

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: Mr D Baume, Hook Mason; and R Hewitt (Clerk). Four (4) members of the public were present.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence – I Stevens.

2. Co-opt to the vacancy for Eyton Parish

Mr John Oatley was co-opted for Eyton Parish. The declaration of office was accepted, and Mr Oatley joined the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 Disclosable Pecuniary. None.

3.2 Non-disclosable Pecuniary. None.

3.3 Non-Pecuniary. None.

3.4 Written requests for dispensation. None.

4. Approval of Meeting minutes from 2 November 2020

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

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

There was no report.

6. Planning I

6.1 203675 Land South of Luston adjacent to B4361 Luston. Proposed erection of five dwelling houses with associated vehicle access from B4361. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported. The proposed site is in the Luston Group NDP and the scale of development is considered appropriate to the size of the plot. The parish council would like to see a link established with the village so that people can access facilities by foot. One possible option is to agree a suitable permissive footpath with the landowner. Responsibility for maintenance of the on-site drainage and sewage infrastructure should be confirmed and included as a condition in the planning decision.

[Mr D Baume left the meeting.]

7. Flooding matters

A report on a recent site visit to Luston by Balfour Beatty drainage engineers was noted. The highway drains by the school entrance are to be cleaned and the drains jetted. Natural Flood Management officers are planning to work with landowners upstream of Luston to try and find natural management opportunities. A gauge for the culvert under the B4361 at Luston will be provided by the Natural Flood Management coordinator subject to installation by the lengthsman.

Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby said a planned river walk at Eyton with the Environment Agency was postponed and is expected to be re-scheduled shortly. **DECISION:** The lengthsmen will be asked to install the gauge in line with the drawing provided by the Natural Flood Management coordinator.

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

The Clerk said the speed indicator devices have been deployed at Luston. Community Speed Watch training has been suspended due to the lock down. Stickers have been purchased to encourage dog owners to clear up after their pets when walking in Luston. The parish laptop's battery has failed and a new one purchased (£22.99) after consulting with the Chairman. The hard drive is nearly full, and a new drive will need to be purchased. There have been two working group meetings held online – Management working group and Finance working group. There is an online consultation meeting to discuss Herefordshire Council's 2020-21 budget. The lengthsmen have checked and cleared as appropriate drainage along Eye Lane. Balfour Beatty has been asked to sweep the gutters on the B4361 at Luston.

9. Matters raised by local residents

A member of the public said a fantastic job had been done clearing out the drains on Eye Lane. The Chairman of the Cawley Hall management committee suggested that a decision on the resurfacing of the car park is deferred for 12 months. A report of fly tipping on Croft Lane, Eyton was noted.

10. Planning II

10.1 203661 Church View, Moreton, HR6 0DP. Conversion of former articulated lorry trailer to create bespoke holiday cabin. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

10.2 203661 Springfield Cottage, Croft Lane, Luston, HR6 0ED. Proposed replacement of existing car port with annexe garage with first floor accommodation over, link structure and first floor extension to house bathroom. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

10.3 Herefordshire Council has determined that prior approval is not required for 203369 The Folly. Works to trees within a conservation area are allowed for 203384 Bury Vale, 203600 Kinley Field and 203629 The Steppes.

11. Highways and environmental matters

11.1 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** Report poor road surface and potholes on B4361 between Yarpole Lane and Eyecote, fly tipping on Croft Lane, re-report Herefordshire Council owned trees on Croft Lane, cleaning of pavement by the Willows and blocked drains between Hill Road and Quarry Farm on B4361. Also request to check grips and gullies on the parishes' roads.

11.2 Lengthsmen and P3 footpaths. **DECISION:** Work to improve the highway drainage along Seggin Lane subject to supervision by Fisher German.

12. SmartWater for Luston group parishes

The SmartWater proposition as presented to the group parish council by West Mercia Police on 7 September 2020 was considered. There have been less than 10 expressions of interest in having a Smartwater kit received by the Clerk. **DECISION:** Deferred.

13. Resurfacing of Cawley Hall car park

DECISION: Deferred for 12 months.

14. Finance

14.1 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman and P3 footpaths (Nov. 2020) – £30.00

Lidar Logic, site visit and preliminary assessment re: Eyton – £150.00

Clerk, anti-virus/ security subscription for laptop (3 years) – £99.20

Clerk, wages (November and December 2020)

HMRC, PAYE for period to 5 January 2020 – £9.50

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

14.2 Review direct debit payments:

Airband, broadband service, November 2020 – £60.00

DECISION: The direct debit payment was noted. The service will be suspended again until April 2021.

14.3 Mid-year accounts, 2020-21, were noted. The 2021-22 budget and precept proposed by the finance working group was considered and the effectiveness of internal financial controls reviewed. **DECISION:** The 2021-22 budget was agreed, and the precept set at £16,000. Systems of internal control are effective in safeguarding public money and resources.

15. Data Retention Policy

DECISION: Deferred to next meeting.

16. Member communications

DECISION: Electronic communications between members and the Clerk will be sent on an open basis, which means member email addresses will be shared with members of the parish council. Members not wishing to do this should inform the Clerk.

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

No matters raised.

18. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next online group parish council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 1 February 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____