

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 21st March 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Lingen Village Hall.***

*Due to not being able to gain access to the Hall, at 7.45, with no members of the public in evidence, it was decided to hold the meeting at the Chairman's house

Present:

Councillors: Phillip Barnett, Maggie Brown, Clive Gurney, Susan Harley, John Walker, Simon Whiteman (Chair)

In attendance:

Clerk/RFO Maureen Robinson
Ward Cllr Carole Gandy
No members of public

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from: Cllrs Dixon, Pritchard and Chilman due to other commitments

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 Gandy presented her report which included an update on the Planning application at Togpen which has still not been determined. The Landscape Officer found the proposal acceptable as the policy has changed but the Conservation Officer was not satisfied. The plans have gone back to the agent to consider if they wish to make any amendments. A decision should have been made by the Planning dept by the April PC meeting. Ward Cllr Gandy reported on a meeting she attended regarding the Sustainable Transformation Policy which discussed the level of engagement with the process. The BBC has had several items on this topic and she felt most residents in the City and market towns would be aware of its existence but rural areas less so. Given the deterioration in Health Service finances since they were first written, Ward Cllr Gandy expressed her personal view that many, if not all, Plans would need to be revised. Finally Ward Cllr Gandy encouraged residents to make use of a new website set up by HC called 'WISH'. This gives details for GP's, members of the public and organisations, of services for children and adults in Herefordshire. A consultation is on-going over the future of the walk-in Centre at ASDA. It may be taken over by Taurus (which provides the out of hours service) but on an appointments basis.

3.2 Locality Steward – not present

3.3 PCSO Pete Knight – not present

3.4 Chair and Councillors reports – none

3.5 Local residents – none

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting – 21st February 2017**

These were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman with corrections at ' **In attendance** –removal of name of Locality Steward and addition of PCSO ; **at item 4** –Minutes of previous meeting.. should read **17th January 2017; item 7 Planning** – sec 215 notice.. should read .. **to be sent..**'

5. **Finance**

5.1 It was **AGREED** to pay Clerk's expenses of £69.00 for March (chq no 101642)

5.2 It was **AGREED** to pay £8.00 to Lingen VH (NP surgery inv 1137, chq no 101640)

- 5.3 It was **AGREED** to pay £32.00 to Lingen VH (inv 1132, chq no 101640)
5.4 It was **AGREED** to pay £10 to Leintwardine Centre (NP surgery, inv T16-098, chq no 101641)
5.5 It was **AGREED** to pay £20 to Brampton Bryan VH (chq no 101645)
5.6 It was **AGREED** to pay £457.84 for HALC/NALC subscription, (inv 7263, chq no 101643)
5.7 It was **AGREED** to pay £86 for Clerk to join SLCC (chq no 101644)

Payments were approved. Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Brown

6. Planning

6.1 **To consider comments to Herefordshire Council on the following:** None received

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

7. Neighbourhood Plan

7.1 No update was available beyond all responses to formal consultation were being collated by Bill Bloxsome.

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) – awaiting delivery of materials agreed at last meeting.

8.2. Lengthsman Scheme – it was reported that the lengthsman had succeeded in unblocking the culvert at Reeves Lane. Ward Cllr Gandy circulated the list of jobs the lengthsman can undertake and this will be put on the BGPC website. A blocked pipe was reported at Marsh Bank, Birtley. Cllr Whiteman to advise lengthsman (via Cllr Chilman)

8.3 SIDS -it was reported that Balfour Beatty is currently only asking for existing sites to register. It was queried if the devices do alter motorists' behaviour long term leading to a reduction in speeding. The condition of Reeves Lane was raised again and Ward Cllr Gandy reported that it is not on the current list of works. The Portfolio holder for Highways stated that bearing in mind prioritisation, we should not get our hopes up although the list of works for 17/18 has not yet been confirmed.

9. **To consider** vacant premises locally – Ward Cllr Gandy reported that the owner of the Old Chapel is only currently making good so no planning permission required. Carole asked to be kept informed if no signs of improvement and also to keep a photographic record of any works (or lack of). A discussion took place over the number of vacant properties and what can be done -it appears very little as they are not in a sufficiently poor state of repair

10. **Parliamentary Boundary** Review Consultation – a discussion took place over the effect on the local area. Ward Cllr Gandy expressed the opinion that this review would not take place during this Parliament as the aim had been to reduce the no. of MP's and make the Electoral areas more equitable. With Brexit, the number of MEP's would fall so there would be some saving there. It was **AGREED** to formally object and suggest N. Herefordshire should be maintained as an entity.

11. **Community Payback Service** – no call for this at present but decided to bear in mind for future

12. **To record decisions** made at December meeting ref Clerk's employment – the Chair summarised the discussion that the Council was satisfied with the Clerk's performance. Should there be a significant increase in work load in the future (as with the FOI requests recently) then it may have to be covered elsewhere. The issue of annual appraisal was felt by some to be old hat but an informal review

should still take place. It was felt that as a good employer the PC should review the Clerk’s contract periodically and make sure the Council was fulfilling their obligations e.g. holiday pay (which the Clerk does not currently receive). It was **AGREED** the Clerk would research this and report back. The Clerk’s contract will next be reviewed in November 17

13. Great British Spring Clean 4th March – Cllr Brown did a litter pick on March 4th along with 2 members of the public. Several volunteers collect litter on a regular but informal basis. The possibility of the lengthsman picking up litter was discussed but time and safety constraints were a concern. It was suggested that any heavy items could be collected by him. It was **AGREED** to put something on the BGPC website asking residents to let us know which areas they clear and if they need help with heavy items.

14. To note Information sheet/ Correspondence received and responded to. **NOTED (No correspondence received)**

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

- Dates and agenda items for Annual Parish Meetings/ Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
- Summary from Footpaths Officer re P3 work to date
- Update on drainage by Stoneybridge Farm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.40 p.m. The next Meeting will take place at Adforton Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th April 2017

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