

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2018 AT CAWLEY HALL, EYE, LUSTON

PRESENT: A BRANDISH, E COATES, P EDWARDS, A EGERTON, C PEARSON, R WOOLLEY AND G POULTON.

IN ATTENDANCE: THE REVEREND LADY LISVANE, HIGH SHERIFF OF HEREFORD; WARD COUNCILLOR S BOWEN; R HEWITT (CLERK); AND 5 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

[In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman it was agreed that G Poulton should chair the meeting, with A Egerton deputising.]

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence – K Wood, I Stevens (Chairman) and J Coates (Vice Chairman).

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Disclosable Pecuniary. Cllr. Poulton declared a pecuniary disclosable interest in planning application 172686 Land at The Nest re: Appeal APP/W1850/W/17/3190468.

2.2 Non-disclosable Pecuniary. None.

2.3 Non-Pecuniary. Cllr. Egerton declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 172686 Land at The Nest re: Appeal APP/W1850/W/17/3190468.

2.4 Written requests for dispensation. None.

3. Approval of minutes from 4 December 2017

DECISION: There were two amendments: i) change the honorific of Cllr. E Coates to ‘Ms’; and ii) add ‘Review order of regular agenda items to #18. With these amendments the minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.

4. Matters raised by local residents

Concern was expressed at ongoing reports of noise from the wood chipping facility at The Broad. Ward Cllr. Bowen said concerned residents can always contact the planning officer and environmental health officer at Herefordshire Council in this regard. It is better to report the problem at the time it is happening.

A bridge on a footpath in the field behind the school was reported as being too narrow. The footpath officer will be asked to take a look.

The ‘Slow Down’ sign on the A49 at Ashton was fixed by Highways England on 20 December 2017, but stopped working again shortly afterwards. Ward Cllr. Bowen said the defect has been re-reported, and an update on the scheduling of the work planned on the A49 at the Salwey Arms junction requested.

A blocked ditch was reported on Seggin Lane, which is diverting water on to the road. Ward Cllr. Bowen said this has been shown to the locality steward, but is likely the responsibility of the riparian landowner to clear. The lengthsman will be asked to review and put in new grips as required.

5. Ward Councillor S Bowen's Brief Report (for information only)

Ward Cllr. Bowen provided a written report which was noted by the meeting. Council tax may rise by 5-6 percent in 2018-19. The award from a legal case should be available to benefit the county in the new financial year. Scrutiny has recommended Herefordshire Council acts as the accountable body for the new university. The local Good Neighbour scheme is going well. Bus usage statistics on the 490 service should be available soon, and there has been a pleasing increase in passengers.

6. Tackling Loneliness and the role of Good Neighbour Schemes

The Reverend Lady Lisvane, High Sheriff of Herefordshire talked about the role of the High Sheriff and its history. The High Sheriff brings together a wide range of people with the community they serve, and Lady Lisvane has chosen to champion Loneliness and Good Neighbour Schemes in the county. Lady Lisvane was interested to hear about the Luston Group Good Neighbour initiative.

The Acting Chairman thanked Lady Lisvane for attending the meeting, and for making an interesting presentation.

[Lady Lisvane, High Sheriff of Hereford left the meeting.]

7. Planning

7.1 174119 - The Steppes, Luston, Herefordshire, HR6 0EA. Works to various trees.

COMMENT: The group parish council would like to see the Ash tree (T6) retained. There is no objection to the proposed maintenance work on trees T1-T5.

7.2 APP/W1850/W/17/3190468 Appeal re: 172686 Land at The Nest, Eye Lane, Moreton Eye. Proposed erection of dwelling house on derelict tennis court. To consider whether to make comments, or modify/ withdraw the previous representation on the planning application. **DECISION:** It was agreed to add to the representation of support for planning application 172686 Land at the Nest, Eye Lane, Moreton Eye. The group parish council's view is that the planning application is supported by both Policy RA2 of the Local Plan and Policy LG7 of the Luston Group Neighbourhood Development Plan (which has recently been adopted by Herefordshire Council), contrary to the opinion expressed by Herefordshire Council when refusing the application. The proposed site is located within the Moreton Policies Map, and is contiguous with the built form, as required by Policy LG7. The group parish council believes the planning application meets the criteria highlighted in Policy RA2.

With regard to sustainability and access to local services, the group parish council wishes to point out that Herefordshire is a county with many rural hamlets such as Moreton Eye, all requiring the use of cars by their residents.

7.3 Update on planning decisions/ enforcement by Herefordshire Council. Works to trees have been allowed in respect of 174128, 2 Westland View, 173958 Doreen-A, and 173426, 3 Luston Court Barns. Planning permission has been granted for 173186 The Steppes.

8. Highways and environmental matters

8.1 Maintenance of brook above Luston by riparian owners. The landowner above the school has yet to schedule a date for contractors to clear the brook of obstructing trees. The landowner is aware that the nesting season begins on 1 March 2018. The school has discussed work to clear the brook with a contractor. Ward Cllr. Bowen said the school is to confirm their riparian responsibilities regarding the brook with the Estates Management section of Herefordshire Council. **DECISION:** Follow up with both riparian owners before the next meeting.

8.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. A tree that has fallen in Eyton will be removed shortly by the Vice Chairman. The locality steward has advised that laundry powder should not be used to clear moss as it may get into the drains. **DECISION:** Request the lengthsman looks at the blocked ditch on Seggin Lane and cleans road signs. Ask the locality steward if washing soda can be used to clear moss from the pavements in the group parish. Complete the Expression of Interest in the lengthsman and P3 parish paths schemes in 2018-19.

8.3 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. Ward Cllr. Bowen said a date has been requested for the resurfacing work at Red Hill, Eye Lane, which was postponed due to the icy conditions last month. A concern raised regarding Eye Lane has been reported by Ward Cllr. Bowen. **DECISION:** Report potholes by Eyecote on the B4361.

8.4 SID speed data collected from October-November 2017 deployment in Luston. The 85th percentile figures for the latest deployment of the SIDs from 30 October-28 November 2017 recorded average speeds just below the threshold for enforcement according to West Mercia Police. **DECISION:** Monitor speed data from the SIDs. The next deployment will be at the end of January 2018.

8.5 New filters at pumping station. **DECISION:** Ask residents to think about what they flush down the toilet to minimise the risk of new filters installed by Welsh Water at the pumping station getting blocked. Residents will be asked via the regular Council Matters article, and the Clerk was asked to request that Yarpole Group Parish Council support this as the pumping station serves their residents as well. Confirm with Welsh Water the reason for the fitting of the new filter.

9. Finance

9.1 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman – £696.00
Leominster Town Council, cold fill tarmac – £719.52
The Clerk (salary, December 2017) – £479.01

An updated breakdown of lengthsman and footpaths expenditure highlighted an overspend of £471.60 on lengthsman work to date in 2017-18. **DECISION:** Payments were approved and cheques signed. The lengthsman will only undertake essential repairs for the remainder of 2017-18.

9.2 Review direct debit payments:

Airband, broadband service January 2018 – £60.00

DECISION: The agreed direct debit payment was noted.

9.3 Consider cost of upgrading the website to provide a secure connection (padlock displays in top left of page). **DECISION:** The one-off cost of £125.00 for the website contractor to deliver a secure website was agreed.

10. Specification for mini-library in the adopted Luston telephone kiosk

The adoption of the telephone kiosk has been completed, and BT has made arrangements for the telephony to be removed. BT Payphones will continue to be responsible for the electrical supply and any payments to the electricity companies for that supply but reserves the right to disconnect the electricity supply at some point in the future. **DECISION:** Request a quotation for the installation of shelves (x3) following the removal of the equipment by BT.

11. General Data Protection Regulations and IT

Postponed to the next meeting.

12. Listing of the Old Forge on the A49 at Ashton by Historic England

It was noted that the cluster of buildings, which include the Old Forge, are listed by Historic England, and that the listing is available to view online. **DECISION:** Check whether the listing includes the Victorian post box.

13. New Post box on Eye Lane at Ashton

Royal Mail has written to say that the donated post box is suitable for collections once the lock has been changed, and that a collections service can resume once it is installed. Royal Mail will arrange for the new lock to be fitted. **DECISION:** The owners of Tom's Orchard were thanked for their community spirit in proposing to host the post box in their wall so that a collections service can resume at Ashton.

14. Order of regular agenda items

DECISION: The management working group was asked to review the order of regular items on the agenda.

15. HALC in-house training session

DECISION: The free in-house training session will be a general introduction to the role of councillor. The Clerk will obtain dates from HALC.

16. Clerk's Report and reports on meetings attended by parish councillors

The Clerk's report was noted.

17. Matters for consideration at the next meeting (no discussion) – Pollarding of trees on public land at the entrance to The Willows, Luston.

18. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 5 February 2018 at Cawley Hall, Eye.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____