

# LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 6 JULY 2020

**Present:** I Stevens (Chairman), C Pearson (Vice Chairman), A Brandish, R Bennett Jones, K Wood, E Coates, J Coates, W Talbot Ponsonby and G Poulton.

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor S Bowen; and R Hewitt (Clerk). One (1) member of the public was present.

### **1. Acceptance of apologies for absence – P Edwards.**

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 Disclosable Pecuniary. None.

2.2 Non-disclosable Pecuniary. None.

2.3 Non-Pecuniary. None.

2.4 Written requests for dispensation. None.

### **3. Approval of Meeting minutes from 1 June 2020**

**DECISION:** The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

### **4. Matters raised by local residents**

Fly tipping on Hill Road towards Lydiatts crossroads and on Croft Lane has been reported to Herefordshire Council by a member of the public. A camera to monitor an area that has frequent incidents of fly tipping was proposed. The parish council asked the Clerk to look into how a camera might be deployed for this purpose.

A member of the public said cycling on Eye Lane had been much safer during lock down due to the lack of traffic and asked about measures that could be taken to improve road safety such as a speed limit. Cllr. Poulton said a request was made to Herefordshire Council a few years ago for the speed limit on Eye Lane to be extended from Luston to Moreton Eye. It was noted that implementation of the speed limit is likely to take some years, and that the list of speed limits is reviewed and re-prioritised by Balfour Beatty on an annual basis. Cllr. J Coates asked whether any new volunteers for the Community Speed Watch scheme had come forward.

Cllr. E Coates reported that the majority of grips along Seggin Lane have been done by Balfour Beatty and expressed a hope that the gullies will follow. Ward Cllr. Bowen kindly said this will be raised with the locality steward.

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

Ward Cllr. Bowen said solutions are being looked at to resolve the phosphates issue, such as integrated wetland systems. The collapse of the ceiling at Shire Hall will likely require major renovation work. In the meantime, Herefordshire Council will need to find an alternative location such as the Town Hall or Three Counties Hotel.

Discussions have been had with the Internal Lugg Drainage Board, and the Environment Agency, which is responsible for the Lugg, has been asked to play its part. The shortfall in funding provided by the government to fix highways damaged by flooding earlier this year has yet to be made up.

## 6. Flooding matters

The Clerk reported on correspondence with the Lugg Internal Drainage Board and Environment Agency and said a complaint about the leaking manhole cover by the telephone kiosk at Luston has been made to the Consumer Council for Water. A Lidar map of Luston and surrounding area provided by a consultant hydrologist was reviewed at the meeting.

**DECISION:** The hydrologist will meet local members at Eyton and Luston to gain a closer understanding of the flooding problems, before providing a quotation for a flood management report and recommendations for both Luston and Eyton.

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

The balance on the bank statement dated 30 June 2020 was noted. Fastershire have awarded a *Keeping Connected* grant of £71.94 for a Zoom subscription. The application for a webcam was refused. The External Auditors have extended the deadline for the 2019-20 Annual Return to 31 August 2020. A summary of highway and drainage defects raised with Balfour Beatty was noted, including a request to clear the stones that have built up in the bed of the brook by the exit to the culvert under the B4361 at Luston. The ICO data registration has been renewed. The SIDs have been deployed in Luston for a 2-3-week period and have had the annual maintenance check.

## 8. Planning

**8.1** 201536 Dutch Barn on Land at Field Farm, Moreton Eye, HR6 0DT. Proposed change of use of redundant Dutch Barn to garage and storage facility (Use Class C3). **COMMENT:** Luston Group Parish Council objects to the proposed conversion on the grounds that the drawing provided does not look like a storage facility. The design, modest size and placing of the door and plentiful windows have the appearance of a residential conversion. The parish council is of the opinion that the application should be for conversion to a residential dwelling and that the application should be amended and re-consulted upon accordingly.

**8.2** 201826 13 Westland View, Luston, HR6 0EA. Proposal to works to Oak (T1) - crown raise by 3m - causing excessive shading over the house and garden and Oak (T2) - side reduction of 1 branch and crown raise by 3m - causing excessive shading over the garden and house. **COMMENT:** Luston Group Parish Council asks that the tree officer for the county recommends the appropriate work for the trees, taking due account of the setting in the conservation area and their amenity value.

**8.3** 201878 Bank Villa Cottage, Luston, HR6 0EB. T1 - Goat Willow. Pollard to union to remove danger of collapse. T2 -Ornamental Cherry. Fell because of low amenity value, excessive overhang and shading. **COMMENT:** Luston Group Parish Council asks that the tree officer for the county recommends the appropriate work for the trees, taking due account of the setting in the conservation area and their amenity value.

**8.4** 202037 Barn Orchard, Luston, HR6 0EB. T1 Copper Beech and T2 Box Elder - crown thinning/lifting. T3 Leylandi reduce to hedge height 2.5m. **COMMENT:** Luston Group Parish Council asks that the tree officer for the county recommends the appropriate work for the trees, taking due account of the setting in the conservation area and their amenity value.

8.5 Update on planning decisions/ enforcement. Herefordshire Council has granted planning permission for 201157 Eyton Hall. Works to trees have been allowed for 201293 10 Lilac Grove.

The Clerk was asked to contact HALC for advice on site visits by the group parish council tree officer during the Covid 19 pandemic.

## 9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Herefordshire Council's new Drainage Grant. **DECISION:** The parish council agreed to apply for a drainage grant to dig out ditches and reinstate grippers as appropriate along roads in the parish. Where there are pipes instead of ditches, the grant will be used to commission a jetting contractor. Jetting included in the grant application will also cover the drains at Westland View.

9.2 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** To remove 'slow down' sign left by the telephone kiosk and complete work on gullies at Seggin Lane.

9.3 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISION:** Pass report of mud across the footpath by the brook behind Luston to the footpath officer. Request view of footpath officer on proposal to include the PROW number on footpath signs to help walkers find their way around.

## 10. Finance

10.1 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman and P3 footpaths (June 2020) – £198.00  
Clerk, wages (June 2020)

**DECISION:** Payments were approved and will be made by cheque.

10.3 Review direct debit payments:

Airband, broadband service, suspended for July-August 2020.

**DECISION:** The suspended direct debit payments were noted.

10.4 Payments made by the Clerk under delegated powers: None.

10.5 Implementation of electronic banking for payments: **DECISION:** On hold as bank unable to provide electronic banking in line with financial regulations.

## 11. Website accessibility guidelines

Quotation from contractor to update the website to be compliant with accessibility guidelines was considered. **DECISION:** The website contractor's quotation for £150.00 was agreed.

## 12. Matters for consideration at the next meeting (no discussion)

The Chairman kindly agreed to write the next Council Matters article for the Eye.

## 13. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

**DECISION:** The next online group parish council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 3 August 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed as a true record \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_