

**Border Group Parish Council**  
**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on**  
**Tuesday 17th September 2013 at 7.30pm in Lingen Village Hall.**

**Present**

Councillors: John Miles (Chairman), Geoff Bevan, Maggie Brown, Steve Chilman, Philip Morris, Simon Whiteman, Richard Ruell, Clerk Maureen Robinson

**In attendance:** 3 members of the public

Andrew Gray (Responsible Financial Officer)

Mike Oliver (Footpaths Officer)

PCSO Adam Harris

Ward Cllr Olwyn Barnett

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from: None
2. **Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensations:** There were none.

**3. Open Session**

- 3.1 PCSO Harris reported that although locally the overall crime rate is very low, there have been a number of thefts from insecure outbuildings and gardens including a tractor from Stapleton, which was recovered, along with a JCB and low loader from the Tenbury area. A GAT telescopic loader was taken from Kinsham but was left in a hedge as it was under repair and could not be driven far. The theft of lambs has been an issue in N Shropshire. He also reported that monitoring and enforcement of SPEEDING would be given greater priority across all Parishes in Border Group. From 1st October, due to re-structuring within West Mercia Police, police cars will be more visible as they will be used increasingly as 'mobile offices'. There is a need for West Mercia to save £30 million but frontline services should not be affected. Over the summer the Safer Neighbourhood Team had worked with local Youth groups culminating in 'Paintballing' at Oakerwood. No reports of ASB over summer break. A force-wide Cadet Force for 14-18yr olds has also been set up following the original one based in Telford. This is a 2 yr programme leading to a qualification. PCSO Harris continues his monthly ad-hoc visits to Mill Cottage at Paytoe with no recent reports of any issues.

**Neighbourhood Watch** –Mr Harris stated this remains an important link between communities and the Police and he continued to recruit co-ordinators

- 3.2 Report from Ward Cllr Olwyn Barnett

A meeting was due to be held in Hereford on Thursday 19th September regarding the proposed cuts to the Museums and Library Service. It was hoped that Leintwardine Library could become a 'Community Library' run largely by volunteers although the details remain to be worked out.

Mrs Barnett re-iterated that there would a reduction nationally of £57 million in overall funding from Central Govt between 2010 and 2015 with a further 15% reduction after 2015. She urged everyone to sign the 'Fair Share for Herefordshire' petition which asked for an increase to funding for the County ( deadline 19th September). This was circulated

Cllr Barnett reported that no enquiries from developers re ' fracking' had been received despite reports in local press

- 3.3 Verbal reports from Councillors – Cllrs Miles and Gurney had held their regular meeting with Mill Cottage with only 2 minor incidents discussed and resolved. One local resident had expressed concern over being alone in the house should any incidents occur.

2 young people currently accommodated. The current lease comes to an end in March 2014 but the landlord and tenant can extend this as planning permission exists for a Children's Home there.

- 3.4 Views of local residents on parish matters

A resident in Walford was reported as receiving abuse from a motorist who was speeding. BGPC needs to request a speed limit is introduced ( via Herefordshire Council, Cabinet member Philip Price) and also approach the Safer Roads Partnership. PCSO Harris agreed to make the initial approach to the latter.

Concern expressed over road damage at Limebrook caused by heavy lorries and farm machinery. An existing sign denotes the road is unsuitable for heavy vehicles but it is still used for access. The resident was advised to take a licence number if possible and report this to Herefordshire Council. Cllr Barnett also agreed to pass this concern on.

Another resident had taken photos of damage caused by heavy traffic and asked if the sign could be changed to show mandatory rather than advisory. This was considered unlikely as difficult to prove that large vehicles are sole culprits. It was agreed that the lanes are becoming too narrow to cope with the increasing size of lorries and farm machinery but the difficulty was finding the money to pay for widening. Olwyn agreed to pursue and report back

- 4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 16th July 2013**

The minutes were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman

## **5. Finance**

- 5.1 RFO's Monthly Report.

Current Account - £2,800 credit

Highways a/c - £2,243 credit

P3 - £1400 credit

RFO identified the following payments/receipts which were ACCEPTED and cheques raised:

5.1.1 £82.65 – room hire Lingen VH

5.1.2 £100 – HALC – CiLCA training ( Clerk)

5.1.3 £86.54 - Clerk's expenses

5.1.4 £ 200 – Grass cutting x2 Mr PR Eades

5.2 It was AGREED to pay the Clerk £250 for time spent attending training and preparation of Portfolio for CiLCA

5.3 Annual Return – accepted by Grant Thornton ( external auditors, following resolution of minor query) The notice must now be displayed for 14 days on Parish notice boards so residents can have the opportunity to examine. ( 23rd September – 6th October)

5.4 It was AGREED to delegate powers to the Clerk (in consultation with Chair) to make **emergency** payments up to £250

5.5 It was AGREED to purchase a flip chart for use at Neighbourhood Planning/ Parish Plan/other meetings. This could also be hired out to other groups for a small fee.

5.6 It was AGREED to ask the NDP Steering Group if they wished to purchase refreshments for meetings.

5.7 Precept to go on November agenda –Noted

5.8 Lingen Community BB had been successful in having £5,000 of funding underwritten by Lingen Village Hall Committee therefore no further money needed from BGPC at present

## **6. Planning - to consider comments to Herefordshire Council on the following applications – none received**

### **7. Parish Plan**

At the meeting on Tuesday July 30th, 7 members of the public attended and elected a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. These will form the basis of the Steering group although other residents are welcome to join in future. The main point of discussion was over writing a new plan (which would attract a grant of up to £3,000 including matched funding from BGPC) or updating the existing one at considerably less cost. A vote was taken amongst those present and it was RESOLVED to update the old Plan.

**NDP** –A public meeting was held on 10th September where Sam Banks (Planning Officer) explained the purpose and process around NP and an initial Steering group comprising 6 Parish Councillors and 6 members of the public was elected. Others had expressed an interest in being involved but had not been able to attend this meeting. Border Group had had their area accepted for designation but 3 objections had been received based on the viability of 1 Plan covering 6 diverse Parishes. It was agreed to hold another public meeting to resolve this and also to try and involve more members of the community. The importance of Community consultation and good communication could not be underestimated as the Plan could fail at the later referendum stage should this be inadequate. The issue of how the Plan was to be funded also needs further discussion.

**Minutes from any NP and Parish Plan meetings will be made available on lingenweb and the BGPC website**

### **8.Highways**

8.1 Work had been carried out in Lingen to stop erosion of the river bank and 2 new bridges and a crossing point installed. Strimming had been taking place on bridleways. All stiles in good order with some being changed to galvanised gates with a mechanism to close them automatically.

8.2. Blocked access between A4110 and B4530 – no response to date following letter. It was RESOLVED to contact the Land Registry and establish if the land in question was registered. If not, then BGPC would consider making the initial registration (there would be a cost to this )

8.3 Traffic speed through Walford – see minute 3.1.and 3.4. above

8.4 Work undertaken by Lengthsman –most jobs now completed. Cllr Chilman had made contact with the new team at Balfour Beatty re potholes and a culvert by Globe Wood. A culvert at Walford would also need maintenance to prevent it becoming overloaded.

8.5 Cllr Harley raised the issue of potholes in Brampton Bryan and it was explained that anyone could report problems direct to Herefordshire Council ( Street Scene) on 01432 261 800 or email [streets@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:streets@herefordshire.gov.uk) giving the road number in question

## **9. Update on Website**

9.1 It was AGREED that this should be for BGPC only without advertising, blogs etc. It will be updated regularly with BGPC Minutes, Agendas, FOI, Standing Orders, Minutes of Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Plan and associated meeting dates. The content will be reviewed in a year's time

## **10. Information Sheet** – Members noted the Information Sheet.

## **11. Attendance at HALC training Events**

It was agreed to fund 4 places for the NP seminar split between BGPC and members of the steering group and 2 for the Devolved Services Event ( BGPC only)

## **12. Matters raised for the next meeting agenda:** Revisit World War 1 Centenary (Bill Wiggin's letter) and Parish salt bins

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.55pm

**SIGNED** ..... **DATE** .....