

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2020

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

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

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence – G Poulton.

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 7 and 14 September 2020

DECISION: The minutes of the two meetings were agreed.

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

Ward Cllr. Bowen said Herefordshire Council's chief executive will retire in February 2021. Balfour Beatty briefed ward members last week and Ward Cllr. Bowen has arranged a follow up meeting with their senior managers. The retirement of Lady Darnley, Lord Lieutenant was marked by a service at Hereford Cathedral. Mr Edward Harley is the new Lord Lieutenant. There was a service at Hereford Cathedral to commemorate the Battle of Britain which included some very impressive readings and musical contributions from young people.

Ward Cllr. Bowen reported that 202479 Land to the South of Field Farm has been refused by the planning authority, Herefordshire Council.

[Cllr. K Wood joined the meeting.]

5. Matters raised by local residents

Cllr. Brandish said a box of books had been left outside the mini-library at Luston and these subsequently had to be thrown away due to water damage from rain. It was agreed that no further books are required and noted that charity shops in Leominster will take donated books.

[Cllr. E Coates joined the meeting.]

A member of the public reported that grips at Lydiatt's crossroads need to be dug out. The Clerk said the lengthsman has been asked to undertake this work.

6. Flooding matters

Ward Cllr. Bowen reported on a 'walkabout' with the Environment Agency along the Lugg in Kingsland parish. Cllr. E Coates recalled that Eyton Common has flooded regularly in the past. The attendance by Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby at a Kingsland Parish Council meeting (facilitated by the Clerk) at which the Environment Agency talked about maintenance of the Lugg was noted.

Councillor W Talbot-Ponsonby reported on a meeting held with Lidar Logic Ltd. at Eyton which highlighted a potential issue with a long bund. The data has been provided to Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby and the Clerk by email.

The Clerk reported that Lidar Logic has been appointed as agreed at the last meeting. The flood alleviation and mitigation measures report is unlikely to be available by 2 November 2020. The Natural Flood Management coordinator has informed the Clerk that a meeting is to be held with the landowner above Luston village to discuss potential projects.

The Vice Chairman said the road drain on the B4361 by the Fold has yet to be washed through, and a meeting held with the drainage engineer. Ward Cllr. Bowen kindly offered to facilitate this and said Seggin Lane, Eyton has been looked at by Balfour Beatty's engineers.

Rocks in the brook past the culvert on the B4361 at Luston have yet to be cleared. It was suggested that the rocks may be as a result of damage to the culvert. It was noted that clearing the rocks from their present location may be the responsibility of the riparian owner(s).

DECISION: Councillor Talbot-Ponsonby kindly agreed to liaise with the Environment Agency and Lugg Internal Drainage Board in order to help coordinate effective action, including a proposed walkabout along the Lugg through Eyton parish. The Lidar Logic data on the bund by the Lugg at Eyton will be shared with the Environment Agency. The Clerk will ask Welsh Water for a progress report on the investigation into the sewerage system at Luston and ask Herefordshire Council/ Balfour Beatty to check the culvert under the B4361 at Luston.

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

The Clerk reported that the lengthsman has put up the new road name signs at the Luston end of Eye Lane and on the junction of Croft Lane with the B3461. SID data from the last deployment was noted – the average speed of traffic coming into Luston by the telephone kiosk was 34.6 mph. The parish council's accounts had a balance of £24K as at 30 September 2020, including the second payment of the 2020-21 precept by Herefordshire Council (£8,000.00). The external auditor has noted the exempt status for the year 31 March 2020. The precept for 2021-22 will need to be submitted to Herefordshire Council by the end of the year. The parish council's comments on the car park charges consultation have been acknowledged by Herefordshire Council. A member of the public asking about development at Luston has been signposted to the neighbourhood development plan.

8. Planning

202479 Land to the South of Field Farm has been refused by the planning authority, Herefordshire Council.

9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. Cllr. Brandish said the entrance to the Willows has been patched. **DECISION:** Tree at the Willows on land maintained by Herefordshire Council which is growing into the road. Potholes at Townsend Park.

9.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISION:** The lengthsman will be asked to cut back foliage that has grown over the 30 mph signs at the start of the speed limit, and the landowner requested to cut the hedge.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman and P3 footpaths (Sept. 2020) – £787.20

Clerk, wages (September 2020)

HMRC, PAYE for period to 5 October 2020 – £6.00

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

10.2 Community Eye donation: **DECISION:** A donation of £350.00 was agreed for the period 2020-21.

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

11. SmartWater for Luston group parishes

The We Don't Buy Crime Smartwater proposition by West Mercia Police was considered.

DECISION: Deferred pending a request in Council Matters in the Eye for expressions of interest from members of the public. The initiative will be considered again in December.

12. Police and Crime Commissioner Town and Parish Council Survey

DECISION: The survey was agreed and completed online.

13. Consultation on Planning for the Future white paper

A briefing note from Herefordshire Council was considered. **DECISION:** The following response was agreed:

13a) The parish council believes strongly that neighbourhood plans should be retained; and

13b) The parish council agrees that new technology should be harnessed as needed, provided it is useful and affordable.

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

No matters raised.

15. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next online group parish council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 2 November 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.54pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____