

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 Walford Village Hall On Wednesday 11th June at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman – Frank Myers

Councillors: Dave Berry, Shane Carlson, Sandra Cole, Simeon Cole, John Daniels, Heather Evans, Luke Freeman, Philip Heath, Terry Snow, Marc Thomas.

In attendance: Clerk Catherine Murray.

1. **Apologies:** Eric Drummond and Karen Chinn, work commitments.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Simeon and Sandra Cole in item 8.3.
3. **Minutes:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th May 2014
4. **To receive brief verbal reports from and address any questions to: Details available from the Clerk.**
 - 4.1 Police representative – Sergeant Barradale-Smith was present and gave his report.
 - 4.2 Ward Councillor John Jarvis was not present. The Chairman read out a brief report.
5. **Public Participation Session:** *(Please respect the 3 minute limit)*
Members of the public raised the following questions / issues:
 - Please explain the meaning of the suggested restriction on Leys Hill, mentioned in the previous minutes? *The Chairman explained that this was a request to Herefordshire Council for consideration of a weight restriction, during the works to be done to the landslip at Kerne Lodge.*
 - One, who was the joint author of a book on the history of Walford, expressed a strong objection to the proposal to change the name of Walford, to Walford on Wye, explaining that she knew of no historical reference to Walford being called Walford on Wye. She asked where the reference in the recent newsletter had come from. *The Chairman explained that it was folkloric and therefore might not be historically correct. The Clerk suggested putting the correct information in the next newsletter.*
 - Another supported the objection and asked if they should write in expressing this. *The answer was yes, do write in.*
6. **Finance: Financial Statement - Appendix A, bank reconciliation was noted.**
 - 6.1 The Finance Committee Chairman made recommendations to the Council. *(See Finance minutes).*
 - 6.2 **Internal Audit:** Successful completion of the Internal Audit and report from the Internal Auditor were noted, the Chairman read out the report.
 - 6.3 **Annual Return:** The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement, all relevant questions were completed and was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement for Y/E 31/03/14.
 - 6.4 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the Statement of Internal Control for Y/E 31/03/14.
7. **Planning**
 - 7.1 **Considering Planning Applications:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that in future the agenda will be structured to allow agenda items for both the applicant (should they be in attendance) to explain their application to the Council and then for the public to respond / express their views on each application. After this, the Council will consider and comment on each application.
 - 7.2 **Planning Applications:** Planning Appendix B was noted and comments put forward on:
 - a) **Site:** Bishopswood Grange, The Oxlet, Bishopswood, HR9 5QX. **Application No:** P141420/J
 - **Comments:** The Parish Council supported the application, there were no objections.
 - b) **Site:** Daycroft House, Walford, HR9 5SB. **Application No:** P141084/FH
 - **Comments:** The Parish Council supported the application, there were no objections.
 - 7.3 **Planning, Do We Care?** A discussion was held and strong views were expressed about the apparent lack of consistency in local planning decisions and in particular certificates of lawfulness given to applicants who had carried on and built to proposals which had previously been turned down. It was agreed that the Council had a duty of care and the following decisions were made:
 - The Clerk was asked to investigate the process of the Parish Council being able to complain about the consistency of decisions. <<**Action Clerk**>>
 - The Clerk was asked to send a list of material planning considerations to all Councillors, so that they can refresh their knowledge. <<**Action Clerk**>>
 - 7.4 **Neighbourhood Planning:** Cllr Berry gave an update and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the spending of Neighbourhood Plan grant funds on a mail drop to acquaint parishioners with the data from the questionnaire.

- 8. Highways / Rights of Way / AONB:** (*Appendix D contains Councillors Highways & Rights of Way Reports*)
- 8.1 The Lengthsman Co-ordinator had nothing further to report. The Rights of Way Officer said that the need to clear WA104 had been reported to the landowner and that the Can Do Crew is booked to do this work on 19th June. The fallen tree above Kerne Lodge has been cleared by the landowner. A tree down at Holcombe House Lodge is being cleared.
- 8.2 Work orders for the Lengthsman – Cllr Cole offered to dig out a trench and install a 9” pipe next to a manhole in Bishopswood and the defects sheet from Terry Griffiths is to be acted upon by the Clerk and the Lengthsman Co-ordinator. No work orders for Rights of Way.
- 8.3 **WA50:** The Clerk was asked to investigate how the Parish Council may complain as a body, about their County Council, as the Local Government Ombudsman would only accept complaints from individuals. <<**Action Clerk**>> A Councillor suggested writing to the local MP and the Chairman suggested writing to the Secretary of State for Local Government. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to draft a letter to the Secretary of State and to copy Jesse Norman into the correspondence. <<**Action Clerk**>>
- 8.4 **Kerne Lodge land slippage:** Cllr Freeman explained the proposed programme for works to be done to repair the landslip at Kerne Lodge and told the Parish Council that Herefordshire Council had asked for local feedback regarding the proposals. The work will take up to 6 weeks and it is proposed that it is carried out during the school summer holidays, with the road closure taking place between 08.30 and 17.30 each day. A Cllr asked about the diversion route and Cllr Freeman said that this would be the responsibility of Herefordshire Council. The Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to support the proposal; the Clerk was asked to send this information to Cllr Freeman. <<**Action Clerk**>>
- 8.5 **Flooding Daycroft Lane:** Cllr Drummond confirmed that a meeting will be held with a representative from Balfour Beatty, landowners and affected residents, on Thursday 12th June.
- 8.6 **Bulls / Leys and Howle Hills, notices advising unsuitability for articulated vehicles:** The Clerk explained that no response had been received from Herefordshire Council and was asked to keep the subject on future agenda until there was an outcome. <<**Action Clerk**>>
- 8.7 **Hedgerow opposite the Inn on the Wye, creating an opening:** Cllr Heath explained that he had spoken to Will Steel, who had confirmed that a safety assessment would have to be carried out and that Herefordshire Council do not have the funds for this; Cllr Heath will find out how much such an assessment would cost. <<**Action Cllr Heath**>> He also suggested that perhaps a safety assessment could be included as a clause, in the handover of the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Site.
- 9. Walford on Wye:** After a long discussion, during which some Councillors expressed a view that the more informed responses, which had been received to the proposal in the spring newsletter, had altered their view. It was **RESOLVED** to send out a pre-paid post card, to ask parishioners opinion and request a YES / NO vote on the proposal to change the name. It was suggested that this might be sent out with the Neighbourhood Planning data mail drop, if it is possible to do so.
- 10. Parish Projects:**
- **Walford Links:** Cllr Heath has consulted with a local Contractor for a price for the raised section.
 - **Village Agent Scheme:** It was reported that there is potential to apply for funding from other sources, which will be explored.
 - **Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Site:** The Chairman reported that Herefordshire Council and the Environment Agency are very keen for Walford PC to take on the site; he added that both Shawcross and Okells Solicitors will be approached, to take on the job of facilitating the asset transfer and asked the Council if they would approve delegating responsibility to members of the Finance Committee, to approve the best quotation in between council meetings, in order to expedite the handover. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve this proposal. <<**Action Finance Committee members**>>
- 11. Information and correspondence**
- 11.1 Correspondence Appendix C, Clerks Report Appendix D and HALC Information corner were noted.
- 11.2 **Core Strategy Consultation response:** Members of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group were asked to respond. <<**Action Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group**>>
- 11.3 **Responses required to correspondence received during May:** Correspondence had been circulated to all Cllrs, appropriate responses will be sent by the Clerk. <<**Action Clerk**>>
- 12. Brief public response session:** A member of the public said that if considering changing the name of Walford, the information sent out needs to be factually correct and costs need to be fully explored.
- 13. Items for next meeting agenda:** Signage for Bulls, Leys and Howle Hill and those above.
- 14. Next meeting:** 09/07/13 Full Council at Bishopswood Village Hall.
- **Confidential Closed Session:** Employment Matters. (The Public were asked to leave the room)
Update and recommendations from the Finance Committee, for approval by Full Council.