

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2020

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

In attendance: Mr R Perry; Tom Millward, parish council tree officer; Ward Councillor S Bowen; and R Hewitt (Clerk). One (1) member of the public was present.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence – None.

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 5 October 2020

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

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

Ward Cllr. Bowen said a request for urgent action on the culvert under the B4361 has been made to Balfour Beatty. Road conditions have been surveyed with the locality steward. The incidence of Covid 19 is comparatively low in Herefordshire. Hospitals and care homes are coping well. Herefordshire Council requires face masks to be worn in all council buildings. The laying of the wreath for Remembrance Sunday has been filmed. A wreath will be taken from Hereford to Paddington Station and displayed alongside wreaths from towns and cities on GWR's network.

5. Planning I

5.1 Land to the rear of Longacre, Luston. Proposed erection of two bungalows, pre-application consultation. Mr R Perry, the applicant/ landowner provided a short overview of plans for the land. Draft drawings were shared online. Mr Perry was asked how drainage might work for the site. The parish council reserved comment to the formal planning application.

[Cllr. E Coates joined the meeting.]

6. Flooding matters

The hydrologist report commissioned by the parish council has yet to be completed. Welsh Water has cleaned the sewer line at Luston in preparation for the winter. The update on Welsh Water's investigation is due in September 2021 – an earlier email incorrectly had the date as 2020. The Environment Agency has written that the stream at Luston is an 'ordinary' watercourse which means that riparian owners have responsibility for its maintenance. Herefordshire Council has been asked to check the condition of the culvert under the B4361.

Cllr. Pearson said the Natural Flood Management coordinator has measured up for the gauge by the culvert in Luston, and said they are actively looking at placing leaky dams above the school. Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby has contacted the local Environment Agency officer responsible for maintenance of the Lugg at Eyton, and a meeting will be arranged with the agency and a local farmer. Cllr. Coates observed that the Lugg's flood meadows need to be retained and renewed.

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

The Clerk reported that parish council emails have been stored offline in order to improve the operation of Outlook. The neighbourhood planning meeting with Herefordshire Council that was cancelled in spring 2020 has been rescheduled online. It was agreed that a meeting was not required at this time. The notice of vacancy for Eyton Parish has been posted. There have been less than 10 expressions of interest received to date for Smartwater. The response to the Planning for the Future white paper has been submitted.

8. Matters raised by local residents

The condition of the road surface at Townsend Park is very poor. Ward Cllr. Bowen kindly offered to request that the road is resurfaced.

9. Planning II

9.1 203369 The Folly, Luston, HR6 0BX. Prior Approval for larger home extension. The extension will extend beyond the rear wall of the dwelling house by 5.68 metres. The maximum height of the enlarged part of the dwelling house is 2.95 metres and the height of the eaves of the enlarged part of the dwelling house is 2.95 metres. **COMMENT:** There is no objection to the proposed plans

9.2 203629 The Steppes, Luston, HR6 0EA. To Crown raise - 3 Ash Trees and 2 Sycamore Trees overhanging Neighbours Property, Owners Garden Shed and Greenhouse.

COMMENT: The proposed tree work is supported.

9.3 203600 Kinley Field, Luston, HR6 0EB. Proposed works to Lawson cypresses along south eastern border of garden. Four of the eleven trees are dead/dying, likely as a result of water logging from the floods earlier this year, and/or disease. These to be dismantled completely. The remaining cypresses are showing symptoms, but at this moment are not as severely affected as the other four. Replace with four trees of a suitable species, not susceptible to water logging (e. g. alder or willow). **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported. Replacement by alder trees is preferred.

9.4 203384 Bury Vale, Luston, HR6 0EB. Proposed works to Sycamore (T1) - fell because of excessive shading to both gardens and low amenity value. Replant with a plum tree. The sycamore grew by accident and keeps re-seeding in our neighbours' lawn. In addition, the tree brings unwelcome shade to our neighbours' bungalow. They are very keen to see this tree go and for us to re-plant with the more appropriate plum. **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported.

9.5 Herefordshire Council has granted planning permission for 202529 New House Farm, 201413 Croft Cottage, 202237 Barn Orchard, and 202546 Land at Field Farm.

10. Highways and environmental matters

10.1 Drainage grant – Balfour Beatty/ Herefordshire Council have awarded the drainage grant based on 55 percent of the costs that will be incurred. **DECISION:** The grant offer was declined.

10.2 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** Re-report Herefordshire Council owned trees on C1040 from junction with B4361. Householders are asked to maintain their hedges so that they do not obstruct the pavement or highway visibility.

10.3 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISION:** Maintain grips on Eye Lane.

11. Finance

Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman and P3 footpaths (Oct. 2020) – £322.80

Community Eye, donation – £350.00

Clerk, wages (October 2020)

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

12. Request to fund and install dog waste bins in Luston village

DECISION: A notice will be submitted to the Eye and notices/ stickers placed on the two bins in Luston to ask owners to clean up after their dogs.

13. Proposal to close mini-library at the adopted telephone kiosk, Luston

A proposal to close the mini library until Spring 2021 due to Covid 19 was considered. A Covid 19 notice has been placed on the door of the adopted kiosk which houses the mini library. **DECISION:** No action required.

14. Community Speed Watch

The Clerk said two additional volunteers are now ready to be trained by Safer Roads Partnership. The Chairman, a Community Speed Watch volunteer said there are not enough volunteers to operate the scheme, even with two new volunteers. **DECISION:** Request more volunteers via Council Matters in the Eye.

15. Review of current arrangements for dealing with code of conduct complaints

Herefordshire Council has asked for comments on the current arrangements for code of conduct complaints. **DECISION:** Due to the deadline of 1 December 2020, the Clerk was delegated to respond, in consultation with the management working group.

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

Precept 2021-22.

17. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next online group parish council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 7 December 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.36pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____