

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

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

In attendance: Ms E Stock, Co-ordinator – We Don't Buy Crime, West Mercia Police; Mr C Nugent, Lidar Logic Ltd; Mr J Hedges, Chair of Governors, Luston Primary School; Ward Councillor S Bowen; and R Hewitt (Clerk). Three (3) members of the public were present as were three (3) members of Richards Castle (Herefordshire) Parish Council.

The Chairman said a few words in memory of the late Cllr. John Coates, who served his community with distinction for nearly fifty years.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence – None.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Disclosable Pecuniary. Cllr. Poulton declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in planning application 202479 Land to the South of Field Farm.

2.2 Non-disclosable Pecuniary. None.

2.3 Non-Pecuniary. None.

2.4 Written requests for dispensation. None.

3. Approval of Meeting minutes from 3 August 2020

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

4. SmartWater for Luston group parishes

Ms E Stock, Co-ordinator – We Don't Buy Crime, West Mercia Police talked about the benefits of being a Smartwater parish, how it gets rolled out, the costs, and the role of the parish council. The Chairman thanked Ms Stock for attending the meeting.

[Ms Stock and three members of Richards Castle (Herefordshire) Parish Council left the meeting.]

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

Ward Cllr. Bowen said EnviroSort has been asked when it might be possible to visit the facility as was planned pre-Covid 19. Shire Hall is in a bad way following the collapse of ceilings and the Grade I listed building will require extensive work. The AGM of the county council will be held soon and Ward Cllr. Bowen said he will be standing for re-election as Chairman of the council. Mr Edward Harley is to be the new Lord Lieutenant.

Cllr. Bowen will undertake a tour of the roads shortly with Balfour Beatty's locality steward and will kindly raise the drainage issue at the end of Eye Lane and in Luston on the B4361 by Tremezzo. Cllr. Poulton asked to meet Ward Cllr. Bowen and the locality steward to review the drainage issue at the end of Eye Lane, and this was agreed.

6. Flooding matters

[Chris Nugent, Lidar Logic Ltd. joined the meeting.] Mr Nugent provided an overview of initial findings from a site meeting at Luston. A phased approach is recommended. Mr Hedges, Chair of Governors, Luston Primary School said that the landowner behind the school has been very helpful and said there is a need to clear the drains on Westland View and culvert under the school.

Engineering options discussed included a bund or leaky dam upstream of the school. It was felt that the Natural Flood Management initiative funded by the Environment Agency may be able to fund projects upstream. Ward Cllr. Bowen said natural flood management techniques such as leaky dams and soil sampling have been proven effective, and the blocked culvert under the school will be raised with the locality steward and senior team at Balfour Beatty.

The Clerk reported that the Natural Flood Management coordinator has said that final projects for the initiative need to be agreed by 31 December 2020 for implementation by 31 March 2021.

[Mr J Hedges and Mr C Nugent left the meeting.]

DECISION: Lidar Logic Ltd. will assess and recommend flood alleviation and mitigation measures for Luston village, subject to an acceptable fee proposal. A budget of £300.00 was agreed for Lidar Logic to visit Eyton and assess the Lugg and related drainage issues. A parish council meeting was scheduled for 7.30pm on Monday 14 September 2020 to review the Lidar Logic fee proposal for Luston.

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

The Clerk reported that the lengthsman will put up road name signs shortly for Croft Lane and Eye Lane (B4361 end). The lengthsman has been asked to clear gullies at Lydiatt's crossroads. The certificate of exemption for the 2019-20 annual return has been submitted to the external auditors and the accounts posted online and on noticeboards. Balfour Beatty's locality steward and drainage engineer have agreed to meet Cllr. Pearson (Vice Chairman) to look at the report of boulders in the brook and other local drainage issues. The broadband service at Cawley Hall has been suspended for a further two months until 2 November 2020. The following highway defects have been reported to Balfour Beatty/ Herefordshire Council: Drain blocked with grit on Townsend Park; slow running drain on B4361, Luston by The Fold; fly tipping on Eyton Common; fly tipping on Croft Lane; potential sink hole on Eye Lane; and poor road surface and potholes on B4361 by Eyecote. A water level gauge by the culvert at Luston will be provided via by the Natural Flood Management coordinator and the lengthsman is expected to install it – instructions will be provided. Work has been undertaken on the parish council website to meet website accessibility guidelines.

8. Matters raised by local residents

An overgrown hedge was reported in Luston. Willows on Herefordshire Council owned land along the stream on the C1040 by the junction with the B4361 were reported to be restricting the width of the road. Boulders were reported in the brook at Luston to the south of the culvert. A request was made for weeds on pavements and gutters to be sprayed in Luston village.

9. Planning

[Cllr. Poulton left the meeting.]

9.1 202479 Land to the South of Field Farm, Crossbrook Lane, Moreton Eye, HR6 0DP. Proposed erection of 1 no. dwelling and associated works. A member of the public spoke against the planning application. **COMMENT:** Luston Group Parish Council supports the application.

[Cllr. Poulton re-joined the meeting.]

9.2 Update on planning decisions/ enforcement. Herefordshire Council has allowed works to trees for 202037 Barn Orchard. Planning applications 201896 and 201897 Berrington Hall have been withdrawn.

[9.30pm: The parish council voted to suspend standing orders.]

10. Highways and environmental matters

10.1 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** Boulders in the brook at Luston to the south of the culvert. Willows on Herefordshire Council owned land along the stream on the C1040 by the junction with the B4361.

10.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. Clerk reported that the footpath officer has checked and found no excess mud on a footpath behind the school and recommends trialling additional instructions to help guide walkers through selected sections of footpath. **DECISION:** The footpath officer's recommendation is supported. The lengthsman will be asked to arrange for weeds on pavements and gutters in Luston village to be sprayed.

11. Finance

11.1 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman and P3 footpaths (August 2020) – £198.00

Tangled Web, website accessibility work – £150.00

Clerk, honorarium for internal auditor – £20.00

Clerk, wages (August 2020)

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

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

12. Resurfacing of Cawley Hall car park

The meeting considered a quotation for developing a plan and specification for the resurfacing of the car park. Cawley Hall accounts for the period to 31 August 2020 were noted. **DECISION:** Deferred pending review of precept and budget for 2021-22 in December 2020.

13. Car park charges consultation

The Herefordshire Council consultation was considered. **DECISION:** It was agreed to propose free car parking for up to three hours maximum, after which charges should apply.

14. Council Matters articles

DECISION: The schedule of Council Matters articles was agreed.

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

Proposal to be Smartwater parishes.

16. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next online group parish council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 14 September 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed as a true record_____

Date_____