

Border Group Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 22nd July 2014 at 7.30pm in Lingen Village Hall.

Present

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

In attendance: 3 members of the public

Andrew Gray (Responsible Financial Officer)

Clerk Maureen Robinson

Ward Councillor Olwyn Barnett

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from:

1.1 PCSO Adam Harris

1.2 Mike Oliver – Footpaths Officer

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

3. Open Session

3.1 No report available from PCSO

3.2 Report from Ward Councillor Olwyn Barnett:

The new Locality Manager, Rachel Dixon, was settling in well and could be invited to attend a future meeting to talk about her role. Following the decision by Balfour Beatty not to cut grass as planned, there was much discussion over when and how this change had taken place. Cllr Barnett was also ignorant of this sudden change and agreed that PC's will now have to undertake cutting of verges and junctions in the interests of safety. It appears there is no longer any intention to cut the grass along rural roads and therefore BGPC would have to use funds to do this as some were becoming impassable and dangerous because of overgrown hedges. One possible solution would be to switch ditching work back to Balfour Beatty and use the money saved for grass cutting. It was AGREED to spend £500 from the Lengthsman account to cut the most urgent areas.

3.3. Chairman's Report -Cllr Chilman reported from the Chairman and Clerks Meeting that there was concern over the river course through Brockley meadow and how close it was getting to the road. This is a longstanding issue with apparent reluctance on the part of the Environment Agency to tackle it. It appears it is not permissible to put rocks in the river to shore up the banks and it is feared that the road will eventually flood and collapse as happened at Jay Lane.

3.4 Buckton residents reported that the roses had been cut back at the junction with A4113 but it remains dangerous. No response had been received from either Balfour Beatty or Hereford Council to their concerns. It was AGREED the Clerk would contact the Harley Estate to see if any action could be taken to lower the wall. It was hoped that the introduction of the 40 mph speed limit would also make the junction safer.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting –17th June 2014

These were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman

5. Finance

5.1 The Annual Accounts have been sent to Grant Thornton (external auditor) and we should hear by mid September if they have been approved. The current a/c stands at £13,793 and the Lengthsman a/c at £4,800

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

5.2 AGREED to pay £45.72 – Clerk’s expenses

5.3 AGREED to pay £20 for hire of Brampton Bryan Village Hall on 17.6.14

5.4 AGREED to pay £60 for hire of Lingen VH for NP meeting. Expenditure for this is being tracked and there is currently a balance of £6,300

5.5 AGREED to pay £450 to Mr Eades (4th, 5th and 6th grass cutting)

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

6.1 None received

6.2 The Patches – Adforton ref: N/1016669/F 23.8.10

The Planning Dept had confirmed use of the ancillary building as an office

6.3 A query was raised over the necessity of a full PC meeting to discuss planning applications but on balance it was felt that this could be covered by the Planning Working Group should any applications come in between meetings. Should any application appear to be controversial then a full meeting of the PC could be called.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

7.1 Scoping documents produced by Herefordshire Council have some minor inaccuracies which need to be corrected. A general update will be available following the meeting on 24th July

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) – the Footpaths officer, Mike Oliver, delivered his report

8.2 Access between A4110 and B4530 – no issues to report and remains accessible

8.3 Lengthsman - Access at junctions have been cleared, signs cleaned. Ditching undertaken in Lingen and a new culvert and grid have been provided by Balfour Beatty. Jetting has taken place at Parsons Bridge.

£3 million has been made available across Mortimer Ward to support highway repairs

8.4 Walford speed limit – no new information

8.5 It was noted that repairs are urgently needed where the lane through Walford hamlet meets the Lingen road.

9. Information Sheet – Members noted the Information Sheet.

10. Matters raised for the next meeting agenda (no discussion): Possible action over river in Brockley Meadow

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.55p.m