

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 18th July 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Adforton Village Hall.**

Present:

Councillors: Phillip Barnett, Maggie Brown (Chair), Tom Dixon, Clive Gurney, Susan Harley, Trevor Pritchard, Simon Whiteman

In attendance:

Clerk/RFO Maureen Robinson
Ward Cllr Carole Gandy
3 members of public

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from: Cllrs Chilman and Walker; Footpaths Officer, Mike Oliver

2. Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensations: Cllr Gurney ref item 6.2 Planning and Cllr Harley ref item 7 – Neighbourhood Plan. 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 Old Chapel – see item 10; information on the ‘Leader ‘Fund to support rural businesses; Tourism in Herefordshire initiative; the locality steward will take another look at the footpath at Abbey Court Farm (AF10) once the crops are harvested; some residents reported having ‘Smart meters’ installed but these will not work where there is no mobile signal and utility companies are failing to make necessary checks. Ward Cllr Gandy praised the Good Neighbour Scheme which is running in Orleton and suggested BGPC might consider something similar. (Vetting costs have been met by the Hereford Diocese) and finally she reported that Herefordshire Council is bidding for every possible pot of funding to pay for pot hole repairs

3.2 Chair and Councillors reports –Cllr Brown (Chair) reported on a training session on the Transparency Code and Lengthsman Scheme at HALC which she agreed to circulate. It appears the Lengthsman Scheme will have to be officially devolved to the PC and not simply taken over when the funding stops in 2019/20

Cllr Gurney reported on a useful meeting held with the Clerk and the new manager of Mill Cottage at Paytoe who is very keen to work with the PC to resolve any issues (There are currently 3 young people accommodated)

3.3 Local residents – the diagram from the recent consultation showing a possible site in Walford was queried and it was thought there may have been a drawing error by the consultant. As Cllr Chilman was on holiday, no-one present was able to add anything further. There will be a Steering Group meeting on 1st August at Lingen to which all residents are invited. Ward Cllr Gandy added that central government had imposed these targets (16,000 new homes across Herefordshire) on the Local Authority but felt it was important to point out that just because a site had been identified, it did not mean it would automatically be built on. There will be a further 6 week consultation once the Plan has been submitted to HC and there will be no compulsory purchase of land etc.

Residents also asked for a definition of ‘sustainable drainage’ given Walford is a flood risk

4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 22nd June 2017

These were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair.

5. Finance

- 5.1 The Accounts for April to June 17 were approved. It was **AGREED** to defer budget discussion as too early in the financial year
- 5.2 It was **AGREED** to pay the Clerk's expenses of £85.81 for July chq no 101663. Clerk's expenses for utility costs were reviewed and it was **AGREED** to pay £40 per month towards electricity and heating. Proposed by Cllr Dixon and seconded by Cllr Barnett. (6 in favour and 1 against). The payroll manager will be asked to add this sum to August payroll.
- 5.3 Correction **NOTED** – the Expense claim in June had been recorded the wrong way round (£40 for phone, instead of £40 for utilities and £20 for phone). This had been corrected and initialled by Chair and Clerk. It was **CONFIRMED** that £40 per month would be paid towards Clerk's utility expenses for home office.
- 5.4 It was **AGREED** Clerk would organise a mobile phone for BGPC use from 1st August (to replace home phone) at a cost of approx. £10 per month. To be reviewed in October.
- 5.5 It was **AGREED** to pay £30 towards Churchyard maintenance at Lingen Chapel – chq no101665
- 5.6 It was **AGREED** to pay £16.00 to Lingen Village Hall – chq no 101666
- 5.7 It was **AGREED** to reimburse Cllr Walker £11.99 (the invoice to TSO Host) chq no 101664
- 5.8 VAT reclaim of £911.71 **NOTED**

Payments were approved. Proposed by Cllr Dixon, seconded Cllr Whiteman. All in favour.

6. Planning

6.1 To consider comments to Herefordshire Council on the following applications:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:	172030 - Dairyhouse Farm, Lingen, Bucknell, Herefordshire SY7 0DZ
DESCRIPTION:	Replace existing agricultural building with new general purpose agricultural storage building
APPLICANT(S):	Mr S G Deakins
GRID REF:	OS 336561, 266535
APPLICATION TYPE:	Planning Permission
WEBSITE LINK:	http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/searchplanningapplications

BGPC did not object to the application

6.2.

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:	172173 - Abbey Court Farm, Wigmore, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9UF
DESCRIPTION:	Construction of new domestic carport.
APPLICANT(S):	Mr Clive Gurney
GRID REF:	OS 340973, 269929
APPLICATION TYPE:	Full Householder
WEBSITE LINK:	http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/searchplanningapplications

Cllr Gurney left the meeting prior to discussion. **BGPC did not object to the application**

6.3 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 was able to report that payments would begin from 31st May. The Clerk has emailed the Planning Obligations Officer to ascertain the amount but in the region of £3,700.

7. Neighbourhood Plan – it was AGREED to move this item up the agenda after item 4.

As little new information was available, a general discussion took place over the struggle to find sites locally due to geography, access etc and it was queried if HC might therefore accept that Border Group is not able to fulfil its allocation given these challenges. Ward Cllr Gandy offered her support to residents in the argument against more development in areas such as Walford with its flood risk. The Clerk had printed a template form to help prepare a funding application but it must be completed online. Up to £9k can be claimed as an additional grant (minus £1,300 claimed in 2016 of which we spent £817.92 on Data Orchard and room hire, then repaid the remainder). It was **AGREED** that Cllr Chilman should be involved and perhaps it could be raised at the Steering Group Meeting on 1st August

The Chair queried who was responsible for NDP finance, Steering Group or BGPC and it was clarified that the Steering Group advises BGPC, with everything signed off and minuted by BGPC. It was estimated that a further £1400 would be required but following discussions it was felt more input was needed from the Steering Group prior to submitting the application.

Minutes/other information from any NP meetings will be made available on the BGPC website - www.bordergroup-pc.org - where a separate page has been set up for access to information around NP

8. Highways

8.1 To consider work to be undertaken under P3 scheme and receive an update on works to date – nothing new to report

8.2 To consider work to be undertaken by Lengthsman – no update available but the issue of verge cutting was discussed and the associated benefits of reducing the number of cuts to encourage wild flowers versus safety of road users and pedestrians. This would clearly vary according to the location but it was felt that although there was also an economic benefit to fewer cuts, it would be dangerous to allow grass to become too long. The problem of noxious weeds taking root within wildflower areas was highlighted.

8.3 Community Speedwatch -it was **AGREED** to explore further. Ward Cllr Gandy provided some publicity about the Scheme. It only operates where Police would not normally carry out speed checks and the locations must specified and safe. Training and equipment is provided. Clerk to contact Scheme Co-ordinator and report back. (Will also liaise with local resident who raised this)

8.4 S106 monies –it was **AGREED** this needed careful consideration as there was some doubt over the effectiveness of SIDs once the initial reaction had worn off and drivers became used to them. Ward Cllr Gandy suggested alternatives such as signs ‘Please drive slowly’ or ‘Thank you for driving slowly’ at entrance to village or signs for resident to display on gates etc.

9. HC Budget Consultation – it was AGREED to formulate a joint response with other PC’s across Mortimer Ward. Proposed to delegate this to Chair and Clerk at a meeting arranged for 20th September. (It should be noted that individuals can also respond to this consultation)
www.herefordshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation

10. To consider vacant premises locally including any update on the Old Chapel Adforton. The s215 notice requiring the owner to carry out significant repairs runs out on 20th July. (Not 12th as previously stated)

11. Phone box at Birtley – need to establish if adopted or not. Chair to report damage to HC and Clerk to contact Parish Liaison officer and report back

12. To note Information sheet/ Correspondence received and responded to. **NOTED**

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

- Phone box at Birtley
- Budget for Neighbourhood Plan
- S106 monies – how best to spend
- Review circulation of Planning application responses to Cllrs
- Code of Conduct training for Cllrs – September tbc

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.30 p.m. The next Meeting will take place at Lingen Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19th September 2017. No meeting in August

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