

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2020

Present: C Pearson (Vice Chairman), A Brandish, R Bennett Jones, K Wood, W Talbot Ponsoby and G Poulton.

In attendance: Mr D Baume, Hook Mason; Ward Councillor S Bowen; and R Hewitt (Clerk). Two (2) members of the public were present.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence – E Coates, P Edwards, J Coates and I Stevens.

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 6 July 2020

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

4. Planning

4.1 Land south of Luston. Proposed erection of five dwellings, pre-application consultation. Mr D Baume, Hook Mason, provided an overview of the proposed development. The parish council noted the proposal and a formal response was reserved for consideration of the planning application. Mr Baume was thanked by the Vice Chairman for consulting with the parish council.

[Mr Baume left the meeting.]

4.2 202141 Merrivale Farm, Brimfield, SY8 4NY. Proposed cattle handling building.

COMMENT: Luston Group Parish Council supports the application.

4.3 201896 and 2011897 Berrington Hall, Berrington, HR6 0DW. Proposed construction of a building to house a new biomass boiler and store, waste bin store, secure storage for machinery and new heat main pipe and services plus demolition of bin store wall.

COMMENT: Luston Group Parish Council supports the planning application and application for listed building consent.

4.4 Update on planning decisions/ enforcement. Herefordshire Council has allowed works to trees for 201878 Bank Villa Cottage and granted consent for 201826 13 Westland View. Planning application 201536 Dutch Barn on Land at Field Farm has been withdrawn.

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

Ward Cllr. Bowen reported on a tour of the roads with Balfour Beatty and said he will speak with Welsh Water to suggest a willow bed-based system of some sort beyond the pumping station. The phosphates review is to be sorted out before the end of the year.

A local Covid 19 outbreak has been well managed by the council. There have been complaints about disruption from new road layouts and pavement extensions introduced at Leominster and Hereford with the intention of helping maintain social distancing. Herefordshire Council is to consider a proposal to borrow £8 million to improve U and C roads in the county. Cllr. Bowen said he is pressing for a long-term asset management plan for the roads. Financial support from government has not funded the extensive road repairs at Fownhope required after heavy rainfall earlier in the year. The velocity patcher is deployed in the south of the county at present.

6. Flooding matters

A letter from Welsh Water was noted. The company has undertaken an internal investigation and committed to investigate further as set out in the letter: “We have recently held a full internal investigation to discuss how we can move forward and help prevent repeat issues. Following the upgrade of the pumps at our sewerage pumping station (SPS) and the discussion of an air lock, I can confirm we will assess the operation of Luston SPS, to ensure it is operating at its maximum efficiency. A further investigation will also be carried out on the network to look for potential causes of infiltration within the area.

“I want to ensure all residents we are committed to help resolve this ongoing issue. Our investigations will be carried out within the next 12 months.”

DECISION: Regular updates on the investigations will be requested from Welsh Water which has assigned a dedicated customer care officer for this purpose.

The Clerk reported that the agreed site meetings with the hydrologist at Eyton and Luston will be towards the end of August. **DECISION:** The Natural Flood Management schemes coordinator at Herefordshire Council will be asked for an update on projects (if any) above Luston with reference to the Cheaton, Cogwell & Ridgemoor brooks NFM Community.

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

The Clerk reported that two volunteers have come forward for the Luston Community Speed Watch scheme and been signposted to the coordinator at West Mercia Police. Once the form provided by the police has been processed, they will arrange training. After looking into the proposal to use CCTV to identify fly-tippers the following will be required: a public space surveillance licence, signs to warn the public of CCTV, separation of filming and recording to be in line with the parish council’s GDPR policies. In light of these requirements it was agreed to take no further action on this matter.

An update on the installation of a water level gauge by the culvert at Luston has been requested from the Natural Flood Management coordinator. The agreed application for a drainage grant has been submitted to Balfour Beatty/ Herefordshire Council.

8. Matters raised by local residents

Cllr. Poulton asked the ward councillor about a ditch on Eye Lane where spoil has been left on the roadside, and why maintenance work at the top of Eye Lane has stopped short of the section of road which causes the road to flood. It was agreed to re-send copies of the drainage layout provided by a member of the public to the new locality steward, and if possible, for Cllr. Poulton to join Ward Cllr. Bowen and the locality steward for a site meeting.

Cllr. Brandish said fly tipping reported to Balfour Beatty has yet to be removed by Herefordshire Council.

9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** Slow flowing drain on B4361 by The Fold, and request for a second drain. Drain blocked with grit on Townsend Park. Potholes on B4361 by start of 30mph zone.

9.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISION:** No action required.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman and P3 footpaths (July 2020) – £168.00

Clerk, Zoom subscription for parish council meetings – £71.94

Clerk, wages (July 2020)

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

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

10.3 Annual Audit 2019-20. **DECISION:** An additional meeting was scheduled for 24 August 2020 in order to complete and submit the annual return by the deadline of 31 August 2020.

11. Resurfacing of Cawley Hall car park

The meeting considered a quotation for developing a plan and specification for the resurfacing of the car park. **DECISION:** Deferred pending receipt of latest accounts for Cawley Hall.

12. SmartWater/ We Don't Buy Crime initiative

A proposal from West Mercia Police was considered. **DECISION:** It was agreed to invite West Mercia Police to attend the September meeting in order to understand more about SmartWater, the offer and the role of the group parish council.

13. Leave of absence

DECISION: Cllr. P Edwards' request for a six month leave of absence was agreed.

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

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

15. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next online group parish council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 24 August 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____