

# LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2021

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

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor S Bowen; and R Hewitt (Clerk). Three (3) members of the public were present.

### 1. Acceptance of apologies for absence – None.

### 2. 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.

### 3. Approval of Meeting minutes from 7 and 23 December 2020

**DECISION:** The minutes of the meetings were agreed.

### 4. Flooding matters

The hydrology report remains outstanding. Drawings have been provided for the gauge by the culvert on the B4361, Luston to provide guidance for the installation by the lengthsman. A grant available through the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board was noted. Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby said a planned river walk at Eyton with the Environment Agency was postponed again, and Ward Cllr. Bowen is kindly assisting with this. **DECISION:** An update will be requested on action taken by Balfour Beatty “to clean the highway drains adjacent to the school entrance and to jet wash the drains to help ascertain the direction of flow and pipe layout”. An update will be requested from Balfour Beatty on the flushing of drain by The Fold, Luston.

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

Ward Cllr. Bowen reported on a planned inspection by the Environment Agency. Welsh Water is to survey Luston school. The “top brass” at Balfour Beatty have been asked to do a ward inspection. Resurfacing at the Willows needs attention from the highway authority. Culverts at Seggin Lane need to be done. The locality steward was reported to be up to speed with it all.

Herefordshire Council will debate the western bypass and southern link road. Cancellation may cost £11-15 million. The 2021-22 budget is being discussed. The council has appointed a new chief executive.

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

The 2021-22 precept request has been submitted to Herefordshire Council. Herefordshire Council have followed up on enquiry regarding transfer of lamp posts on Westland View from Leominster District Council to a housing association in the 1990s. It was noted that Ward Cllr. Bowen has kindly reported the defective lamp posts to the housing association.

Balfour Beatty has been asked to clean the pavement by the Willows. Potholes have been reported on Eye Lane and B4361 by Eyecote. Fly tipping has been reported as well as several highway drainage defects. The lengthsman has undertaken work to maintain the ditches and grips on Seggin Lane. Community Speed Watch training has been suspended by the Safer Roads Partnership due to the lock down. More volunteers are required for the scheme to be viable.

## 7. Matters raised by local residents

Cllr. Brandish said Herefordshire Council have installed new larger bins by the adopted telephone kiosk and Balance Inn bus stop in Luston. A report of flooding on Croft Lane by the Riddle was noted – the lengthsman will be asked to check nearby grips and ditches.

## 8. Planning

**8.1** 203905 Kemble House, Eyton, HR6 0AH. Proposed outdoor riding arena. Consideration deferred as planning application not available.

**8.2** 203661 Church View, Moreton, HR6 0DP. Siting of former lorry body now converted into a holiday cabin on agricultural land adjacent to Church View. The cabin is proposed to be let for holiday purposes. Re-consultation on amended plans or documents. **COMMENT:** The amendments to the planning application are supported.

**8.3** 204317 Land at Bicton House, Bicton, Kingsland, HR6 9PR. Proposed detached affordable dwelling and garage/workshop. **COMMENT:** No comment – site is located outside the group parishes.

**8.4** 210115 The Old Barn, Luston, HR6 0EB. Proposed works to American Gum - Sketch plan tree no 1. The tree is now reaching close to the power supply pole. We propose to reduce the height and spread by 20 - 25%. **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported.

**8.5** 210002 Hopyard Cottage, Luston, HR6 0EB. Proposed works - (A) Felling of Holly tree approx. 30ft within contact range of power line - Replacement holly already growing in place. (B) Removal of fir tree approx. 30ft that has grown up through Ash tree canopy creating unbalanced Ash canopy within range of out buildings and house - Replace with Ash hedge plants. (C) Raising of Ash tree crown by approx. 6 ft to clear outbuildings. (D) Lower crown/thin crown of overgrown hedge cobnut tree down to approx. 10ft. (E) Lower crown by approx 10ft of Laburnum tree and (F) Lower crown by approx. 10 ft of holly tree.

**COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported. It may be worth considering a native hedge alternative to the proposed replacement of B with "Ash hedge plants" due to ash die back.

**8.6** Herefordshire Council has granted planning permission for 203798 Springfield Cottage and 203897 Farriers Cottage. Planning application 204122 Nordan Farm has been deemed invalid and is pending a valid submission.

**8.7** Core Strategy Settlement Hierarchy review - Luston Group Parishes **DECISION:** The questionnaire was delegated to the Clerk to complete and submit to Herefordshire Council.

## **9. Highways and environmental matters**

**9.1** Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** Missing ‘Eye’ village sign between Cawley Hall and railway bridge, gutters in Luston (by the Willows), potholes in Townsend Park, Luston and in area of Eyecote, road surface on C1040 from Eyton Common to parish boundary, and ‘craters’ by side of C1040 by Coxalls.

**9.2** Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISION:** Check and clean/ clear signs in and out of Luston and renew grips etc. to keep water off Croft Lane by the Riddle.

## **10. 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. **DECISION:** Declined due to limited number of expressions of interest received, cost (£2,670) and limited time to register households before 31 March 2021.

## **11. Finance**

**11.1** Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman and P3 footpaths (December 2020 and January 2021) – £1,308.00

Clerk, battery and hard drive for parish council laptop – £66.97

Clerk, wages (January 2021)

Tangled Web, website support and maintenance – £300.00

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

**11.2** Implementation of electronic banking for payments. **DECISION:** The parish council will transfer banking to the provider recommended which should enable internet banking with appropriate safeguards.

## **12. Consultation on the Future of Rubbish and Recycling**

Consider Herefordshire Council survey. **COMMENT:** The current recycling system should not be made more complicated. It works well as currently set up because it is a single bin or receptacle for all recycling which makes it easy for the household to manage.

## **13. Consider proposed Data Retention Policy**

A data retention policy proposed by the management working group was considered.

**DECISION:** The data retention policy was adopted.

## **14. Review HALC training schedule**

The ‘Wise Owl’ online training schedule to March 2021 was considered. **DECISION:** Noted.

## **15. Review leave of absence**

**DECISION:** It was agreed to extend Cllr. P Edwards’ leave of absence for a further six months.

## **16. Schedule of Council Matters articles**

**DECISION:** The schedule to May 2021 was agreed.

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

Lamp posts on Westland View.

**18. Date of Next Full Council Meeting**

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

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

Signed as a true record \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_