

Border Group Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 21st January 2014 at 7.30pm in Brampton Bryan Village Hall.

Present

Councillors: John Miles (Chairman), Geoff Bevan, Maggie Brown, Steve Chilman, Philip Morris, Simon Whiteman, Clive Gurney, Susan Harley

In attendance: 1 member of the public

Andrew Gray (Responsible Financial Officer)

Ward Councillor Mrs O. Barnett

Clerk Maureen Robinson

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from: Cllr Richard Ruell

2. Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensations: There were none.

3. Open Session

3.1 PCSO Harris gave his apologies and emailed Clerk to say no incidents to report

3.2 Report from Ward Councillor Olwyn Barnett:

Cllr Barnett reported that there would be a full Council meeting on Feb 7th to discuss the budget and that a balanced budget would be forthcoming. She added that many difficult decisions have had to be made in order to manage cuts in funding.

Locally there was concern about subsidence of the gravel bank between Buckton and Bucknell with further flooding possibly leading to residents being cut off. The Environment Agency is responsible for the maintenance and Cabinet member Phillip Price is dealing with this. In addition continuing erosion of the bank in Brockley Meadow in Leintwardine is a problem and Mrs Barnett will report back on what action is planned to address this. There is concern over surface water right across Mortimer Ward. Water runs off surrounding farmland and one solution might be for further ditching to allow water to soak away. The BGPC lengthsmen has worked successfully to clear ditches and this needs to be continued. There are on going issues over potholes and Cllr Barnett expressed hope that the 'Locality Managers' (Balfour Beatty) due to be in post in April will be in a position to act more swiftly. Finally Cllr Barnett reported that exhibitions are planned across the County in 2014 to mark the 1st World War and asked that any local events or interesting stories relating to this be sent to the Lieutenancy Working Party who are collating such material.

3.3. Chairman's Report – the next meeting with Mill Cottage Paytoe, will take place on 11th Feb.

3.3.1 Local residents in Adforton expressed concern over the parking of a lorry on the Church car park in contravention of the conditions set out in the deeds. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should write a letter to the owner explaining this and asking them to remove it.

3.3.2 The Chairman reported serious concerns from residents in Walford about recent traffic accidents at the junction of the A4113 and C1007 (Buckton junction). Despite past requests from BGPC for the introduction of a 40 mph

speed limit through Walford response to date from Balfour Beatty indicates only that they are aware of it and will contact PC in due course. AGREED that this is not good enough and Clerk to try and establish progress

3.4 A local resident added his concerns over proposed changes to funding for school transport which will affect rural schools disproportionately should they come into force.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 11th December 2013

The minutes were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman

5. Finance

1.1 RFO's Monthly Report.

Current a/c - £5,182.58

Highways a/c - £2,143.24

P3 a/c - £1,366.46

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

5.1.2 £72 – Lengthsman Scheme

5.1.3 £52.92 – Clerk's expenses

5.1.4 £335 – P3 Scheme (Footpaths)

5.2 **Precept** – following discussion it was AGREED to raise the Precept to £7,750 for 2014/15 to cover costs of Neighbourhood Plan to date.

6. Planning - to consider comments to Herefordshire Council on the following applications:

6.1: Ref P133351/F - Lane Cottage, Birtley, Deerfold, Bucknell Herefordshire SY7 0EF, Erection of 2 no polytunnels and a barn – BGPC raised no objections

6.1.2: Ref P133471/FH – The Ridges, Birtley, Bucknell, Herefordshire SY7 0DT, Erection of oak framed extension – BGPC raised no objections

6.2 To confirm receipt of Planning Obligation Agreement s106 monies in respect of Home Farm, Lingen. Ref DCNW/2008/3016/F, 113046/F. The Clerk reported that Yvonne Coleman (Planning Obligations Manager, Herefordshire Council) had replied that no monies had yet been allocated and unlikely to be in near future given change of contract to Balfour Beatty. There is a fairly strict remit over how the money can be spent but this will negotiated with BGPC. It is important therefore that the PC gives consideration to this so we are ready when the time comes!

7. Neighbourhood Plan

7.1 The next funding window will open in February '14 and no further meetings are planned until funding is secured. The Clerk reported that Wigmore PC had engaged an independent firm of Planning Consultants to produce their plan at a cost of £5,700

7.2 The draft NP budget was discussed and it was AGREED to apply for the full £7,500 grant available.

7.3 Meeting between members of the Steering group and Dave Tristram (Herefordshire Council) on 4th February to finalise the grant application – noted.

Minutes/other information from any NP meetings will be made available on lingenweb and the BGPC website - www.bordergroup-pc.org - where a separate page has been set up for easy access to information around NP

8. Highways

- 8.1 P3 (footpaths) – clearing bracken at Crooked House; putting in fingerposts and ditch crossings; clearing fallen trees and branches
- 8.2. Blocked Access A4110 and B4530– awaiting response from HALC and Hereford Council
- 8.3 Flooding in Walford – no developments. Few options to address this given the recent amount of rain and low-lying nature of ground.
- 8.4 Work undertaken by Lengthsman – to continue to keep any blocked drains clear to facilitate flow of water and reduce flood risk.
- 8.5 Erosion of bank at Buckton –AGREED that Clerk should contact Cabinet member Philip Price and support action already requested

9. Information Sheet – Members noted the Information Sheet.

10. Matters raised for the next meeting agenda:

- 10.1 Sec 106 monies ref Home Farm Lingen
- 10.2 Erosion of bank at Buckton

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.50p.m.

SIGNED **DATE**