



Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd February 2021

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Number:

The meeting was held via the online meeting forum Zoom as current COVID-19 restrictions prohibit holding meetings in person.

Present:

Cllr Mike Cohn (in the Chair) and Cllrs Kevin Braybrook, Frank Hemming, Mike Simmons, Paul McGuire, Gareth Williams, Ed White, Phil Bream, Tim Jones and Stuart Eames.

In attendance:

23 members of the public plus Cllr John Harrington, Ward Cllr John Hardwick, Clerk Helen Tinson.

1) **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Dorothy Quayle and Dan Teague.

2) **To Receive any Declarations of Interest and Written Requests for Dispensation:**

To receive any declarations of interest: Cllr Ed White declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 5g, Cllr Gareth Williams declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6d and Cllr Stuart Eames declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 12b. The Declarations of Interest book was completed by the Clerk.

To consider any written requests for dispensations: there were none.

3) **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 2nd December 2020.

It was RESOLVED: to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting, which were duly signed by the Chairman.

Before the meeting was opened, the Chairman noted the sad passing of Tony Corby, an active member of the community. Condolences were given to Tony's wife and family on behalf of the Parish Council.

4) **Open Session:**

- a) **Report from Cllr John Harrington:** Cllr Harrington, Herefordshire Council's Cabinet Member for Infrastructure attended the meeting to receive questions on the recent delays reported for re-opening the B4224. A brief summary of events since the road collapsed was received. It was reported that Herefordshire Council are £90million down each year on previous levels of funding from Central Government and £100million behind in Public Realm Maintenance, managing a declining network with limited funds. Although Cllr Harrington took full responsibility for the works, he expressed his dissatisfaction with Balfour Beatty's project management and confirmed he has instructed an external contractor to carry out an independent assessment. It is understood that this independent review will take place before the matter is put before the General Scrutiny Committee. It was confirmed that re-opening the road just before the Easter weekend is possible.

Cllr Harrington received a number of questions from members of the parish council and members of the public, and, whilst noting Herefordshire Council's financial pressures, agreed to look into a number of queries raised with him. This included investigating the possibility of compensation for the Parish, potholes being addressed with temporary repairs and concerns about further problems with the B4224, in particular with regard to planned repair works at How Caple. Cllr Harrington promised to provide clarity on these issues and will report back in due course.

HT/MC

	<p>Members of the public wishing to contact Cllr Harrington directly can do so via email at john.harrington@herefordshire.gov.uk. Cllr Harrington left the meeting at 7.34pm.</p> <p>b) Report from Ward Councillor: Cllr Hardwick presented his report encouraging public response to HC’s consultation on waste collections (ending 7th February). A new Chief Executive for Herefordshire Council, Paul Walker, has been appointed from Harrow Council to replace Alistair Neill who is set to retire in mid-February.</p> <p>The Western Bypass and Southern Link Road has been stopped in favour of a more sustainable transport system within Hereford City, focusing on public transport, parking and an Eastern bridge and link road, which should address congestion better than the Western proposal. Cllr Hardwick considered this will have no impact on the B4224, other than being an advantage to Mordiford, Hampton Bishop and Holme Lacy by re-routing traffic bound for Rotherwas.</p> <p>c) Representation from the Public: a member of the public asked for contact details for the Footpaths team.</p> <p>With the permission of the meeting, the Chairman moved forward agenda item 12.</p> <p>12) FRFA:</p> <p>a) Communications have resumed between the FRFA and the Strollers and it is anticipated that a new agreement will be presented to the Parish Council at the next meeting.</p> <p>William Dereham, who has taken over as Field Co-Ordinator managing maintenance of the recreation field, expressed his concerns about the suitability and safety of the current machinery. The FRFA have considered a number of alternatives and shall be seeking professional advice, considering quotations from contractors and asking for feedback from field users. It was agreed that the FRFA report back to the Parish Council at the March meeting with a proposal.</p> <p>b) Cllr Ed White presented proposals for maintenance of the Under 13’s playground, providing pros and cons and approximate costings for both replacement and refurbishment options. Members expressed their preference to progress options to refurbish the existing equipment. It was RESOLVED: that the Clerk seek three quotations for the maintenance programme proposed and present for consideration at the March meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the manufacturer of the Skate Ramp still needs to replace a number of screws. It was RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact the manufacturer and arrange installation.</p> <p>The meeting returned to the order of the agenda.</p> <p>5) Finance:</p> <p>a) Members received a financial report noting anticipated current account balances once all approved payments have been made: NatWest £1,022.86, Lloyds £15,356.13, NatWest Reserve Account £13,260.28; Invested Funds £25,149.13. A report was presented detailing current vs budget income and expenditure for the year to date.</p> <p>b) The Clerk presented the final report from the External Auditor relating to the 2019/2020 audit. PKF Littlejohn have concluded the report and found no issues for concern. However, their response to a complaint made by a member of the public in relation to payments made towards maintenance of the churchyard in 2019/2020 has resulted in a further invoice of £1500 plus VAT. Members considered this invoice under agenda item 5g. It was RESOLVED: to withhold payment at this time, and raise a challenge with PKF Littlejohn pending legal advice from NALC.</p> <p>c) Members received the interim internal audit report for 2020/2021 noting the recommendations. It was RESOLVED: to thank Robin Peers for another thorough audit.</p>	<p>HT</p> <p>MS</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>146/02 /2021 2 of 5</p>
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d)	<p>203919, Land north west of Mount Pleasant, off B4224, Fownhope. Installation of mast, antenna and cabinets with fencing, native planting to screen and stone access track. Members considered this application and agreed to receive a report from the land-owner (note: not the applicant). A number of concerns were made including the effects further infrastructure would have in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and in relation to the Climate Emergency declared by both Fownhope Parish Council and Herefordshire Council. The proposed mast is intended to provide cover to a communication blind spot for the emergency services. Concerns were raised that the location specified is already covered by the Vodafone mast at Tump Farm, and that the mast at Sollars Hope does not appear to have been considered. It was noted that the Government approved a proposal in 2020 requiring the four main mobile providers to share and improve existing infrastructure.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED: to OBJECT to the application, pending further investigation into existing infrastructure. Cllr Gareth Williams refrained from voting in accordance with his declaration of interest.</p>	HT
7)	<p>To Note Planning Responses Submitted to Herefordshire Council under Devolved Powers: Members noted responses submitted between meetings to the following applications by the Planning Working Group:</p> <p>a) 204057, The Paddocks, Fownhope, HR1 4PA. Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 193046. SUPPORT.</p> <p>b) 204193, Fern House, Fownhope, HR1 4PG. Proposed works to trees in a conservation area. SUPPORT.</p> <p>c) 204270, 1 Manor Court, Fownhope, HR1 4PW. Proposed works to trees in a conservation area. SUPPORT.</p> <p>d) 204002, Eastwood, Fownhope, HR1 4QA. Proposed erection of replacement dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling. SUPPORT (with comments).</p>	
8)	<p>To Note Planning Decisions by Herefordshire Council: It was noted that the following applications have been decided by Herefordshire Council:</p> <p>a) 203320, 1 Court Orchard, Fownhope, HR1 4NY. Proposed erection of garage. Approved with conditions.</p> <p>b) 203720, Pineview, Court Gardens, Fownhope, HR1 4PA. Proposed work to trees in a conservation area. Work can proceed.</p>	
9)	<p>Environment:</p> <p>a) Members received a brief report from the Environment Group. The ‘Five for Fownhope’ project is nearing completion and has been sent to a number of people in Fownhope for final testing. There was a positive response to a review with MCS funders and NALC Climate Group. The next meeting is scheduled for 16th February, 7pm via Zoom.</p> <p>b) Members considered communication from Western Power Distribution, who are asking AONBs to submit proposals for consideration to underground power cables. It was RESOLVED: that a small working party of Cllrs Mike Cohn, Kevin Braybrook, Mike Simmons and resident Vic Cooper meet to assess and identify any areas suitable for proposal.</p>	MC/MS KB/VC
c)	<p>Members considered the extent of Common Land to be included in the next tree survey. It was suggested that this should include all trees on the Common Land areas the Parish Council are responsible for in order to give a baseline and identify any potential problems. It was noted that expenditure of £500 has previously been approved. It was RESOLVED: that the Clerk seek three quotes and report to the next meeting.</p>	HT
d)	<p>Members considered a proposal to undertake work on Common Land in line with the Higher-Level Stewardship Agreement. It was noted this would include the use of brush cutters. It was RESOLVED: to approve the proposals.</p>	HT
10)	<p>Highways:</p> <p>a) Members received a brief update reporting that the Lengthsman has been carrying out regular tasks. Cllr Braybrook has received a request to investigate water pooling outside Nash Villa,</p>	148/02 /2021 4 of 5

	<p>possibly as a result of the new concrete driveway. Cllr Braybrook will monitor the situation and speak to the property owner when pooling is next observed.</p> <p>b) Members considered further action on the B4224 discussing the possibility of publishing a template for residents to notify Herefordshire Council of their intention to submit a claim once the road has re-opened. It was suggested that the independent report will identify what would have been a reasonable time frame for completion of works that would help inform any future claim. It was RESOLVED: to contact HALC/NALC for legal advice and discuss further at the next meeting.</p> <p>c) Members were advised that a smaller working party from the B4224 Strategy Group has met with Clive Hall from Herefordshire Council to look at the potential for reduced speed limits along the B4224 and have begun work on a mileage calculator.</p> <p>d) Members considered whether to enroll in Balfour Beatty’s Parish Lengthsman and Parish Path Partnership Schemes for 2021/2022. It was RESOLVED: to enroll in both schemes for 2021/2022.</p> <p>e) Members received an update on the traffic calming schemes noting that finance applications are being sought for the purchase of the new SIDs and that the gateways have been made but two complications with regards the installation have arisen and are being resolved.</p> <p>11) Footpaths:</p> <p>a) There was no report this month, but a list of works will be ready for the March meeting.</p> <p>b) Members were informed that no other party has come forward to claim the Tourist Information noticeboard in the High Street despite repeated requests and were asked to confirm their approval to take over maintenance and management of the board. It was RESOLVED: to approve the request to take responsibility for the board and seek quotations for the required repairs.</p> <p>13) Consultations:</p> <p>a) Members considered attendance at Herefordshire Council’s Feedback meeting following the budget consultation 2021/2022. It was RESOLVED: that any Councillor wishing to attend will inform the Clerk ASAP.</p> <p>14) Training:</p> <p>a) Members were asked if they wished to attend any HALC training sessions. It was RESOLVED: that Cllr Kevin Braybrook would attend ‘In the Hot Seat’ and Cllr Stuart Eames ‘Highway Patrol’. Any other councillor wishing to attend a training session should contact the Clerk.</p> <p>b) It was RESOLVED: to approve a three-day SLCC training course for the Clerk at a cost of £75 plus VAT.</p> <p>15) Matters Arising for Next Meeting:</p> <p>a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive a report concerning updated walks and agree action. • To formally thank Woolhope Parish for their forbearance during the B4224 closure </p> <p>16) Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 3rd March 2021 via Zoom.</p> <p>Meeting closed 9.16pm</p> <p>Signed Dated</p> <p>Chairman</p>	<p>KB</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>149/02 /2021 5 of 5</p>
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