

# WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Clerk:** Catherine Murray. Rose Cottage, Coughton, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5SF.  
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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Bishopswood Village Hall At 7.30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**Present:** Chairman – Frank Myers

**Councillors:** Dave Berry, Shane Carlson, Karen Chinn, Eric Drummond, Philip Heath, Terry Snow.

**In attendance:** Clerk Catherine Murray and several members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Sandra and Simeon Cole – illness.  
**Not present:** Heather Evans, John Daniels, Marc Thomas, and Luke Freeman.
2. **Declarations and Dispensations:** Cllr Drummond declared a pecuniary interest in item 7.1.
3. **Minutes:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11/12/13.
4. **To receive brief verbal reports from and address any questions to:**
  - 4.1 **Police representative:** There were no Police Representatives present.
  - 4.2 Ward Councillor John Jarvis: Gave his report, a copy is available from the Clerk:  
 Cllr Jarvis drew attention to the following:
    - Fire Services consultation paper, drafted by Whitchurch and Ganarew Parish Councils.
    - He will organise a meeting with Will Steel (Public Rights of Way) to discuss creating an opening in the hedgerow opposite the Inn on The Wye, for walkers to use – date TBC. <<**Action Cllr Jarvis**>>
    - He will speak to Herefordshire Council Property Services and Steve Burgess, regarding the Canoe Launch Site at Kerne Bridge. Cllr Myers is to let Cllr Jarvis know the views of the Council. <<**Action Cllrs Jarvis and Myers**>>
5. **Public Participation Session:**
  - No comments from the public.
6. **Finance:** *Bank reconciliation Finance Appendix A & bank statements for December were noted and signed.*
  - 6.1 All payments listed on Finance Appendix A were unanimously approved.
7. **Planning**
  - 7.1 **Planning Applications:** Planning Appendix B was noted and comments put forward on:
    - **Site:** Land adjacent to, 6 Coughton Place, Coughton, HR9 5RX. **Application No:** P133116/F  
**Comments:** *'The Parish Council unanimously supported the application.'*
    - **Site:** Hunsdon House, Walford, HR9 5SB. **Application No:** P133268/FH  
**Comments:** *'The Parish Council unanimously supported the application.'*
    - **Site:** Great Howle Farm, Howle Hill, HR9 5SL. **Application No:** P133428/F  
**Comments:** *'The majority of the Parish Council supported this application.'*  
*(4 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions)*
    - **Site:** Lower Cleeve Farm, Hom Green, HR9 7TD. **Application No:** P133316/F  
**Comments:** *'The Parish Council unanimously supported the application.'*
  - 7.2 **Neighbourhood Planning:**  
 Cllr Berry gave an update: He explained that over 250 responses had so far been received to the questionnaire and they are still being sent in, so data collection has been delayed for a further week. When the analysis comes back, the Neighbourhood Plan can start to be drawn up.
8. **Highways / Rights of Way / AONB:** *(Appendix D was noted.)*
  - 8.1 **Lengthsman Co-ordinator report:** Neither co-ordinator was present, so there was no report.
  - 8.2 **Rights of Way Officer report:** The Rights of Way Officer was not present, so there was no report.  
 The continued closure of WA50 was discussed and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to write two letters:
    - To Herefordshire Council, with a complaint from Walford Parish Council about the way that the matter of WA50 has been handled and drawing to their attention the apparent conflict between the extant enforcement notice on WA50 and the planning conditions and to explain to them that this letter would be the commencement of a formal complaint process.
    - To the landowner, asking what the timetable is for the re-instatement of the footpath WA50.  
 <<**Action Clerk**>>
  - 8.3 **Road Defects:** Cllr Carlson updated the Council on the Parish Walk, emphasising the positives of meeting with both Balfour Beatty representatives and members of the public; he added that another Parish

Walk will be held soon. The Clerk explained that defects in Horn Green will be added to the report to be submitted to Balfour Beatty. <<**Action Cllrs Carlson, Daniels and Drummond**>>

**8.4 National Grid:**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to write to National Grid, requesting an undertaking to repair damage done to the Highway, during the cable replacement works. <<**Action Clerk**>>

**8.5 Unofficial Signage:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to write to those who are displaying unofficial signage in the Parish, to advise them to take their signs down within an agreed period of time, or the Lengthsman will be asked to do it and afterwards their property would be kept for recovery by them. <<**Action Clerk**>>

**8.6 AONB consultation response:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that this consultation was for individuals to respond to and comment on and they were encouraged to do so.

**8.7 AONB River Festival:** Dealt with at end of the agenda. (See below)

**8.8 Reduced Bus Services:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chairman should approach some of the local business owners, on behalf of the PC, to enquire about the availability of vehicles such as mini buses, whilst they are not in use, for a dial a ride type service to serve some of the areas of the parish which have had bus services cut. <<**Action Cllr Myers**>>

**9 Parish Projects:**

- **Walford Links:** Cllr Heath said that a meeting will be held with landowners, in order to work out a route for Walford Links. <<**Action Cllr Heath**>>

**10 Information and correspondence:**

10.1 Appendix C, Clerks Report Appendix D and HALC Information corner were noted.

10.2 **Kerne Bridge WCs:** Cllr Myers explained that a meeting has been arranged to discuss the management of the WCs, involving Herefordshire Council, Bishopswood Village Hall and Walford Parish Council representatives.

10.3 **Fire Services Consultation Response:** Following a very lengthy and extremely detailed discussion, taking due consideration of all previously presented arguments - coupled with the specific data and statistics contained within the Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority consultation paper - the Council unanimously **RESOLVED** that the decision relating to where the proposed cuts should occur, would be most appropriately delegated to those officers responsible for carrying out the analysis. The Parish Council's view was that they were satisfied with the data-based case put forward by the Chief Fire Officer at the Whitchurch meeting and felt that he and his colleagues are in the best position to make informed pertinent recommendations to the decision makers. Walford Parish Council will not be adding its signature to the representation drawn up by the Whitchurch and Ganarew Parish Councils.

10.4 No further responses were required to Correspondence received during December.

8.7 **AONB River Festival:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to write to local groups and businesses, to establish whether there is an appetite to hold an event and to ask them to send any ideas to the Clerk before the next meeting. <<**Action Clerk**>>

**11 Brief public response session:**

- A member of the public said that the ditch opposite Fairview is blocked. Cllr Carlson said that this had been reported to Balfour Beatty during the Parish Walk.
- Another asked about the arrangement to pay the Clerk overtime; the Chairman explained that this was to enable the Clerk to carry out work on additional projects on top of the usual administration duties, for which a regular salary is paid.
- The same person asked if the public could do anything to encourage local residents to fill out the Neighbourhood Planning Questionnaire.
- Another asked about the landslip at Leys Hill; it was explained that work will commence soon and that the road will be closed for part of the day to enable the structure to be craned in.
- Another said that the cat's eyes and white lines through the village should be replaced.
- Another asked about timetables for repairing the roads; Cllr Carlson explained the categorisation system.

**12 Items for next meeting agenda:** AONB River Festival, Walford on Wye and any others mentioned above.

**13 Next meeting:** 12/02/14 – Full Council @ 7.30pm, Walford Village Hall.

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**Signed:** Frank Myers

**Date:** 12/02/14