

Border Group Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 20th September 2016 at 7.30p.m. at Lingen Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Phillip Barnett, Maggie Brown, Steve Chilman, Clive Gurney, Susan Harley, Trevor Pritchard, John Walker, Simon Whiteman (acting Chair)

In attendance:

Clerk Maureen Robinson

Ward Cllr Carole Gandy

Footpaths Officer – Mike Oliver

6 members of public

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from: **None**

2. Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensations

Ref item 5 on the NP: Cllr Barnett (DPI), and Cllr Harley (non DPI) due to her son Edward's connection to the Harley Estate. (This meant that Cllr Barnett had to leave the room for the duration of the discussion and Cllr Harley could remain but with no vote). No requests for dispensations

3. Open Session – brief verbal reports received from:

3.1 Cllr Gandy presented her report which began with news of a new planning policy by HC to allow the public to be more involved in Planning decisions. It is recognised that in rural areas with less dense populations, the number of comments needed to succeed in having an application referred to the Planning Committee often fall below those in a more urban area and so are less likely to be heard. Cllr Gandy also clarified that consultations only start once the notice is posted.

She urged everyone to respond to the Budget Consultation by HC as last year the public response to the closure of libraries had resulted in a change of outcome.

Similarly people were encouraged to respond to the Bus Consultation and BGPC will submit its comments.

There was a discussion over the Old Chapel in Adforton which Cllr Gandy believed had now been made secure according to the owner. Cllr Gandy had asked the Building Control officer to confirm this. The owner also claims to have submitted a planning application but no officer was aware of this to date

3.2 The Locality Steward was not present but Cllr Harley reported that work had been carried out to secure the river bank on the C1002 below Parsons Pole Bridge

3.3 Reports from Chair/ Councillors –Cllr Whiteman as acting Chair read out the resignation letter of Cllr Derrick and it was agreed by all it was a very sad day for BGPC. It was **AGREED** to write to Paul to thank him for all his hard work on behalf of local residents and to put his letter on the BGPC website with our response. This was proposed by Cllr Gurney and seconded by Cllr Walker.

Cllr Walker presented his report on the meeting he attended at HC on the Budget Consultation on July 28th HC has an agreement for funding until 2020 but after that there will be no more funding from Central government apart from the Revenue support grant. £28 million has to be saved by 2020. It is crucial to attract more businesses to Herefordshire as business rates will become the primary source of income after this date. Given the rural nature of Herefordshire ideally these new ventures will be 'tech-based' and not reliant on transport links etc .It is envisaged that

an increasing number of services will be ‘ devolved’ to local communities e.g. a Good Neighbour Scheme has been set up in Orleton and Yarpole which can be run by volunteers. It was **AGREED** to send comments from BGPC on the budget proposals to HC. Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Brown.

Cllr Walker summarised the meeting regarding TRO’s that there is a waiting time of 2years but if applicants are prepared to pay a minimum of £4000 the application will be fast tracked.

Cllr Gurney introduced the new manager of Mill Cottage at Paytoe which looks after young people in care. A good relationship has been established with the local community and prompt action is taken to address any issues. There are currently 4 young people accommodated and Cllr Gandy said she had been very impressed with the work carried out there.

Cllr Whiteman had attended Kingsland PC meeting and reported they were already applying their NP to planning applications

3.4 Local residents – one resident spoke of his anger and distress at the resignation of the Chairman and felt Cllr Derrick had been unfairly targeted by a small section of residents. The issue of gritting the stretch of road for the school bus on the C1007 from Birtley to Brampton Bryan was raised again and also noisy BT manhole covers in Brampton Bryan which rattle when traffic goes over them. It was **AGREED** to ask the Locality Steward re the gritting. No decision on manhole cover.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 19th July 2016 and the Extraordinary Meeting on June 30th

The former were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman. The latter were amended **at item 2** to: Cllr Harley declared a non-pecuniary interest ‘**due to her son, Edward Harley’s connection to the Estate**’ and signed the book. The Minutes were then APPROVED with the change initialled by the Chair and Clerk.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

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

Cllr Barnett left the room prior to discussion. Cllr Chilman reported that Paul Derrick had asked for clarification on some points from HALC who are still to respond. It was proposed to wait for that advice and bring it to the October meeting as important we are clear on correct way forward. A request was made to circulate any advice/options received prior to the meeting.

6. Finance

6.1. The Clerk presented the quarterly report (April –June 16). Current account balance on June 29th was £10,309.13. The Clerk also reported that a statement had been received showing a balance of £7, 650.91 in the Highway Maintenance account. BGPC had requested closure of this and the separate P3 account in February 16 and for any monies to be transferred to the current account. It was **AGREED** to write to Barclays again as they had failed to carry out this instruction.

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

6.2 It was **AGREED** to pay Clerk’s expenses of £144.30 for August and September (chq no 101613)

6.3 It was **AGREED** to pay the Clerk £51.30 for RFO hours for August (chq no 101614)

6.4 It was **AGREED** to pay £36 to HALC for Councillor training on 6th June 16 9 (chq no 101615)

6.5 It was **AGREED** to pay £45.07(total) to Cllr Walker for previous hosting fee (£9.40), current domain hosting fee (£14.99), domain registration (£11.69) and domain transfer (£8.99) in connection with BGPC website. (chq no 101617)

6.6 To consider purchase of name signs for Reeves Lane and Orchard Close – approx. £80 each. Following discussion it was **AGREED** Cllr Gandy would write back to resident of Reeves Lane to inform her BGPC would not supply a sign. Cllr Walker to follow up with residents of Orchard Close in Adforton regarding their request for a sign and report back in October

6.7 It was **AGREED** to pay £606 to Purrfect Cat hire (Lengthsman Scheme) inv 685. (chq no 101616)

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

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: 161977 Limebrook Cottage , Lingen, Bucknell, Herefordshire SY7 0EB

DESCRIPTION: Erection of portal frame agricultural building as a store (stock and implements)

APPLICANT(S): Mr Steve Cresswell

GRID REF: OS 337345, 266085

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

WEBSITE LINK: <http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/searchplanningapplications>

The Planning Group consisting of Cllrs Derrick (Chair), Brown, Chilman and Barnett and the Clerk, met at the site on 31.8.16 to consider comments. Cllr Barnett declared a non – pecuniary interest (as friend of the owner), signed the declaration of interest book and took part in the discussion only. Comments were then forward to the Planning dept and can be viewed on the HC website. Ward Cllr Gandy added that the Planning officer was still considering this application and had requested more details.

7.2 Standing item : ref. use of Planning Obligation Agreement s106 monies in respect of Home Farm, Lingen. Ref DCNW/2008/3016/F, 113046/F. Negotiations still on- going

8. Highways

8.1 P3 (footpaths) – Mike Oliver (Footpaths Officer) reported that no work had been carried out recently but future projects include routine strimming on ROW in Adforton and Lingen area; several marker posts and markers required on BB1; wooden steps for Globe Wood; 3 metal kissing gates for Lingen area. Mike outlined some challenges with purchase of materials and repayment to Joe Thomas. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that BGPC would need to be presented with a list of materials for approval and could then be invoiced directly and payment made from P3 funds. It was queried if BGPC could reclaim any VAT. Clerk to find out.

8.2. Lengthsman Scheme –Lengthsman to install traffic mirror and post on private land opposite Reeves Lane. Proposed by Cllr Chilman and seconded by Cllr Walker with no objections. Cllr Chilman to ask lengthsman re filling sandbags (free from Balfour Beatty but we must supply our own sand). Ditching has been carried out across the Parish with grips and culverts jetted at Buckton and Lingen. Drainage at Stonybridge farm continues to be an issue with water running across the road with nowhere to go. Cllr Chilman said the Locality Steward would come back to him about this but it has been looked by the Drainage team from Balfour Beatty. Given current financial constraints it may fall back on BGPC to consider action.

8.3 Diversion of lorries at Limebrook – given there are already signs indicating this is unsuitable for heavy traffic, it was felt there was little BGPC could do apart from ask residents to note the name of the companies concerned. Ward Cllr Gandy pointed out there is software available which overlays satellite navigation systems and informs

drivers if roads are unsuitable but this depends on individual companies purchasing it. Another solution might be to erect additional signs but these would need to be on private land.

8.4 Letton Lane – a number of potholes have been filled in but the underlying issue is drainage with water running off the bank and eroding the road surface. It was queried why the Locality Steward could not report potholes on his routine journeys around the County as U roads are otherwise only inspected annually.

9. Vacant and dilapidated properties – no change. See item 3.1 under Cllr Gandy’s report

10. Gypsy and Traveller Sites Consultation – BGPC responded and all comments will be made available on consultation website in due course

11. Bus Consultation Survey – response formulated by BGPC and sent to HC

12. To note the Information Sheet/ Correspondence received and responded to - NOTED

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

- **Election of Chair**
- **Vacancy for a Councillor for Buckton and Coxall following the resignation of Paul Derrick**
- **To set Budget and Precept for 2016/17**
- **To review Clerk’s hours and Role**
- **To consider adopting HC’s ‘Unreasonable Behaviour’ Policy**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.14 p.m. The next Meeting will take place at Adforton Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th October 2016. **NB** This meeting is a week later than normal.

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