

# 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 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm

**Present:** Chairman – Frank Myers

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

**In attendance:** Clerk Catherine Murray.

The Chairman reported the recent death of Bob Chinn, who had served as a Parish Councillor for many years; a period of silence was held in his memory and a card of sympathy was signed by Parish Councillors.

1. **Apologies:** Luke Freeman – on leave. Sandra Cole family commitment. Philip Heath – work commitment.
2. **Declarations:** Eric Drummond declared an interest in 7.1 b) Simeon Cole a pecuniary interest in 8.4
3. **Minutes:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 09/07/14.
4. **The Ward Councillor and Police representative were not present.**
5. **Public Participation Session:**
  - A member of the public expressed surprise at the Walford on Wye name proposal. She also expressed concern about the condition of the War Memorial at Howle Hill. *To be discussed later on the agenda.*
  - Another raised the issue of dangerously long grass on the verges in the parish and asked when it would be cut. *The Chairman read out a letter from Herefordshire Council, stating that reducing the number of cuts had been a mistake and that the policy was to be reviewed with a view to reinstating some of the programme. Cllr Cole confirmed that the necessary cuts will be done.*
6. **Finance:**
  - 6.1 Finance Appendix A, bank reconciliation & bank statements for July & August were noted.
  - 6.2 The following recommendations were made by the Finance Committee.
    - 6.2.1 Purchase of a new notice board for the Walford School site. **Approved by Full Council.**
    - 6.2.2 Updated financial regulations will be presented for approval at the next meeting.
  - 6.3 **Planning Applications:** Planning Appendix B was noted and comments put forward on:
    - a) **Site:** 12 Green Colley Grove, Walford, HR9 5NZ. **Application No:** P142220/FH  
**Comments:** There were no objections to the application.
    - b) **Site:** Croft Cottage, Hom Green, HR9 7TG. **Application No:** P142381&2/F.  
**Comments:** There were no objections to the applications.
    - c) Planning Appendix B listed applications dealt with under delegated powers in August.
  - 6.4 **Neighbourhood Development Plan:** Cllr Berry explained that the Steering group are waiting for approval of the Herefordshire Council Core Strategy, before proceeding any further.
  - 6.5 **Infringement:** It was **RESOLVED** that concerning matters of apparent infringement, that the Clerk will forward concerns raised by parishioners / Councillors, to the relevant authority and will issue an Appendix as a record of progress with each case at Parish Council meetings. **<<Action Clerk>>**
7. **Highways / Rights of Way / AONB - (Appendix D contains Councillors Highways & Rights of Way Reports)**
  - 7.1 **Lengthsman Co-ordinator Report:** The pot hole trial has started and the footway from the Vine Tree to the Mill Race has been strimmed. There was a query about the stretch of road through the Dam, asking when work would be finished. The gutters along by Kerne bridge are cluttered with silt.  
**Rights of Way Officer report:** Overhanging hedges are a problem again. The Clerk advised that the Localities Inspector will arrange for letters to be sent to landowners, provided he is given all the relevant information about location and owner, including the post-code. Ditches are also a problem. There is a hole, left by a fallen tree in the footpath above Kerne Lodge and overgrowth is a problem at the Kerne Bridge end of this footpath.
  - 7.2 **Work orders: Lengthsman:** Routine maintenance to be done. **Rights of Way:** Work to repair the hole in the footpath above Kerne Lodge and general clearance / tidying work.
  - 7.3 **Lengthsman pot-hole trial:** Cllr Cole reported that some holes have been filled and more will be marked soon. A Cllr asked if the work done was of a good standard, Cllr Cole responded that it was.  
*(Cllr Cole left the room)*
  - 7.4 **WA50:** Cllr Evans read out the conclusion of the Ombudsman whose provisional view is that he will not be upholding the complaint; the Ombudsman had asked for further information from Cllr Evans, but Cllr Evans was not hopeful of a positive result. The Clerk read out an e mail from the owner of Thorny Orchard, explaining that work has started on the site and that he will keep the PC updated of vehicle movements. *(Cllr Cole returned to the room)*

- 7.5 **Signage for HGVs on Bulls / Leys and Howle Hills:** Cllr Carlson will be meeting Richard Lloyd on 12<sup>th</sup> September, to visit each location and to discuss options for signage. <<**Action Cllr Carlson**>>
8. **Parish Projects: To receive updates and discuss further action.**
- 8.1 **Village Agent Scheme:** Cllr Snow has had discussions with the Red Cross about the potential costs of funding an agent for 12-15 hours a week. Cllr Myers explained that the Wye Valley NHS and the CCG have shown very positive support for initiatives which bring care closer to home and reported that the CCG have agreed to consider a business case put forward by Walford Parish Council, with a view to funding the scheme. Cllr Snow and Paul Baker will work with Cllr Myers to put the business case together. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to proceed with this course of action. Cllr Myers congratulated Cllr Snow on finding 7 volunteers from within the Parish to work with a future Agent. <<**Action Cllrs Myers, Snow and Paul Baker**>>
- 8.2 **Walford Links.** Cllr Heath was not present, but Cllr Myers explained, on his behalf, that a solution had been found to building the proposed raised area of cycleway / footway alongside the B4234 near to Kerne Bridge and an estimate has been provided, which is very affordable in the context of the expected overall budget ; this potentially unlocks the most attractive leg of the proposed route.
- 8.3 **Parish WW1 War Memorials.** The Clerk explained that pre-grant application forms have been sent to the War Memorials Trust for Howle Hill and Walford War Memorials and that positive feedback has very recently been received for both. The next step is to submit a formal grant application in time for the next round of grant allocations at the end of November. <<**Action Clerk**>>
- 8.4 **Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Site.** Cllr Myers explained that Okells Francis Law Solicitors have been selected to work with Herefordshire Council on the community asset transfer. They have previously worked on the transfer of the Tudorville Community centre and have wide experience in this area of work.
- 8.4.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the following proposal, to expedite the transfer:  
*That the Parish Council Chairman and Clerk/Vice Chair be authorised to sign the necessary documents required to enable Okells Francis Law to commence work in relation to the Community Asset Transfers and to incur the necessary expenditure required to investigate title to the land to be transferred.* <<**Action Chairman / Vice Chairman / Clerk**>>
- 8.4.2 **Maintenance of the public WCs:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approach Guy Smith at Wye Pursuits, to ask if he would be prepared to look after the WC's over the winter months, then to re-consider their management in the Spring. <<**Action Clerk**>>
9. **Walford on Wye:** It was **RESOLVED** by a majority decision to include an article in the Autumn Newsletter, laying out the arguments for and against. Following that, a public meeting will be held to encourage discussion, after which a referendum will be held, by sending Yes/No response cards out with the Spring Newsletter.
10. **Information and correspondence**
- 10.1 Correspondence Appendix C, Clerks Report Appendix D and HALC Information corner were noted.
- 10.2 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to delegate a response to the Travellers Sites document Consultation from Herefordshire Council, to the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group. <<**Action Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group**>>
- 10.3 Responses to the following correspondence received during July / August:
- a) **Mr Duffield – Advertising Signs.** *The Clerk will pass this on to the localities inspector and respond to Mr Duffield, advising him of the guidance regarding signage.* b) **Mr Constable – Heavy goods traffic on Howle Hill.** *The Clerk will respond to Mr Constable, encouraging him to write to the highways authority; and will also report the matter to Highways.* c) **Mr Startin – Red phone box opposite the Mill Race.** *The Clerk will respond to Mr Startin that Cllr Daniels has kindly offered to paint the post box red.* <<**Action Clerk**>>
11. **Brief public response session:**
- A member of the public expressed a view that it was foolish to change the name of Walford.
  - Another said that there was no longer a bus service up Bulls Hill and asked if anyone else could organise it.
12. **Items for next meeting agenda:** Social Media. Termination of Bus Service on Bulls Hill – alternatives?
13. **Next meeting:** 08/10/13 Full Council @ 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall.
14. **Confidential Closed session:** (The public were asked to leave the room)  
A discussion on hours to be worked and associated costs for the Lengthsman to carry out agreed Parish maintenance work was postponed until the next meeting. Cllrs Cole, Freeman and the Clerk will meet to finalise the document before the next meeting.