

Border Group Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 12th April 2016 at 7.30p.m at Lingen Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Phillip Barnett, Maggie Brown, Steve Chilman, Clive Gurney (Chair), Trevor Pritchard, John Walker

In attendance:

Clerk Maureen Robinson

Ward Cllr Carole Gandy

Footpaths Officer Mike Oliver

No members of public

1.Apologies for absence were accepted from: Cllrs Harley, Derrick, and Whiteman, Responsible Financial Officer Andrew Gray

2. Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensations: None

No requests for dispensations

3. Open Session – brief verbal reports received from:

3.1 Ward Cllr Carole Gandy – Cllr Gandy reported on a visit to Wigmore School and how impressed she had been by all 3 sites. She highlighted a need for more Speech and Language therapists as research has shown that 56% of nursery/ Reception classes do not reach the standard expected in communication and language skills. Anecdotal evidence suggests increased use of mobile technology has led to a decrease in interaction between some parents and children. Wigmore school has a good record of helping pupils with communication/behavioural difficulties and also Careers advice which they can buy in as an Academy. A meeting will take place in May to discuss charging for school transport.

Cllr Gandy had also visited Mill Cottage at Paytoe where 4 young people are currently accommodated. She praised the hard work and commitment of the staff all of whom were long standing. A fence had blown down in the strong winds but was quickly put back up and new panels ordered by the staff themselves although it should have been the responsibility of the landlord.

The issue of litter was discussed as it is an increasing problem. More collections are planned in future and Balfour Beatty will now provide bags to volunteer litter pickers. The number to ring for collection is **01432 261800 but the litter MUST be in their bags.**

Cllr Gandy also reported that Herefordshire Council had been given a one-off ‘scarcity grant’ payment of £1.3 million which will be put into balances for use in emergencies/ to support other budgets.

There was a discussion of the recent Planning application at Oak Hill Barn under Permitted Development. This application had been passed under ‘determination by default’ as the Planning dept. had missed the deadline on Easter Monday. Although there are increasing numbers of applications under Permitted Development, Building Control must still check but will most likely recommend approval in line with legislation which aims to alleviate housing shortages by converting redundant agricultural buildings into dwellings. A further discussion took place over developments which contravene the Core Strategy where an Article 4 direction (Town and Country Planning Act) allows Councils to suspend Permitted

development rights. Brighton and Nottingham councils were given as examples of where this had happened.

Cllr Gandy also requested to be copied into any objections by BGPC to planning applications. This was agreed.

Finally Cllr Gandy expressed disappointment that the C1009 had not been included in the re-surfacing programme but it had not been deemed a priority. Central govt has provided an extra £70 million for pothole repairs across the country with £675k allocated to Herefordshire. Cllr Gandy will pursue this to try and secure some for Mortimer Ward.

3.2 The Locality Steward was not present

3.3 PCSO Knight was not present but the Safer Neighbourhood Team newsletter had been circulated

3.4 Reports from Chair/ Councillors – No reports

3.5 No members of public present

4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 16th February 2016

These were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman with the following addition under item 6.1: ‘**AGREED** a discussion took place and concerns re tenancy and whether barn is part of an agricultural unit would be passed to Herefordshire Council. This was not done’

5. Finance

No report due this month. The following payments were **ACCEPTED** and cheques raised:

5.1 It was **AGREED** to pay Clerk’s expenses for March and April of £60.00 and £63.00 respectively (chq no 101591)

5.2 It was **AGREED** to pay £800 to lengthsman as per invoice (chq no 101589)

5.3 It was **AGREED** to pay £274 to Joe Thomas (P3), (chq no 101590)

5.4 It was **AGREED** to pay £691.63 towards Election costs (chq no 101593)

5.5 It was **AGREED** to pay HALC subscription of £455.25 (chq no 101592)

5.6 It was **AGREED** to pay £25 for Clerk training on 3.2.16 to HALC (chq no 101592)

5.7 It was **AGREED** to pay £30 towards upkeep of Adforton Churchyard following request (chq no 101594)

5.8 It was **AGREED** to purchase 2 new grit bins at a total cost of £75.40 for the lengthsman to collect and install. (BGPC will supply its own salt)

5.9 It was not possible to note the Audit paperwork as RFO not in attendance. The Internal Auditor was confirmed as Sue Hackett who did this last year. Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Walker. The Annual Return paperwork will be completed at the May meeting

6.1 Planning - to consider comments to Herefordshire Council on the following: None received

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

DCNW/2008/3016/F, 113046/F –. Hereford Council have been pursuing the wrong person for this payment but an invoice has now been sent

7. Neighbourhood Plan

7.1 A meeting had taken place with the Planning team. 5yr land supply is still an issue and urgent confirmation is required of identified sites so they can be brought forward at the earliest opportunity. The Plan will be submitted to Hereford Council in the last week of April. Provided it is in broad compliance with the Core Strategy it should go through. Frustration was expressed that we are trying to protect the area from speculative development but the unpredictability of the land supply/deficit might derail this.

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) – Footpaths officer (Mike Oliver) requested equipment back in November but the wrong items were dispatched. Mike O is hoping to meet the Locality steward to resolve issues. Very bad weather has prevented much work being done. There is now access to Globe Wood via Till Hill Forestry but a delay has occurred in getting a key. Mike also reported a fallen tree across a bridge in Lingen, location LN30,(GR.365.669). A work order has been issued but no action to date.
- 8.2. Lengthsman Scheme – dealt with a collapsed drain at Brampton Bryan. Jetting will be now not carried out at Walford as no longer Balfour Beatty policy to do routinely. It was argued that this was a false economy. The lengthsman also planned to clear a culvert at Gore Head where water was running onto the road.
- 8.3 SIDS – **AGREED** in principle to purchase our own device paid for from s106 funds when forthcoming. BGPC must consult residents to show evidence of support and it was **AGREED** to add a comments page to the BGPC website. Simon Hobbs from Herefordshire Council will advise on location. The matter will also be raised at the Annual Parish Meetings in May
- 8.4 Drainage at Stoneybridge – Balfour Beatty will supply a drain
- 8.5 It was **AGREED** the mirror could be erected on private land. BGPC will have to fund it and Balfour Beatty will install. Clerk to research costs and report back in May.

9. The Old Chapel, Adforton –work has finally started on exterior with the cars being removed.. **AGREED** to keep on agenda

10. Dates were AGREED for Annual Parish meetings as follows:

Brampton Bryan, Buckton and Coxall – Tues 3rd May at 7.30

Lingen and Willey –Tues 10th May at 7.30

Adforton, Walford, Stanway, Paytoe, Letton and Newton – Tues May 10th at 7.30.

Agenda items will include tackling speeding, litter, grass cutting and Govt cuts

ALL RESIDENTS OF RESPECTIVE PARISHES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND WILL BE WARMLY WELCOMED. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL KNOWS YOUR VIEWS

11. To respond to CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) consultation. AGREED the Clerk will respond by 28th April on behalf of BGPC. Broad support for CIL from BGPC but feeling that potentially little benefit locally given that single dwellings are exempt currently and these are more likely in rural areas than big developments. Mortimer Ward is in North Rural and Parishes with a Neighbourhood Plan will get 25% of any CIL payments. It will also be paid at the start of the development unlike s106 but there was a discussion over whether it would deter people from putting land forward as developers may expect a reduction in price to compensate for CIL

12. Grass Cutting – AGREED lengthsman will continue to cut the green at Adforton but Brampton Bryan is working well with volunteers. Thanks to everyone who has helped to date

13. To consider need for Poll Cards at future Elections – AGREED to provide these

14. Members noted the Information Sheet.

15. To raise matters for next meeting agenda. No discussion

Purchase of a Defibrillator for Lingen Village Hall; traffic mirror; SIDS

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.10 p.m. The next Meeting will take place at Lingen Village Hall on Tuesday 17th May 2016. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and will start at **7.00.p.m.**

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