

BORDER GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 25th January 2021 via Zoom**

Present

Councillors: Steve Chilman (Chairman), Steve Alford, Philip Barnett, Tom Dixon, David Kelly, Trevor Pritchard, Simon Whiteman.

In attendance:

Lynda Wilcox – Clerk Cover from HALC, Ward Councillor Carole Gandy and one local resident.

1. **Apologies for Absence** were accepted from Clive Gurney.
 - 1.1 The Chairman reported that David Kelly had resigned, due to work commitments.
2. **Declarations of Interest & written requests for dispensation ...** There were none.
3. **Open Discussion ...** Brief verbal reports were received from:
 - 3.1 Ward Councillor – Carole Gandy had circulated her report but added the following:
 - 3.1.1 The manhole cover in Adforton had been repaired.
 - 3.1.2 Flooding in Buckton Lane ... A permanent solution was being sought but because the matter was not a high priority on its own, it might be linked with the bridge.
 - 3.2 Chairman & other councillors ... Tom Dixon commented that the Environment Agency report on Leintwardine and Walford was expected during January.
 - 3.3 Views of local residents on parish matters ... No matters raised.
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th December 2020.**

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the above meeting, subject to the following two amendments:

 - 4.1 Item 6.2 ... Replace 'Simon Whiteman' with Steve Chilman.
 - 4.2 Item 9.1 ... Replace 'Whitehead' with 'Whiteman'.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1 Outstanding payments ... There were none.
 - 5.2 2021-2022 Budget ... Following detailed discussion on the financial papers prepared by the outgoing clerk, it was RESOLVED to retain the current budget headings and levels of expenditure.
 - 5.3 Precept for the financial year 2021-2022 ... It was RESOLVED to keep the precept at the same level as the current year - £8,400.00.
6. **Highway related matters**
 - 6.1 Flooding:

- 6.1.1 Tom Dixon reported that Walford had not been a problem, mainly because the Flood Wardens had been out. The work of the Flood Group was commended by parish councillors.
- 6.1.2 It was thought that the sluice was blocked because it didn't appear to be making any difference.
- 6.1.3 Anticipated meetings to discuss flooding issues had not taken place because of lockdown.
- 6.1.4 The water in Paytoe Lane had been waist deep.
- 6.1.5 A local resident who had been flooded four times in twelve months had produced some helpful diagrams which had been sent to Herefordshire Council and the Environment Agency. The diagrams identify where the water first causes a problem and show possible solutions.
- 6.1.6 It was agreed that the Ward Councillor would arrange for the Balfour Beatty Locality Manager to contact the parish council Chairman.
- 6.1.7 The Chairman would arrange for more sandbags to be made up.
- 6.2 Manhole at Adforton ... now fixed (see 3.1.1 above).
- 6.3 Walford Telephone Kiosk ... It was RESOLVED to wait for the new Clerk to progress the matter.

7. **Date of the next meeting ...** It was RESOLVED to hold the next meeting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 16th March via Zoom.

7.1 Items raised for discussion included:

- 7.1.1 The poor state of Stocking Lane – it was understood that Presteigne had sent a letter of complaint to John Harrington (Cabinet Member for Highways). The potholes were so bad that it had been suggested that the lane be removed from the Sustrans Cycle Network.

A resolution was passed to exclude the public from the following confidential employment matter.

8. Employment of new Clerk/RFO:

- 8.1 Members received a verbal report from the Interview Panel (Chairman and Vice Chairman) supported by HALC.
- 8.2 It was RESOLVED to employ the Panel's favoured candidate ... Andrew London.
- 8.3 Following due consideration, it was RESOLVED to adopt the draft contract of employment and offer it to the new Clerk/RFO for signature. The salary level (SCP14) would be based on a 7-hour week.
- 8.4 Engaging a payroll provider ... There was general agreement to seek payroll/pension services and the Chairman would have a conversation with a possible local provider.
- 8.5 It was RESOLVED to fund the Clerk's CiLCA registration and training and it was noted that training costs could be shared with the Clerk's other parish council.

SIGNED DATE