

# 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 Walford Village Hall At 7.30pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Present:** Chairman – Frank Myers

**Councillors:** Dave Berry, Shane Carlson, Heather Evans, Luke Freeman, Philip Heath, Terry Snow.

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

1. **Apologies:** Karen Chinn and Eric Drummond – on leave, Sandra and Simeon Cole – parish commitments, John Daniels – unable to attend.  
**Not present:** Marc Thomas.
2. **Declarations and Dispensations:** None
3. **Minutes:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 08/02/14
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 was not present.
5. **Public Participation Session:** A member of the public asked when the land slippage at Kerne Bridge would be repaired. Cllr Freeman said that there were delays, due to the Highways department at Herefordshire Council not yet agreeing to a temporary road closure, whilst repair work takes place.
6. **Finance:**
  - 6.1 Bank reconciliation Finance Appendix A & bank statements for January were noted and signed.
  - 6.2 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:** Old Hill Court, Hom Green, HR9 7TQ. **Application No:** P133422/F**Comments:** *'The Parish Council supported the application, there were no objections.'*
  - 7.2 **Neighbourhood Planning:**

Cllr Berry gave an update: He explained that over 320 responses had been received to the questionnaire and that data analysis is nearly complete. When the analysis comes back, the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group will meet and start working on the Neighbourhood Plan.
8. **Highways / Rights of Way / AONB:** *(Appendix D was noted.)*
  - 8.1 **Lengthsman Co-ordinator report:** Cllr Freeman reported that hiring the gully sucker had been timely, given the bad weather, as the bottom road has been passable during the flooding; he also said that the blocked drain at Starve Beech had been cleared and that Freemans (who own the adjoining field) would be happy to have a grip dug on their land, in order to allow for the water to flow away.
  - 8.2 **Rights of Way Officer report:** The Rights of Way Officer reported that 6 posts are to be replaced and 3 posts are to be repaired. She explained that several posts needed to have the graphics re-painted, as they had faded. The Chairman offered to have a stencil made to assist. He added that the post at the bottom of his drive was loose and needed to be tightened up.
  - 8.3 **Lengthsman and P3 schemes:** The Clerk explained the proposals from Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council, including the pilot schemes and there was a long discussion. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should take part in the pilot schemes and then bring data back to the council, when the pilots have concluded. The following issues were stressed as essential for consideration:
    - Contract flow down
    - Payment cycles – so that payments to the Lengthsman are not delayed.
    - Precept loadingCllr Berry said it was important that HALC should be involved, especially regarding the contract with the Lengthsman; he was asked to engage with HALC during this process. <<**Action Cllr Berry**>>
  - 8.4 The continued closure of WA50 was discussed and as Herefordshire Council had not responded to the letter sent by the Parish Council, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to submit a formal complaint form to Herefordshire Council, with a copy of the letter previously sent by the Parish Council attached. <<**Action Clerk**>>

8.5 **AONB River Festival:** It was acknowledged that Bishopswood Village Hall is considering making plans to celebrate the River Festival and the Parish Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to offer their support. The Chairman explained that Cllr Chinn had offered to be involved with a group or committee in organising the event and it was proposed that she should engage with Bishopswood Village Hall and bring information back to the PC. <<**Action Cllr Chinn**>> The clerk was asked to include publicity in the next Newsletter. <<**Action Clerk**>>

8.6 **Reduced Bus Services:** Cllr Myers reported that he has communicated with one operator in the parish, about service provision, but at this stage had nothing further to report.

## 9 Parish Projects:

**Walford Links:** Cllr Heath said that a meeting had been held with the landowners, to discuss the route and a further meeting is planned with Herefordshire Council and Sustrans, to discuss the outcomes. The Chairman explained that agreement had been reached in principle with the landowners from Kerne Bridge up to Walford Court.

## 10 War Memorials:

The clerk explained that a Government grant of 5 million is available for the restoration of World War One Memorials. Cllr Freeman offered to get a quote for repair, Cllr Snow said he knew of a Stone Mason. The Clerk was asked to check which memorials are World War 1 and which World War 2 and then to take photographs and send in the pre-grant application forms. <<**Action Clerk**>>

## 11 Information and correspondence:

11.1 Appendix C, Clerks Report Appendix D and HALC Information corner were noted. Cllr Heath drew attention to the correspondence from the Police Commissioner's Office, explaining the reported illness of Bill Longmore. He added that a meeting had been arranged between him and either Bill Longmore or his deputy, to discuss the future of Ross Police Station and other local policing issues.

11.2 **Kerne Bridge WCs and management of Canoe launch site:** Cllr Myers explained that the lease on the W.Cs belongs to Bishopswood Village Hall and that it had been leased back to Herefordshire Council, whose lease agreement contains no obligation to maintain the WC's, so they have closed them. He added that the estimate to convert the WCs into paying services is around £6,000. The Parish Council is likely to be offered the site as an asset transfer, by Herefordshire Council; The Chairman asked the PC whether they wanted to consider taking on the management of the site. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to consider an asset transfer, in order to maintain a positive holding position. The Clerk was asked to circulate the existing business plan to all Councillors. <<**Action Clerk**>> Cllr Freeman stressed that the WCs must be opened again in time for the summer season and the Chairman said that Bishopswood Village Hall are looking into that. Cllr Freeman offered to deal with Chris Puzey at Bishopswood Village Hall and liaise through Cllr Daniels. The Clerk was asked to forward the relevant information to Cllr Freeman. <<**Action Clerk & Cllr Freeman**>>

11.3 **Polling Station Consultation Response:** The Parish Council noted that no changes are proposed in Walford, so their response is that the changes can proceed.

11.4 **Walford On Wye:** The Parish Council unanimously **RESOLVED** that they would like to pursue the proposal of changing the name back to Walford On Wye. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries through the recommended channels. <<**Action Clerk**>>

11.5 **Responses to Correspondence:** The Parish Council considered a response to the e mail received from a parish resident suggesting the provision of allotments in the Parish. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that there was an appetite for this and the clerk was asked to make enquiries and explore potential sites, where necessary writing letters to relevant people. <<**Action Clerk**>>

## 12 Brief public response session:

- A member of the public expressed thanks to the Parish Councillors, for the effort they put in, especially in the face of the red tape that they are faced with.

13 **Items for next meeting agenda:** Emergency contingencies for Kerne Bridge, in case of any potential blockages resulting from flooding in the future. Responsibility for Parish War Memorials. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries on both issues. <<**Action Clerk**>>

14 **Next meeting:** 12/03/14 Finance Committee @ 6.30pm, Full Council @ 7.30pm, at Bishopswood Village Hall.

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