

Border Group Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 14th June 2016 at 7.30p.m at Adforton Village Hall.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Clerk Maureen Robinson
 RFO Andy Gray
 Ward Cllr Carole Gandy
 Footpaths Officer Mike Oliver
 Locality Steward Mike Brookes
 6 members of public

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from: Cllrs Harley, Gurney, and Whiteman.

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 where pupils celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday. She provided an update on work to Reeves Lane which is extensive and will last for two to three weeks. Mike Brookes (Locality Steward) gave details of the work and all affected residents have been kept informed. There was a discussion over communication with Balfour Beatty and the attitude of some staff to PC's. Senior staff have been made aware. Cllr Gandy had sent photos of Church Cottage at Adforton to Debbie Crowley at HC following concerns over its condition. The grass is being cut and the house appears to be maintained. It was **AGREED** to find out who the owners are but unlikely any enforcement action will be initiated at present. Carole had also visited the Old Chapel and taken photos. She was very concerned by the state of the roof and the fact the building is insecure. She felt if children or rough sleepers entered they could be seriously injured by the roof collapsing. Mark Tansley from the Planning Dept will investigate if the building can be secured as a minimum. Cllr Gandy had also written to Balfour Beatty about the appalling state of litter bins. A new 2 person team will now service Mortimer Ward but Carole encouraged Cllrs to let her know if this continues to be an issue and it will also be monitored by Balfour Beatty. Due to financial constraints Balfour Beatty will only provide 150 sandbags which can be filled for a charge. From April 2017 no free sandbags will be provided on a priority basis. Carole reported that Balfour Beatty will only spray noxious plants such as Japanese Knotweed and Ragwort and any other spraying will be done by the Lengthsman. Finally, Carole said that all existing TRO's (Traffic Regulation Orders) are under review as some are very old. In future an early assessment will be made of requests when support for the TRO will be established and Ward Members and Parishes can conduct formal and informal consultation with affected residents. A fast track service will also be introduced where the applicant may be prepared to fund the TRO

3.2 The Locality Steward - Mike reported that litter collection was improving and that Balfour Beatty had finalised their Annual Plan. 20+ members of staff had been lost due to budget cuts. Pot holes are being repaired more thoroughly. The drainage work to Reeves Lane will be paid for from the Capital budget and in future white lines will only be painted outside schools and accident blackspots. There are now 2 jettors

and drainage issues are being addressed across Mortimer Ward with a new team in post. It was **AGREED** to put together a list of all culverts across Border Group (Cllr Chilman and Lengthsman to action)

3.3 Reports from Chair/ Councillors – Cllr Derrick had attended HALC training on Chairmanship and found it extremely useful. He reported on the Chair and Clerks Meeting on 8th June where once again speeding had been a hot topic.

3.4 A resident asked when Adforton Green would be cut as the grass is very long and Cllr Chilman confirmed it would be strimmed. Concern was expressed over the condition of the road from Lingen to Wigmore via Deerfold. Potholes had been filled in but the road condition remained very poor. Another resident expressed frustration that no action had yet been taken by HC to force the owner of the Old Chapel to undertake remedial work as it was in a dangerous condition in his opinion. Church Cottage was also discussed and it was reported that the owners do visit but no-one has lived there regularly for over 27 years. It is Grade 11 listed and Cllr Walker has written to Historic England for advice.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 17th May 2016

These were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman with the name of Cllr Gandy moved to ‘in attendance’

5. Finance

5.1 Following discussions with current RFO and HALC, the Clerk offered to take on the role. It will be put forward for approval at July meeting. Thanks were recorded to Andrew Gray for his high standards and efficiency as RFO for the last 3 years. (Andrew has kindly agreed to continue to do the Payroll)

The following payments were **ACCEPTED** and cheques raised:

5.2 It was **AGREED** to pay Clerk’s expenses of £116.20 for June (chq no 101601)

5.3 It was **AGREED** to pay £1,542 to Andrew Deptford for defibrillator at Lingen Village Hall (chq no 101604)

5.4 Payment of £642.50 **NOTED** from Lingen VH towards cost of defibrillator

5.5 It was **AGREED** to pay £48 to Lingen Village Hall (NDP meeting) (chq no 101602)

5.6 It was **AGREED** to pay £ 20 to Brampton Bryan VH for Parish Meeting (chq no 101606)

5.7 it was **AGREED** to pay £14 to Adforton VH for Parish Meeting (chq no 101605)

5.8 It was **AGREED** to pay £30 towards upkeep of Lingen Chapel Churchyard (chq no 101607)

5.9 It was **AGREED** to pay £120 to Sue Hackett, Internal Auditor (chq no 101603)

5.10 The Accounts were approved, and Annual Return paperwork completed. Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Walker. The IA report had raised issues around the rate of mileage paid to Clerk and Staff costs which in the past had included amounts for the Lengthsman and P3. This year only the Clerk’s salary is included so this will need to be shown as a variance. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk should claim 45p per mile in future for travel on behalf of Parish Council

5.11 The BGPC Asset register was approved. Proposed by Clr Brown and seconded by Cllr Chilman

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 – The total amount due is £7,000 and will be paid in monthly instalments to HC. The portion of funds due to BGPC will then be passed on.

6.3 BGPC Planning Policy – it was **AGREED** to ask Planning dept if comments can be submitted after deadline stated in notification letter for applications that come in between meetings and insert this after the first paragraph of BGPC Planning Policy. It was also **AGREED** to replace ‘planning book’ at points 3, 9. and 10. with ‘electronic folder on Parish Council computer’

7. Neighbourhood Plan

7.1 The agenda of 14.6.16 had not indicated that the Plan was due to be approved. Therefore any decision on this item was null and void and will be deferred to a later date. A discussion took place over 2 sites in Lingen which had been removed with one being put back in on the advice of the Planning officer. A proposal by Cllr Walker to amend the Plan ?? was not seconded and therefore fell. Thanks were recorded to all members of Steering group for their hard work in bringing the Plan to this stage.

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, presented an update on P3 matters : strimming has commenced; a dangerous footbridge at Lingen is now even worse (previously reported to Balfour Beatty); signs and posts are needed for ROW on Harley’s Mountain and a fresh list of these has been given to Mike Brookes. A discussion followed over the recent notification from Balfour Beatty that in future all materials will need to be paid for out of Parish Council funds and Mike O felt this would lead to a less standardised scheme. (The P3 scheme itself will cease to receive any funding from HC in 2019/20.)

8.2. Lengthsman Scheme – grass cutting has started (in addition to work carried out by Balfour Beatty on highways). The drain at Birtley is running but not at optimum level. Advice from Balfour Beatty is that jetting is beneficial to remove soil from drains.

8.3 Request from resident for sign at entrance to Reeves Lane – can only be erected on private land, not highway. BGPC would pay for the sign only. It was **AGREED** to keep on agenda for next meeting. It was reported a property at Orchard Close, Adforton had also requested a sign.

8.4 Reeves Lane closure noted. Tarmac has now been laid and the road should re-open by the weekend , weather permitting. It is a temporary fix which should last 12 months. The long term plan is to improve the culvert to remove water which is eroding the surface.

8.5 Traffic mirror Reeves Lane – a site meeting took place between Chair, Clerk and Simon Hobbs from HC. It was **AGREED** to purchase a ‘Rocksure’ model at a cost of £435.95, with a post of 4.5 metres which Cllrs Chilman and Barnett agreed to source. The lengthsman will charge £100 to install it. Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Walker.

8.6 SIDs -discussions on- going. Leintwardine GPC have indicated they would be interested in ‘sharing ‘our SID but still some way off. **AGREED** to keep on agenda and to set closing date of June 30th on website for responses to SID consultation

8.7 Solutions to road condition from Adforton to Letton – none viable currently

9. To approve BGPC Risk management Schedule. Approved- proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded Cllr Pritchard

10. Action on vacant and dilapidated properties – no action. To remain on agenda

11. Community Litter Pick – thanks were recorded to Simon Brown for his efforts in tackling litter locally. Balfour Beatty can provide equipment and collect waste. Need to decide which areas worst affected and advertise the event. **AGREED** to keep on agenda

12 Rights of Way –no action, to remain on agenda

13. Free defibrillator training at Ludlow – Noted

14. Items for Information sheet noted but no summary sheet circulated.

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

Traffic mirror; SIDS; Community Litter Pick; Rights of Way; Vacant and dilapidated properties; Transparency Code

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.05 p.m. The next Meeting will take place at Brampton Bryan Village Hall on Tuesday 19th July 2016.

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