of Interests

All Cllrs were asked to review their Register of Interests, on the ABPC website, prior to the meeting. Only Cllr Brocklebank has submitted an amended form. All Cllrs to confirm by email that their Register of Interests does not need amending. **Action All Parish Cllrs**

11. Updates on Actions from previous Parish Council meetings:

- 22/03653/FUL - Car Park Adjacent 19 Warrington Road** The Parish Council comments submitted 19th November
- Cadent Hydrogen Network Consultation** The Parish Councils Response was sent 15th November, after short extension was granted. A positive confirmation email received from Cadent and circulated on 21st November
- ABPC Website** The Clerk has produced a draft page with sample agendas for the Joint Cemetery Committee but needs some help setting it up as a sub-section to Gorstage Cemetery on the website.
Action Cllr Hayward & Mrs Robinson
- 5 Chapel Lane** Cllr Holt requested an update on the issues on the state of the garden and surrounding area at 5 Chapel Lane. Cllr Fifield will chase Weavervale Housing Trust for an update.
- Sandbags** Cllr Charlton has investigated moving some sandbags to the common land identified and believes 2 pallets could potentially be sited there. Cllr Brocklebank has identified a potential for funding for future storage of sandbags. Further discussions with the residents at Holly Cottage to ensure a mutually agreeable solution are required.
Action Cllrs Charlton & Brocklebank
- Flooding** A requirement for better publicity for flood warnings has been identified. The suggestion is that they are put on the PC website with a link to the Village FaceBook page.
Cllr Edwards gave details of the Flood meeting for residents with CW&C Flood officers at Weaverham Community Centre on Tuesday 20th December at 17:30.

12. Financial Matters

a. Cheques for signature

There were no cheques requiring approval for signature.

b. Balances

Total Balances as at 30th November 2022

	<u>DR -ve</u>	<u>CR +ve</u>
Current A/c		9,465.56
Unpresented chqs as at 30/11/22	0.00	
		<u>9,465.56</u>
Summary		
Total Balance B/Fwd @ 01/11/2022		9,465.56
Plus total receipts		0.00
Less total payments	0.00	
Total Balance C/fwd to 01/12/22		<u><u>9,465.56</u></u>

Payments:

Total £0.00

c. Review of spend and forecast for 2022/23 & 2023/24 in preparation for the 2023/24 Precept request

Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated an Excel spreadsheet – ‘2023 2024 Budget and precept review’ to the Parish Council for detail on the Income and Expenditure 2022/23 to date, along with a forecast to the year end and for 2023/24 and calculations for the 2023/24 Precept request.

- Forecast for closing balance 2022/23 **£7,635.80** (Opening balance was £6,147.77)

- Forecast for costs 2023/24, including £1,000 provision for maintenance and repairs to the Parish rooms, £500 for TWM and 10% uplift to most costs, is **£5,500**. This would be a 5% increase on 2022/23 and would be a Band D Council tax cost of £17.36 pa (likely to be less than 1% of the total Council Tax charge)
- A final decision to approve the average speed camera project will impact the precept significantly. If the proposal goes ahead, Band D Council Tax cost will be approx. **£27.39**, an increase of approx. £10.00 (£11.00 from 2022/23). The Parish Council agreed to continue with maintaining the TWM speed indicators, even if the average speed camera project goes ahead.
- The Parish Council agreed to add in a Chairperson's allowance of £100
- The application for the Parish Council Precept has a closing date of **31st January 2023**

13. CW&C Ward Councillors

Cllr Fifield informed the Parish Council:

- that Purdah has now been lifted due to the completion of the Chester bi-election.
- The Council budget consultation closed today (5th December) and information should be circulated in the next couple of weeks.
- The new bin collection schedule is due to be circulated to residents but may be affected by the postal strikes.

14. Reports from other meetings

A Special Joint Cemetery Committee meeting was held on 15th November, chaired by Cllr Brocklebank and attended by Cllr Fifield. An amendment to the rules was agreed to allow rough/pitched edges on headstones following challenge by a family.

15. Correspondence

The Clerk had summarised correspondence in her Clerk's report, no items were raised for discussion.

16. AOB

- Review of Statutory Documents should be a separate agenda item. The documents can all be found on the PC website. Parish Councillors need to let the Clerk have any specific requests for potential changes by the end of the year, so they can be detailed on the agenda. **Action All Cllrs**
- Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated proposed meeting dates for 2023. The Parish Council agreed to start monthly Parish Council meetings at 19:00 instead of 19:30.
- Fence repairs Station Road - The Clerk confirmed she still needs to contact London Northwestern Railway for an update. C/F **Action Mrs Robinson**

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is planned for **Monday 9th January 2022 at 19:00**. The Clerk will add agenda items for the final decision on the Precept request for 2023/24, and a review of Statutory Documents.

The discussion closed at 20:35

Signed (Chairperson)

Date.....