

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Catherine Murray. Rose Cottage, Coughton, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5SF.

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Minutes of the Full Council meeting held in Walford Village Hall At 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th November 2014

Present: Chairman – Frank Myers

Councillors - Dave Berry, Shane Carlson, Karen Chinn, Simeon Cole, John Daniels, Eric Drummond, Heather Evans, Terry Snow, Marc Thomas.

In attendance: Clerk Catherine Murray.

1. **Apologies:** Luke Freeman – Work commitment, Sandra Cole – health reasons.
2. **Parish Council Vacancy:** The resignation of Cllr Philip Heath and resulting casual vacancy was noted and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to delay the appointment of a new Vice Chairman until the December meeting.
3. **Declarations:** Cllr Simeon Cole in item 8.1 (Planning) for Porters Lodge and item 9.3 for WA50.
4. **Minutes:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the Full Council minutes from 08/10/14.
5. **Verbal Reports were received from and questions put to:**
 - 5.1 **Police representative** – Not present
 - 5.2 **Ward Councillor John Jarvis** – Not present. Cllr Shane Carlson had been asked by Cllr Jarvis to acquaint the PC with the Safer Herefordshire Scheme; there is a grant available for appropriate schemes. The Parish Council asked The Clerk to advise Cllr Jarvis that it was interested in being registered for this scheme, but had no specific project in mind – the possible use of CCTV in the village to deter burglars was raised. It will be put on the next agenda for discussion. <<**Action Clerk**>>
 - 5.3 **Localities Steward Kevin Williams** – Confirmed that he understood that the B4234 was being taken out of calculations for the award of the Lengthsman grant and encouraged the PC to communicate their concerns to Herefordshire Council; he also confirmed that further pot holes have been marked out for repair in the Parish. A councillor raised the issue of pot holes, which had been repaired under the Enhanced Lengthsman Scheme, having apparently sunk below the road surface following repair. Kevin agreed to inspect these pot holes with Cllr Simeon Cole and they suggested that it was probably due to the cold tar material provided for these repairs. The Chairman raised the issue of traffic lights which were in place at Tudorville, when no work was apparently taking place and the matter of the sunken trench crossing the road nearby. Kevin Williams agreed to make sure that the reporting system is working; he will speak to Matt Mills and try to contact the contractor who carried out the work. Another Councillor said that the missing white lines at the Kerne Bridge road junction had still not been re-instated. The Clerk was asked to chase this up. <<**Action Kevin Williams, Cllr Simeon Cole and Clerk**>> Cllr Eric Drummond explained that a meeting had taken place with the Localities Stewards (including Kevin Williams and David Atkinson) and other representatives from Balfour Beatty, regarding the flooding at Daycroft Lane and the Clerk was asked to chase Balfour Beatty, asking for a response in writing, to the proposals to alleviate flooding. <<**Action Clerk**>>
6. **Public Participation Session:** A parishioner spoke of water coming down onto Daycroft Lane, saying that it was collecting in the asparagus field next to Daycroft Lane.
7. **Finance:** *Bank reconciliation - Finance Appendix A and bank statements for October were noted..*
 - 7.1 The Council received the following recommendations from the Finance Chairman.
 - 7.2 **Precept and Budget:**
 - 7.2.1 To raise the precept by 1.9%, in line with Herefordshire Council. In light of healthy reserves held by the PC, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve this recommendation and raise the precept by 1.9%.
 - 7.2.2 Amendments agreed in Finance Committee will be made to the budget spreadsheet, which will be approved at the December meeting; a review of spending versus income will be carried out.
8. **Planning . 8.1 Planning Applications:** There was no comment from applicants, or members of the public. (Cllr Simeon Cole left the room during consideration of Porters Lodge) **Comments were put forward on:**
 - **Site:** Little Howle Farm, Howle Hill, HR9 5SL. **Application No:** P143182/F
Comments: *There were no objections.*
 - **Site:** Porters Lodge, Coughton, HR9 5ST. **Application No:** P143085/F
Comments: *There were no objections, subject to the footpath issue being resolved and confirmation of no gated access across the public right of way.*
 - **Site:** Bramble Bank, Walford, HR9 5SB. **Application No:** P143271/FH
Comments: *There were no objections.*

8.2 Neighbourhood Planning:

The Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group Chairman explained that the group had met and recommended that the Parish Council accept their decision not to proceed any further with the plan, until the Core Strategy had been formally approved; this decision was based on information received, that Neighbourhood Plans adopted prior to the Core Strategy being adopted were being challenged in court by developers. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept this recommendation.

9 Highways / Rights of Way / AONB:

9.1 There was no more to report from the Lengthsman Co-ordinator. The Rights of Way Officer explained that a problem had been reported on WA69, where sugar beet needed to be cut back, she will contact the landowner concerned. She reported that an officer from Herefordshire Council had come out to look at this problem, without communicating with the Rights of Way Officer or Clerk. The Clerk was asked to write to Herefordshire Council, requesting that they communicate with the Parish Council over such matters in future, in order to avoid unnecessary trips, when the Rights of Way Officer is in position to resolve the problem.

<<Action Rights of Way Officer and Clerk>>

9.2 No work orders above the usual maintenance, already agreed.

9.3 **WA50** – (Cllr Cole left the room during discussions) A summary of the e mail received from Will Steel was given to Council by the Chairman, that there is nothing further that Herefordshire Council are willing to do about the re-instatement of WA50, other than what has already been done.

9.4 Signage for HGVs on Bulls / Leys and Howle Hills. Cllr Carlson explained that the Balfour Beatty representative who had met him on site had said that they would be putting a case to Herefordshire Council for supplying these signs and would report back to the Parish Council. Nothing has been reported back yet, so the Clerk was asked to chase this up. <<Action Clerk>>

9.5 **Bus service provision** – It was reported that a meeting is to take place between the organisers of Lydney Dial A Ride / Forest Community Transport, the PC Chairman and Mr Patrick Gale; and update will be given at the next meeting. A Councillor suggested making enquiries for any interested residents at the Bishopswood caravan park.

10 **Frequency of Parish Council meetings:** Two Councillors proposed that the Parish Council return to holding meetings every 2 months, one Councillor said that as long as it did not delay decision-making, he had no objection and other Councillors supported the proposal in principal; another Councillor said that he would prefer the monthly schedule to remain in place. The Clerk was asked to gather information from other PC's who hold meetings every 2 months and to request advice on how to approach planning applications specifically using delegated powers, from the authorities and report back to the next meeting, when the proposal will be discussed further. <<Action Clerk>>. The Chairman also proposed reducing the number of noticeboards on which meeting notices are posted. *(At present 8 in total)*

11 Parish Projects:

11.1 **Village Agent Scheme.** Cllr Snow explained the Red Cross costings structure and how their influence is important in running the scheme, he outlined the structure of the scheme under the Red Cross. The Chairman reported that with the help of Paul Baker, a report will be submitted to the Clinical Commissioning Group, for funding consideration; he added that the scheme works very well in Gloucestershire, which will be part of the business case, for consideration by the CCG. He added that it should be The Health Economy paying for the scheme, not the Parish.

11.2 **Walford Links.** Cllr Carlson said that he had agreed to take on the Walford Links Project until May.

11.3 **Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Site.** Cllr Myers explained the overage clause in the proposed contract which needed to be resolved. A Councillor asked when a business case would be presented, as he was concerned about potential costs, adding that the contract wording needs to be clarified, before the site is taken on. The Finance chairman and Chairman assured Council that if the contract is rejected by the PC, the transfer will not proceed. Solicitors are working on a re-wording of this clause in the contract, which will be put to the Parish Council, prior to it being agreed. A business plan will be put together and presented, when outstanding issues have been resolved. The Finance Chairman reminded Council that it had already committed to expenditure, given what was already known about the site.

12 **Information and correspondence:** Appendix C, Appendix D and HALC Information corner were noted.

12.1 **Licensing Department Consultations:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** not to respond.

12.2 **Social Media site for Walford Parish Council.** Cllr Carlson explained that he was following this up.

12.3 **Responses to Correspondence:** None, other than a response to the business rate demand.

13 **Public response session:** A parishioner commended the Clerk on her responses to enquiries he had made. Another reported bad dog fouling on the Wye Valley Walk, asking if signs can be put in place. This will be mentioned in the next newsletter.

14 **Items for next meeting agenda:** Offer from Bishopswood Estate to send out litter pickers.

15 **Next meeting:** 10/12/14 Full Council @ 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall.

Confidential Closed session: Discussion regarding the Lengthsman proposed work programme was postponed until further information is available.