

Border Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th May 2014 at 7.00 pm in Lingen Village Hall. (Incorporating the monthly Parish Council Meeting)

Present

Councillors: Geoff Bevan, Maggie Brown, Steve Chilman, Susan Harley, Richard Ruell & Simon Whiteman.

Ward Councillor: Olwyn Barnett,

In attendance: 3 members of the public

Maureen Robinson (Clerk)

Andrew Gray (Responsible Financial Officer)

Mike Oliver (Footpaths Officer)

1. Election of Chairman

Steve Chilman was the only nomination therefore he was elected as Chairman and signed the Offer of Acceptance. Steve thanked all Councillors for their support, in particular former Chairman John Miles, whose long service, knowledge and commitment were acknowledged by all present and will be greatly missed. Thanks were recorded to John for everything he has done for BGPC

2. To Elect a Vice- Chairman

Cllr Simon Whiteman was the only nomination and therefore elected to the office of Vice - Chairman

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

3.1 Cllr John Miles

3.2 Cllr Philip Morris

3.3 Cllr Clive Gurney

4. Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensations

None but Councillors were reminded to update their Register of Interests where necessary

5. Open Discussion

5.1 **PCSO Harris** had reported to Cllr Chilman that he had been carrying out random speed checks across the area and said that volunteers were to be given training specifically in Wigmore to undertake these checks.

5.2 **Verbal report from Ward Councillor:** Cllr Mrs Olwyn Barnett gave an update on Herefordshire Council matters, including:

5.2.1 Confirmed that the Council's Budget 2013-14 will come in on balance as a result of spending cuts. The settlement for 2014-15 will see a reduction of £15.9 million so stark choices continue. The aim is to protect the most vulnerable but rising demands on Health and Social Care mean these are likely to outstrip resources. Hereford hospital had received £9 million from NHS England to help balance its budget.

5.2.2 School transport – existing arrangements will remain unchanged

5.2.3 There will be no change to boundaries although County Councillors will be reduced from 58 to 53

5.2.4 The bid for £3.8 million for flood relief had been successful.

5.2.5 From Autumn black bags will be collected fortnightly

5.2.6 **Balfour Beatty**: Local roads continue to cause concern although an additional £3 million from central government had been made available. This had to be spent by end of May. 25,000 potholes had been filled in since last September with £750,000 paid out in compensation to road users. In future, verges will only be cut once and amenity grass 3 times instead of 7. Surface water contributes to deterioration of the road surface and landowners must take some responsibility to minimise this

Cllr Barnett concluded by thanking everyone for their support and paid tribute to outgoing Chairman, John Miles, for his hard work, dedication and support over many years. Cllr Harley thanked Cllr Barnett in turn for her unstinting efforts on behalf of residents and BGPC.

5.3 Reports from Chairman/Councillors/Annual Parish Meetings

Verbal reports were received from individual Cllrs for Adforton, Brampton Bryan and Lingen incorporating their respective hamlets

5.4 To hear views of local residents on Parish Matters

A resident from Buckton reported on response to a survey of residents regarding the options for the introduction of a 40 mph speed limit in Walford. Whilst this was positive, grave concerns persisted over the junction of the C1001 and A4113 and the lack of visibility for vehicles pulling out. It was reported that a site meeting had taken place but BGPC had not been contacted or invited to attend. Cllr Barnett added that a compulsory Purchase Order would be needed to make major changes to the junction and these are expensive and can be protracted. A mirror would be a possible solution but would need to be sited on private property. Cllr Chilman to explore further with BB Locality manager, Rachel Dixon

6. Minutes of the previous meeting – 15.4.13.

The minutes of the April meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

7. Finance:

7.1 The RFO presented the annual accounts for 2013/14 and these were unanimously approved
BGPC had had an income of £9,236 and had spent £7,968. Income included a VAT refund of £1,661 and a bursary of £75 towards Clerk's CiLCA training. There is a surplus of £1300 which will go into the reserves. Both the Highway Maintenance and Parish Paths accounts had been fully spent. £850 remains in the savings account (generating 11p of interest per quarter!)

7.2 The annual return is scheduled to be with the auditors by July 2014

7.3 An Internal Auditor has not yet been confirmed but it was AGREED to pay up to £100 to the person taking this on.

Thanks were recorded to the RFO for his hard work in preparing the accounts

7.4. Annual Insurance – it was AGREED to continue with Came and Co and in addition to sign up for 3 years as this represented a saving to BGPC. The annual premium remains at £265

7.5 Outstanding payments identified by RFO were accepted and cheques raised

7.6. £45.72 – Clerk's Expenses

7.7 £150x2 – Mr Eades – grass cutting (1 payment of £150 already made in April 14)

7.8 £65 – Absolute PC Services - setting up of BGPC tower for Clerk

7.9 £9 – hire of Adforton Community Hall

7.10 £265 – Came and Company, Annual Insurance Premium

8. Planning

To consider comments to Herefordshire Council on the following application:

SITE: Michaelmas Cottage, Lingen, Bucknell, Herefordshire SY7 0DY
DESCRIPTION: Proposed erection of timber framed summer house in the rear of the garden
APPLICANT(S): Miss Hyam
APPLICATION NO: P140740/FH
GRID REF: OS 336666, 267090
APPLICATION TYPE: Full Householder
WEBSITE LINK: <http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/searchplanningapplications>

BGPC raised no objections

9. Neighbourhood Plan

A consultant has been recruited to help with the production of a questionnaire. A draft copy will be available at the Steering Group meeting on 27th May and once finalised, will be distributed to every household in Border group. This will be a major undertaking and will require lots of volunteers to deliver and collect completed forms. The aim is for a return of between 70% - 80%. (The grant of £7,000 will be paid into the current account and expenditure itemised in the monthly accounts)

10. Highways

10.1. Update on access between B4530 and A4110 –following a site visit and conversation with the owner, the gates had been left unlocked which was a positive step. However it was reported that the lane had since been blocked off further down with a pony grazing there. This makes it impossible to move livestock and is clearly another obstruction. Mrs Price delivered a letter to the Clerk just prior to the meeting. Its contents were discussed and it was AGREED the Clerk should respond on behalf of council re-iterating that the lane should not be blocked. It was also felt that Mrs Price might find the information about the new crime initiative in the April minutes helpful so a copy will be included

10.2 Update on Walford speed limit –AGREED to support the residents of Walford (see 5.4 above) and send a response to Herefordshire Council on the preferred option

10.3 Update on erosion of gravel bank between Buckton and Brampton Bryan – Balfour Beatty reported that monitoring inspections are continuing, an environmental study of the site is to be carried out with trees on the bank being reduced in height and a basic assessment of engineering options/ feasibility study. No actual work planned at present.

10.4 To consider work to be undertaken by Lengthsman

10.4.1 Jetting of drains at Parsons Pole Bridge in Buckton

10.4.2 A mains leak at Birtley was dealt with by Welsh Water

Hope was also expressed that the Lengthsman may be able to undertake work currently carried out by Balfour Beatty subject to necessary permissions and funding

10.5 To consider work to be undertaken under P3 (Parish Paths Partnership)- no more work planned until receipt of this year's grant from Herefordshire Council

11. The Information Sheet was noted.

12. **Matters raised for the next meeting:** Tuesday 17th June at Brampton Bryan VH at 7.30 pm
To consider continued use of Adforton Community Hall for PC meetings

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.

SIGNED **DATE**