

Border Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 7.00 pm at Lingen Village Hall. (Incorporating the monthly Parish Council Meeting)

Present

Councillors: Philip Barnett , Maggie Brown, Steve Chilman, Tom Dixon, Clive Gurney, Trevor Pritchard, John Walker & Simon Whiteman.

In attendance: 1 member of the public

Clerk Maureen Robinson

Ward Councillor Carole Gandy

Footpaths Officer Mike Oliver

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Whiteman indicated he would not be standing for re-election. Nominations were requested with Cllr Gurney proposing Cllr Brown seconded by Cllr Walker. Following a vote with all in favour, Cllr Brown was duly elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Former chairman Simon Whiteman thanked all Councillors for their support and received thanks in return.

1.2 It was AGREED that a one-year tenure as Chair would be introduced from May 17

2. Election of Vice- Chairman

Cllr Whiteman was the only nomination and therefore elected to the office of Vice – Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr Dixon and seconded by Cllr Walker

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Harley

4. Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensations

None

5. Open Discussion

5.1 Ward Cllr Carole Gandy:

Cllr Gandy began by reporting that broadband was still an issue in some areas e.g. Buckton where Shropshire council is connecting fibre to the property not the exchange. Gigaclear will have to pick up any affected properties. Balfour Beatty's Annual Plan was discussed and it appears there are no resources to fill category 3 potholes – (Cllrs were assured that potholes were not being re-categorised!). There was a feeling of a general deterioration in service as happened with Amey previously.

A discussion took place over the condition and number of potholes across the County and it was estimated that the current budget allowed 8 potholes to be filled per mile of road. Cllr Dixon suggested sending a letter of complaint to Balfour Beatty as Wigmore GPC had done. Clerk to draft and circulate.

Cllr Dixon also raised the on- going repair to Leintwardine bridge and was told by Ward Cllr Gandy that other bridges were in a worse state

5.2 Reports from Chairman/Councillors/Annual Parish Meetings

The Chair Simon Whiteman gave his report. Verbal reports were received from individual Cllrs for Adforton, Brampton Bryan and Lingen incorporating their respective hamlets. Residents who attended were asked their views on raising the Precept in future to cover services like grass cutting and the Lengthsman scheme and this was broadly supported. The state of the roads and provision of

broadband was also a hot topic. It emerged that only Brampton Bryan had received leaflets asking for residents' views. Copies of all reports can be found on BGPC website www.bordergroup-pc.org.
5.2.1 Cllr Dixon reported on a meeting he and the Clerk attended on Submission and Examination of Neighbourhood Plans.

5.4 **To hear views of local residents on Parish Matters** – nothing raised

6. Minutes of the previous meeting – 25.4.17

The minutes of the April meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendments : **item 3.1** addition of 'tonnes' after 200,000'; **item 10** ..'AGREED to deliver leaflets around BG Parishes re rise in Precept' and **item 8**... removal of wording 'this will be carried out by lengthsman as a contractor'

7. Finance:

7.1 The Internal Auditor's report was NOTED and it was AGREED to close the Savings account in line with her recommendation. (Funds to be transferred to Current a/c). Clerk to follow up and report back at June meeting

7.2 It was AGREED to renew insurance with Zurich for 1 year as premium substantially less at £167.44. Proposed by Cllr Dixon and seconded by Cllr Whiteman – all in favour

7.3 It was AGREED to pay Clerk's expenses of £153.68 (chq no 101651)

7.4 It was AGREED to pay £16 for hire of Lingen VH inv 1149 (chq no 101652)

7.5 It was AGREED to pay £24 for hire of Adforton Church Hall (chq no 101653)

7.6 It was AGREED to pay £20 for hire of Brampton Bryan Parish Hall (chq no 101654)

7.7 It was AGREED to pay £90 to A. Holmes for Clerk's new monitor (chq no 101655)

7.8 It was AGREED to keep existing Standing Orders and review changes to Financial Regulations at June meeting

7.9 It was AGREED to circulate Risk Management policy for approval in June

7.10 It was AGREED to approve Asset Register in June.

Payments were approved – all in favour.

8. Neighbourhood Plan – there will be a meeting of the Steering group at 7pm on 6th June at Lingen Village Hall to review progress

9. The Old Chapel, Adforton – no change

10. Highways

10.1. Lengthsman - strimming/cleaning around road signs; litter picking and opening grips. The Green at Adforton has also been cut and the bin emptied at the bus shelter in Brampton Bryan

10.2 P3 – Mike Oliver (Footpaths Officer) presented his report which included an update on strimming and the new steps at Globe Wood – both of which will be undertaken shortly. There had been a report from a member of the public about an unsafe foot bridge in the vicinity of Abbey Court farm near Adforton (AF10) and Mike explained that this footpath had been closed for some years and a notice posted to that effect. The responsibility for foot bridges over 3 metres rests with Balfour Beatty but the cost of a replacement is in the region of £12,000 so unlikely in current financial climate. Ward Cllr Gandy agreed to follow up with PROW officer at Balfour Beatty

10.3 Review of gritting route for school bus from Lingen to Birtley –it was requested that the C1007 be added as a primary route as currently only the C1006 is gritted which is not used by the school bus. Ward Cllr Gandy agreed to follow up.

11. Cllrs noted need to update Register of Interest where relevant

12. Planning: To be considered by the Planning Committee on 17th May at 10.00 at the Shirehall, Hereford. Ward Cllr Gandy to attend. NOTED

**SITE
DESCRIPTION:**

**Togpen, Willey Lane, Lower Willey,
Presteigne, Herefordshire LD8 2LU
A Retrospective Planning Application for
Four Small Outhouses, changes to th
Entrance on the Public Road, the inclusion
of a Wood Burning Stove, the Erection of
Fences outside the Development Area and
the Resultant Increase in the Curtilage**

**APPLICATION NO
APPLICATION TYPE**

**162900
Full Householder**

12.2 Standing item : ref. use of Planning Obligation Agreement s106 monies in respect of Home Farm, Lingen. Ref DCNW/2008/3016/F, 113046/F. Ward Cllr Gandy reported that she was going to speak to the Director, Geoff Hughes, as still no response received from Yvonne Coleman

13. To review ‘Unreasonable Behaviour Policy’ –AGREED to defer to June and ask HALC for a copy of their policy

14. The Information Sheet was noted.

15. Matters raised for the next meeting: Thursday 22nd June at Brampton Bryan VH at 7.30 pm

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

SIGNED **DATE**