

Border Group Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 15th September 2015 at 7.30p.m at Lingen Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Phillip Barnett, Maggie Brown, Steve Chilman, Paul Derrick, Clive Gurney (Chair), John Walker, Simon Whiteman

In attendance:

Clerk Maureen Robinson
Responsible Financial Officer Andrew Gray
Ward Cllr Carole Gandy
Donna Tregenza – Locality Steward

6 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from:
Mike Oliver (Footpaths Officer)

2. Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensations: None
No requests for dispensations

3. Vacancy for Brampton Bryan -Susan Harley was co-opted as Councillor for Brampton Bryan.
Proposed by Cllr Whiteman seconded by Cllr Chilman. A vacancy remains for Willey

4. Open Session – brief verbal reports received from:

4.1 Ward Cllr Carole Gandy – Cllr Gandy apologised for not being able to attend last 2 meetings and reported that the Budget consultation would run until 9th October. There is a list of proposals for which services are to be reduced or cut and residents should be encouraged to give their views. There may be a possible impact on bus services with the removal of the subsidy, on libraries and community transport. A referendum would be necessary to increase Council tax above the current level of 1.9% and this alone would cost £300,000. It is possible that PC's could increase their Precept to support services as this is not governed by same rules.

Cllr Gandy reported on concerns over restricted byways in Lingen and Willey and the width stipulated. She felt it should be possible to meet the requirements at a reasonable cost and pointed out the Herefordshire Council has no option but to implement the proposal as it would be illegal not to.

Cllr Gandy complimented the exhibitors at the Lingen Sewing and Craft event and thought the work on display very impressive.

She will visit Lingen Community Broadband with our MP on 2nd October as Mortimer ward will be the last to get fast BB and BT are already behind schedule. Cllr Gandy will also provide updates for the BGPC website for local events and other relevant info e.g. Wigmore school whose exam results were again excellent

4.2 Locality Steward Donna Tregenza –Donna is covering Mortimer Ward until the new person is in place at end of September. His name is Mike Brooks and he already works for Balfour Beatty. Donna reported that 5 roads across our ward had been resurfaced. Drainage problems with Reeves lane continue to cause concern as there has been no progress in remedying this. Donna will try to move

things forward but there is no money in this financial year for major works. Temporary patching will be done to improve the road surface prior to winter.

4.3 PCSO Knight – a theft in Leintwardine on 19th August and a bailer had been stolen from a field overnight. Rural crime had increased over the summer months but overall crime was still low in our area. PCSO Knight urged people to call 101 (non – emergency) and make a note of any suspicious vehicles or activity. With the approach of Winter, people are encouraged to keep lights on if house unoccupied and timer switches are available to simulate occupation. ‘Stop that Thief’ initiative is going well with over 100 properties in N. Herefordshire now part of the scheme. Anyone wishing to find out more should contact PCSO Knight on 101.

Neighbourhood Watch – Paul Crumpton is the new Area Co-ordinator for both existing and new schemes and can be contacted on 01905 727402. Daily briefings appear on the West Mercia Police website.

4.4 Reports from Chair/other Cllrs – Cllrs Walker and Derrick attended a Planning Seminar run by Herefordshire Council. Approx 170 people attended and discussions ranged from how PC’s should respond to Planning applications e.g material considerations and the importance of local views and intelligence. PC’s have no powers to affect applications and it was queried how much influence they can realistically exert when 98% of decisions are delegated to officers. The Ward Member can ‘call in’ an application to go to the Planning Committee but in practice this rarely happens. It was felt that if PCs are to be genuinely involved in the process their views should be taken into account, especially where contentious applications are concerned.

A discussion followed over the use of email for Cllrs to receive/respond to applications, usually in between meetings. It was **AGREED** the Clerk should contact HALC to clarify procedure.

4.5 Local residents – very unhappy over condition of Reeves Lane. They live in Powys but affected as part of road in Herefordshire and the problem goes back years. The Locality Steward sympathised and explained that Balfour Beatty are aware and trying to find the most cost effective way of dealing with it but they will try to fill the worst of the holes before the Winter. There was a suggestion to clear the stream of detritus on the Herefordshire side to ease the flow of water but the culvert on the other side ends by the road and perhaps this could be extended to take the water away more effectively.

It was also felt the exit from Reeves Lane onto the A4113 is dangerous as a double bend makes visibility difficult. Donna suggested the Traffic Team may be able to help with improving this

5. Minutes of the previous meeting – 21st July 2015

These were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman

6. Finance

6.1 RFO identified the following payments which were **ACCEPTED** and cheques raised:

6.2 **AGREED** to pay Clerk’s expenses of £86.06 (chq no 101569)

6.3 **AGREED** to produce a Budget for discussion at October Meeting

6.4 **AGREED** to pay £16 for hire of Lingen VH (chq no 101568)

6.5 **AGREED** to re-imburse Cllr Walker for web hosting invoice from TSO Host of £14.99 (chq no101567)

7.1 Planning - to consider comments to Herefordshire Council on the following :

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 152294 - The Farlands Farm, Lingen,
Bucknell, Herefordshire SY8 0DX
DESCRIPTION: Removal of 80m of hedgerow
APPLICANT(S): Mr Ian Morris
GRID REF: OS 336616, 267280
APPLICATION TYPE: Hedgerow Removal
WEBSITE LINK: <http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/searchplanningapplications>

No objections

7.2 Standing item ref use of Sec 106 monies in respect of Home Farm, Lingen Ref

DCNW/2008/3016/F, 113046/F –. Ward Cllr Gandy reported that staff had been unable to access the relevant spreadsheet but there was some doubt if the money had ever been paid by the developer. Cllr Gandy will continue to investigate.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

8.1 More sites are needed in Lingen and a Steering group meeting will take place in next 2 weeks. Core strategy is still to be approved. It was felt that views on the Reeves Hill windfarm should be reflected in NP

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

9. Highways

9.1 P3 (footpaths) – no work carried out recently but noted that the gate to the footpath by Lodge Bank in Lingen will be locked next Spring when stock in field. Kissing gate to be installed

9.2. Lengthsman Scheme –cleaning out grips; cutting the grass on Adforton green (apologies to residents that this had not been done sooner)

9.3 Wall in Walford -**AGREED** to lengthsman doing the work funded from Lengthsman budget. (Balfour Beatty have signed this off). All in favour proposed by Cllr Brown. Work should be started in next few weeks.

9.4 Balfour Beatty can supply missing waymarkers

9.5 Noted

9.6 Grit bins have been ordered for Stanway Bank and Brunts Lane

10. Community Governance Review – it was **AGREED** to send in initial comments to Anthony Bush given that future development may affect the size of the Parish.

11. The Old Chapel, Adforton – it was reported that under the Building Act of 1984 an owner can be compelled to carry out repairs. An Amenity Notice can also be served under sec 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act. **AGREED** Clerk should contact the Enforcement officer and pursue. (Cllr Gandy is also involved in trying to get some action from Herefordshire Council)

12. Information Sheet -Members noted the Information Sheet.

13. To raise items for next agenda: Planning decisions by email (revisit HALC advice); derelict properties; Annual Return/ Conclusion of Audit

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.00 p.m. The next Meeting will take place at Brampton Bryan Village Hall on Tuesday 20th October at 7.30

Signed..... Date.....