

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Catherine Murray. Rose Cottage, Coughton, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5SF.
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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Bishopswood Village Hall On Wednesday 8th October at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman – Frank Myers

Councillors: Dave Berry, Simeon Cole, Eric Drummond, Heather Evans, Terry Snow.

In attendance: Clerk Catherine Murray.

1. **Apologies:** Sandra Cole & Karen Chinn – family commitment, Shane Carlson / John Daniels – illness, Marc Thomas & Luke Freeman – work commitment, Philip Heath – other commitment.
2. **Declarations:** Simeon Cole in items 8.1b and 9.4.
3. **Minutes:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10/09/14.
4. **Reports:**
 - 4.1 Police Representative – Was not present due to operational duties.
 - 4.2 Ward Councillor John Jarvis – Was not present.
5. **New Locality Inspector for Walford:** Kevin Williams introduced himself and outlined his background and experience. (David Atkinson – the previous Inspector - was also present)
 - 5.1 **Daycroft Lane:** Councillor Drummond gave an update on progress to agree a plan to alleviate flooding problems at Daycroft Lane; A meeting is required between Balfour Beatty representatives, landowners and residents. Dave Atkinson said that those attending from Balfour Beatty would be Dave Winton – Senior Land Drainage Officer, Mark Watkins – Drainage Engineer and Chris Wright – Structures Engineer. He will send a choice of dates when officers are available to the Clerk, who will co-ordinate those others concerned.
<<Action Dave Atkinson and Clerk>>
6. **Public Participation Session:**
 - A member of the public suggested that the PC should contact the Rights of Way Officer at Herefordshire Council to get a timeline for re-instatement put on footpath WA50, separating it from the planning conditions which currently apply to the repair and re-opening.
 - Another raised the issue of the cuts to local bus services and the inconvenience to those residents who relied on these services to get about. He added that the roads are dangerous for pedestrians to use at night, with no street lighting. He suggested an approach to Lydney / Forest Community Transport, to ask them if they could extend the service.
The Chairman stated that both items are on the agenda for discussion.
7. **Finance:** *Appendix A, bank reconciliation & bank statements for September were approved and signed.*
 - 7.1 It was **RESOLVED** to place the order for a new notice board for the site outside Walford School; the colour green was preferred by the Council. Walford School will be asked to consider the colour, before the order is placed. **<<Action Clerk>>**
 - 7.2 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve updated financial regulations, in line with the NALC model recommendations, tailored to suit Walford Parish Council.
 - 7.3 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:
 - Bridget Vine – expenses for AONB annual study tour attendance.
 - Clerk expenses for September.
 - HMRC Paye and NI for 2nd Quarter.
 - The Noticeboard Company. (New Parish noticeboard)
8. **Planning Applications:** Comments were put forward on the following applications:
 - a) **Site:** Kitchens, Lodge Farm, Deepdean, HR9 5SQ. **Application No:** P142745/F. **No objections.**
(Cllr Simeon Cole left the room)
 - b) **Site:** Walford Timber, Walford, HR9 5QS. **Application No:** P142648/F. **No objections.**
(Cllr Simeon Cole returned to the room)
 - c) **Site:** Walnut Cottage, Walford, HR9 5SD. **Application No:** P142690/FH. **No objections.**
 - d) **Site:** Arbour Hill Farm, Lincoln Hill, HR9 7TH. **Application No:** P142892/F. **No objections, provided that sympathetic materials are used.**
 - e) **Highways / Rights of Way / AONB** - *(Clerk's report - Appendix D was noted)*
 - 9.1 **Lengthsman Report:** More pot holes have been filled by the Lengthsman. Some widening of the footpath is required from Coughton corner to the Vine Tree roundabout, Cllr Simeon Cole has spoken to the Localities Inspector about it.
 - Rights of Way Report:** Cllr Evans has inspected the big hole in the footpath above Kerne Lodge and thinks it needs about 2 tons of aggregate to fill; it is probably more than the Can Do Crew can manage.

It was **RESOLVED** to send a report on the situation from our Rights of Way Officer, to Vince Playdon at Herefordshire Council. <<**Action Cllr Evans and Clerk**>>

9.2 **Work orders for the Lengthsman / Rights of Way.** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve those items already mentioned by Cllr Cole above. No work orders for Rights of Way.

9.3 The Chairman gave a report on meeting for parishes held at Balfour Beatty. A copy is available. (Cllr Simeon Cole left the room)

9.4 **WA50:** The footpath is still closed and complaints to the Ombudsman have not been upheld. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to write to Herefordshire Council Rights of Way, asking when the re-instatement of the footpath will happen and requesting that a timeline be put on the re-opening. The landowner will also be approached, to ask whether he will open an alternative permissive route until the development starts. <<**Action Clerk**>> (Cllr Simeon Cole returned to the room)

9.5 **Signage for HGVs on Bulls / Leys and Howle Hills.** The Clerk was asked to copy the e mail sent by Cllr Carlson, with photos of an HGV stuck recently on Leys Hill, to the Locality Inspectors. <<**Action Clerk**>>

9.6 **Bus service provision:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approach Lydney to ask if they can extend their service. If not, to ask for a blueprint to consider setting up a local service. <<**Action Clerk**>>

f) **Frequency of Parish Council meetings:** Postponed until the next meeting.

g) **Parish Projects: To receive updates and discuss further action.**

11.1 Village Agent Scheme: Cllrs Snow and Myers gave an update, as they are working together on this; Cllr Snow has been speaking with the Red Cross about providing a warden at an acceptable price; Cllr Myers has been communicating with Paul Baker, so that they can produce a business case, to present to the Clinical Commissioning Group, in order to secure funding for the scheme.

11.2 **Walford Links.** Nothing further to report.

11.3 **Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Site and maintenance of public WCs:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to continue to pursue Herefordshire Council, asking them to provide an indemnity for the site; in any event it was decided to proceed with the asset transfer without having searches carried out by the Solicitors dealing with the transfer.

11.4 **Walford on Wye:** In light of further information received during a discussion to clarify whether the name change proposal involved the Village, the Parish, or both, the Council **RESOLVED** by a majority not to pursue the name change proposal any further. The Chairman asked that the Clerk record his view that proper process may not have been followed, as a vote on whether to drop the proposal was not a specific agenda item and that it conflicted with a resolution which had been passed within the previous six months (to put the decision to a referendum). The Clerk responded that in her view, procedure had been followed correctly, explaining that under the item as listed on the agenda, it was acceptable to propose and take a vote on this. The Chairman asked that the Clerk take advice and confirm that her advice was correct and to report back. <<**Action Clerk**>>

h) **Information and correspondence**

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

12.2 **Social Media site for Walford Parish Council.** Cllr Carlson is looking into setting this up.

12.3 **Community Speedwatch.** The Clerk was asked to include an article in the Newsletter, to encourage volunteers. <<**Action Clerk**>>

12.4 **Responses required to correspondence:** Respond to a parishioner, to assure him that his queries relating to the Village Agent scheme will be covered by the business plan and that he will be kept informed. Respond to a parishioner advising him that the Parish Council will write to Herefordshire Council requesting that a proper road safety assessment is done, with consideration to the narrow section of road below the entrance to Thorny Orchard. <<**Action Clerk**>>

i) **Brief public response session:**

- A member of the public asked about the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Berry responded that the Steering Group were waiting for the Herefordshire Council Core Strategy to be adopted, before proceeding any further, the Steering Group are due to hold a meeting, to discuss forward strategy.
- Another reported that the road at the junction with Kerne Bridge has been patched, but that the white lines had not been re-instated. The Clerk was asked to raise the issue with Localities Inspectors. <<**Action Clerk**>>

j) **Items for next meeting agenda:** Website, Drainage on Bulls Hill.

k) **Next meeting:** 12/11/14 Full Council @ 7.30pm at Walford Village Hall. **NB:** A Finance Committee meeting will also be held on the same day, as the precept request is to be submitted a month earlier than last year.

Confidential Closed session: Recorded in confidential minutes. (The public were asked to leave the room)

- Proposed programme of hours for the Lengthsman to carry out agreed annual Parish maintenance work.