

ROCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the Rock Parish Council held in Callow Hill Methodist Hall on **Monday 25th January 2016 commencing at 7.00pm.**

Present: Councillors Mr Andrew Croot (Chairman)
Jim Lawson Chris Sankey
Chris Price Pat Pain
Ms Sue Morris Douglas Godwin
Ms Iris Fermin Alan Brooks
David Nott Ms Sandra Woodhouse
Keith Perkins

In attendance: Mr S Clee Clerk, Mr Saul Herbert, Mr & Mrs David & Sandra McGrath, & CSO Toby Stephenson.

Apologies: Gary Watson.

1655 Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21st December 2015 as previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman.

1656 Declaration of Interest for a) The Meeting and b) Any Changes to be notified to the Registers of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality;

- A) There were none.
- B) There were none.

1657 Public Participation:

CSO Toby Stephenson updated council on the issues surrounding the parish during the past month. Mr Saul Herbert a Senior Reserve Manager from Natural England was present and addressed council on works being proposed at Brand Lodge Coppice at Far Forest. Following discussions with local residents Natural England will be carrying out a revised programme of management in Brand Lodge coppice during February. He outlines the plans as follows;

The long term plans for Brand Lodge Coppice are to create some open corridors (or woodland rides) through the wood and to restore about a third of the wood to the traditional practice of coppice management. We will be working over the next few weeks to establish the rides and one half hectare coppice coupe.

The rides will increase light levels in the wood, provide 'woodland edge' habitat and provide connectivity for wildlife that needs light and warmth through an otherwise dense and shaded wood.

The central section of the ride will be mown annually to promote a flower rich short vegetation cover which will be allowed to develop naturally. The branch material (brash) from the ride felling will be stacked along the ride edges to promote the development of a band of thorn and bramble scrub on the ride edges. This will provide shelter, nectar and nest sites for a wide range of woodland wildlife.

Coppicing produces the most flower-rich woodlands and a full range of woodland flowers including wood anemone, wood spurge, common dog-violet and bluebells should respond positively to this felling, creating a wonderfully varied and rich area of woodland.

We will be burning most of the brash in the coppice area to prevent suppression of the flowering plants and the coppice coupe will then be fenced in the early summer (June-July) to prevent deer browsing of the re-growth from the trees.

Within the coppice area and the ride the largest and best trees will be retained. These trees will be kept and hopefully a proportion will grow on to become 'veteran trees'. Veteran trees contain rot holes, peeling bark, cracks and fissures that provide unique habitat for beetles, flies and moths as well as roost sites for woodland bats.

The work is being carried out by a small scale local woodland management contractor and should take about two weeks to complete. We will try to minimise the inconvenience to visitors while works are being carried out but it may be necessary to temporarily close some paths on certain days.

There will be no change to the access arrangements in Brand Lodge Coppice which consist of two public footpaths and a number of informal trails. There is no permitted access in the wood for horse riding or cycling.

On subsequent questioning, Mr Herbert confirmed that work on the remainder of the area to be brought back into coppicing, will be carried out in a series of 3 or 4 small coupes over the next ten years and that he would endeavour to keep the neighbours informed throughout.

Mr Herbert was asked for, and gave, confirmation that any damage caused to the surface of access roads during these timber extraction, coppicing and maintenance visits, would be remedied at the end of each period of activity and not left until the end of the ten year period.

1668 Planning Matters:

030 Application Reference Number 15/0715/CERTE
Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness: Use of property as a dwelling (not residential care home) for a period in excess of 4 years.
Site: INVERGORDON, ROCK, KIDDERMINSTER, DY149DA

Council RESOLVED to support with no objections.

031 Application No: 15/0728/FULL
Valid Date: 23/12/2015
Application for: Removal of entrance canopy and erection of porch at ALTON LODGE, CROSS BANK, BEWDLEY, DY122XB

Council RESOLVED to support this application.

1669 Update Sheet

Council noted the correspondence from WFDC relating to a Footpath Diversion Order – No 625 at Hornbeam Barn and had no objections.

1670 County & District Councillor's Report

In the absence of District Councillor Jenny Greener there was no report.

1671 Parish Magazine

Councillor Ms Iris Fermin was writing tonight's report and Councillor Douglas Godwin in February.

1672 Accounts for Payment

- a) Accounts amounting to £597.40 were approved for payment as recorded on the payments spreadsheet.

1673 Date of the next Meeting

There being no other business it was noted the date of the next meeting would be held on Monday 29th February 2016.

Chairman.....
29th February 2016
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