



Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd March 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, Dorothy Quayle, Frank Hemming, Mike Simmons, Gareth Williams, Phil Bream, Tim Jones and Stuart Eames.

In attendance:

17 members of the public plus Ward Cllr John Hardwick, Ward Cllr Barry Durkin, Clerk Helen Tinson.

1) **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Ed White, Paul McGuire and Dan Teague.

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

To receive any declarations of interest: Cllr Gareth Williams declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6c. 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 3rd February 2021.

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

HT/MC

With the permission of the meeting, the Chairman moved forward agenda item 9b (to receive update concerning B4224 and agree actions) and opened the meeting to allow a report from Ward Cllr Durkin and receive questions from members of the public;

9b) Cllr Braybrook presented a report following a meeting held by BBLP at the request of Ward Cllr Durkin. Members were advised that a further major piece of work required to a section of the B4224 at How Caple is currently planned to start in the first week of May and will take up to a maximum of six weeks to complete. At this stage, it is unknown whether the road will require a full road closure.

Cllr Durkin explained the nature of the problem and the proposed solution, and confirmed BBLP are currently working on the project details. A further site meeting will be arranged should a full road closure be needed. The diversion options being considered were discussed. Current signage to divert HGVs via the main A roads will remain in situ until after these works have been completed.

Cllr Durkin received and answered a number of questions from members of the public. An open invitation was extended to members of Fownhope PC to attend any further meetings to discuss the planned programme of works.

Chairman Mike Cohn confirmed support for How Caple Group PC and thanked Cllr Durkin for attending the meeting. Cllr Durkin left the meeting at 7.23pm.

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	<p>Members received an update on the B4224 closure at Fiddlers Green. BBLP report they are on schedule for re-opening just before the Easter weekend. Members were advised that the General Scrutiny Committee meeting has been scheduled for 22nd March 2021 and the Parish Council has been invited to attend or provide a written submission.</p> <p>It was noted that the diversion roads must be repaired before the project moves on and Cllr Hardwick confirmed he will be pushing this forward. The velocity machine has repaired the potholes on Buckenhill Road and Hawkers Lane and appears to have been more effective than on previous occasions. It was agreed that BBLP's proposal to compensate the parish should focus on repairs to the roads, including drainage, ditches, verges and potholes. A member of the public raised the concern that private driveways on the diversion route have also been damaged as a result of vehicles pulling in to allow oncoming traffic to pass.</p> <p>The meeting returned to the order of the agenda.</p> <p>4) Open Session:</p> <p>a) Report from Ward Councillor: Cllr Hardwick confirmed that the B4224 repair at Fiddlers Green is currently on schedule and the General Scrutiny Committee meeting will be held on the 22nd March. Woolhope and Dormington and Mordiford Parish Councils have been invited and Cllr Hardwick has requested invitations are issued to Holme Lacy and Tarrington PCs as well.</p> <p>Council tax in Herefordshire is set to rise by 4.99% for 2021/2022 tax year. The total bill for Band D properties will rise to £2056.04 per year, including contributions to the police and fire services.</p> <p>Representation from the Public: a member of the public requested the opportunity to pose a question to the General Scrutiny Committee. It was suggested he forward his questions to the Clerk.</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 £1,224.38, Lloyds £15,504.77, NatWest Reserve Account £13,260.39; Invested Funds £25,206.74. It was noted that in addition to payments presented for approval, £40 will be paid by direct debit on or before 10th April for the Data Protection Fee.</p> <p>b) Members considered HALC/NALC membership for 2021/2022. It was RESOLVED: to renew membership at a cost of £615.53 plus VAT</p> <p>c) Members were asked to ratify the purchase made between meetings for health and safety items for the Common Hill working party. Items purchased were a first aid kit and barrier tape to prevent public access to the area of works. It was RESOLVED: to approve the payment of £11.08 plus VAT.</p> <p>d) Members noted two corrections to the invoice values recorded on the February agenda, both of which had been paid correctly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suzi Bruce, £175.00 (recorded at £135) 2. PATA Payroll, £23.25 (recorded at the monthly value of £7.75) <p>It was RESOLVED: to approve the following invoices for payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HALC, 2021/2022 Membership, £615.53 plus VAT • Helen Tinson, Clerk salary (February), £642.72 • Suzi Bruce, Lengthsman, £45.00 • Suzi Bruce, Lengthsman, £225.00 <p>6) To Comment on Planning Applications for Determination by Herefordshire Council:</p> <p>a) 204002, Eastwood, Fownhope, HR1 4QA. Amendments to proposed erection of replacement</p>	<p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>151/03 /2021 2 of 6</p>
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	<p>dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling, and demolition of selected ancillary buildings. Members considered the amendments proposing a safer passage for materials across a field. The Planning Working Group were minded to support the proposal. It was RESOLVED: to SUPPORT the application.</p>	<p>HT</p>
<p>b)</p>	<p>210110, Fairview, 21 Scotch Firs Fownhope, HR1 4NW. Proposed two storey rear extension, replacement porch and new fenestration. Members considered the proposals and received a report from the Planning Working Group clarifying concerns raised about potential water run-off from Cherry Hill. It was confirmed new glazing on the north west side will be of high thermal quality to replace the existing glazing which has a much higher thermal loss. It was RESOLVED: to SUPPORT the application. Cllr Dorothy Quayle refrained from voting noting a friendship with the applicants.</p>	<p>HT</p>
<p>c)</p>	<p>210098, 48 Scotch Firs, Fownhope, HR1 4NP. Erection of traditional timber feather edged fencing including removal of utilitarian wire chain fence. Members considered the application noting concerns about the height of the new fencing. Mixed views from local residents were reported. It was RESOLVED: to SUPPORT the application, requesting that the height of the new fencing does not exceed the height of the current fencing. One councillor abstained from voting. Cllr Gareth Williams refrained from voting in accordance with his declaration of interest.</p>	<p>HT</p>
<p>d)</p>	<p>Members were informed that the following two applications had been submitted by request of the Parish Council, having been discussed and agreed at previous meetings. 210270: Land at Tan Brook, Fownhope, HR1 4PA. Proposed works to a group of trees largely consisting of hazel and beech and more akin to an overgrown hedge. 210273: Land adjacent Biggs Lane, Fownhope, HR1 4pE. Proposed works to reduce ivy covered holly to approximately 5.5m.</p>	
<p>7)</p>	<p>To Note Planning Decisions by Herefordshire Council:</p>	
<p>a)</p>	<p>It was noted that the following application has been decided by Herefordshire Council: 210074, Land opposite Mill House Farm, Fownhope. Proposed non-material amendment to planning permission 163707. Approved with conditions.</p>	
<p>8)</p>	<p>Environment:</p>	
<p>a)</p>	<p>Members received a report following the Environment Group meeting on 16th February. The notes from the meeting have been circulated to members.</p>	
	<p>The ‘Five for Fownhope’ project has been launched and will be piloted in Fownhope during March. Cllr Williams shared his screen to demonstrate the platform. The data generated from the use of the platform will build a picture of the actions being taken in Fownhope and any barriers to action which will help the Parish Council identify any areas requiring further support or investment. Everyone was urged to engage with the platform, accessed via the website ‘www.fownhope.org.uk’ and share as widely as possible. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th March at 7pm, via Zoom.</p>	
<p>b)</p>	<p>Members were asked to consider a proposal to provide a skip for residents to dispose of general waste in order to reduce individual journeys to the municipal tip at either Ross on Wye or Hereford. It was noted that the skip could be delivered on a Saturday morning and collected the same day and would require a team of volunteers to monitor that the waste disposed of is in accordance with instructions. The majority of waste would be recycled. It was RESOLVED: to trial an 8 cubic yard skip at a cost of up to £250, to be scheduled once Covid restrictions have eased and in accordance with social distancing requirements and recreation field commitments. Advertising needs to clearly identify what can and cannot be deposited and a team of volunteers recruited. Advertising via Flag, website, Facebook, Noticeboard and the Shop at Coe Corner was agreed.</p>	<p>HT</p>
	<p>Members were also asked to consider a proposal to provide a recycling bin on the Recreation Ground for users to dispose of drinks cans and plastic bottles. BBLP have informed the Clerk they</p>	<p>152/03 /2021 3 of 6</p>

	<p>would be unable to empty the bins but if the waste could be stored, it could be put into the quarterly skip and recycled. However, it was established that storing the waste would be problematic and would need to be collected regularly. It was noted that this proposal would comply with the policies of both Fownhope Parish Council and Herefordshire Council. It was RESOLVED: that the Clerk forward details of the proposal to Cllr Hardwick who will speak to Cllr Gemma Davies, Cabinet Member for Commissioning, Procurement and Assets and report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>c) Members considered recommendations for potential undergrounding of power cables by Western Power Distribution. The working party appointed at the last meeting have assessed the power lines in the parish and concluded the undergrounding that would be most beneficial to the landscape are the power lines on Whiterdine: 1) From Lea Brink to Ferry Lane and 2) from the Sewage Works across the Recreation Field to the New Inn. It was RESOLVED: to approve the proposals and submit for consideration as recommended.</p> <p>d) The Clerk asked to defer the update on the Tree Survey to the next meeting, pending quotations. It was RESOLVED: to defer to the April meeting.</p> <p>e) Members were informed that planning permission has been received to remove the tree above the overhang at Tan Brook; three quotations have been considered, two at £200 and one at £350 plus VAT and a contractor has been engaged at a cost of £200.</p> <p>9) Highways:</p> <p>a) Members received a brief update noting two water leaks on Common Hill, one being dealt with by a farmer and one which has been reported to Welsh Water. An increase in litter has been reported on Woolhope Road, and an increase in litter in general. Concerns were raised about the safety of litter picking at this current time. It was RESOLVED: to organise a litter pick along the B4224 before it is reopened (whilst traffic is lighter), and to organise a litter pick on the Woolhope Road after the B4224 has reopened. The Clerk will discuss arrangements with Nick Kingsford and contact BBLP to borrow more litter pickers if required.</p> <p>c) Members were asked to ratify the 2021/2022 Annual Maintenance Plan submitted to BBLP as approved by Cllr Kevin Braybrook, Chair of Highways Working Group, and Cllr Tim Jones, Footpaths Officer. It was RESOLVED: to approve the Annual Maintenance Plan for 2021/2022.</p> <p>d) Members received an update on traffic calming measures. Cllr Braybrook has met with a representative from MF Freemans to discuss a revised location for the village gateways at the Mill Field site and will have a further meeting shortly to agree the exact location.</p> <p>Members were informed that the Parish Council has received a very generous offer of £2000 towards the purchase of the new SIDs from two residents who wish to remain anonymous. It was hoped this may initiate further donations towards the scheme. A grant application is being submitted for the remainder of the funds and that there are funds in reserves that can be used to complete the purchase in the event the grant application is unsuccessful. Cllr Hardwick informed the meeting that Section 106 monies will become available from the developers of the Mill Field Site, which includes funds towards transport measures, play areas, education, recycling and cricket.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED: to accept the donation and thank the donor on behalf of the Parish Council, and to include a gentle request in the Flag for further donations. It was RESOLVED: that the Clerk research the process for applying for Section 106 monies and report back to the next meeting.</p>	<p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT/DQ</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT/KB</p> <p>HT</p>
<p>10)</p> <p>a)</p>	<p>Footpaths:</p> <p>Members were informed that the Footpaths Officer had received a request to put an article on Facebook to politely remind users of the permitted rights of way to highlight that cyclists and</p>	<p>153/03 /2021 4 of 6</p>

	<p>horse riders should not ride on footpaths, but may ride on bridleways. This was picked up and reported in the Hereford Times attracting a variety of comments both for and against.</p> <p>Members were asked to approve works to two stiles: 1) to remove a redundant stile between Scotch Firs and Mill Field 2) to repair the stile from Capler Lane to the River Wye It was RESOLVED: to approve the works and ask Justin Peebles to carry out both tasks.</p> <p>b) Cllr Eames presented a report on updating the Fownhope Walks. The leaflet layout is ready; the map is proposed to be a sketch referencing the ordnance survey map; progress markers along the routes have been abandoned due to cost; and a letter has been drafted seeking permission from the home-owners of all properties mentioned in the walks to reference their property. The letter has been circulated and members were asked to feed back comments to Cllr Eames. Nick Kingsford has kindly offered to produce a main post for the start of the walks to be sited in the Pavilion Car Park near to the noticeboard as commercial quotes were too expensive. Cllr Eames offered to install the post free of charge. It was RESOLVED: to approve costs of up to £150 for the production of the main post, and to approve the drafted letter.</p> <p>c) Members were advised that no quotes have yet been received for the tourist information notice board. The Clerk was advised that posts are available online from road sign retailers. It was RESOLVED: to approve costs of up to £200 to purchase and install a new post.</p> <p>11) FRFA:</p> <p>a) Members received a brief report noting little activity over the last month, though the Fire Service have used the changing rooms to carry out practice exercises.</p> <p>b) Members received a further report on the mowing equipment. The FRFA have agreed the use of contractors to undertake mowing when it is not possible to do in house and have arranged a meeting with a different contractor to determine if it is possible to carry out works to the existing equipment to bring them up to the required standard. The FRFA are expecting to pay for the work if confirmed possible, and members were asked for their permission to carry out the work if proven to be an option. It was RESOLVED: to approve the proposals if confirmed possible.</p> <p>c) Members received and considered the amended Strollers Agreement, noting the club has changed its name to the Fownhope Strollers. Some concerns were expressed about the potential increase in the usage of the field and it was suggested that a maximum usage clause be added. Cllr Hardwick noted that the Section 106 monies due from the Mill Field development includes £8,500 towards cricket specifically, and could be used by the Fownhope Strollers to improve their training facilities. It was RESOLVED: that Cllr Simmons report back to the FRFA and the Fownhope Strollers that the Parish Council are happy with everything except the raised concern over usage and will discuss further and bring back to the April meeting.</p> <p>d) The Clerk reported two quotes have been received for the playground maintenance with one still outstanding. Cllr Hardwick again noted the future availability of up to £18,000 in Section 106 monies for play areas and it was agreed to proceed with the basic maintenance but to postpone the consideration of any new equipment pending receipt of the Section 106 money. Concerns about a gap at the top of the slide was reported and it was agreed to add this to the maintenance plan. It was RESOLVED: to approve costs of up to £1200 to proceed with the necessary maintenance and that Cllrs Mike Cohn, Kevin Braybrook, Dorothy Quayle and Tim Jones form a small working party to progress works.</p> <p>12) Community:</p> <p>a) Members considered possible dates for the Annual Parish Meeting noting that it would not be possible to precede the meeting with the usual Volunteers Tea. It was reported that all local authorities including local councils must return to face-to-face meetings from 7th May onwards</p>	<p>HT</p> <p>SE/HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>MS</p> <p>MS</p> <p>MC/KB DQ/TJ/ HT</p> <p>154/03 /2021 5 of 6</p>
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