

# LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 1 MARCH 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). One (1) member of the public was 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 1 February 2021**

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

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

Ward Cllr. Bowen said a meeting will shortly be held with Welsh Water at the school and reported on meetings of Herefordshire Council. There will not be a western bypass, however an eastern bridge remains a possibility. Travel by bus, bicycle and foot will be encouraged in Hereford. There is a commitment to improve the A464-A49 connection. Council tax will go up by 4.99 percent with 3 percent of the increase ring fenced for social care. Roads are generally in a poor condition. The velocity patcher will be deployed once the weather is warmer and drier. The new chief executive is due to take up the post in May 2021.

### **5. Flooding matters**

The hydrology report remains outstanding. The drain outside the Fold on the B4361 requires a flush. Balfour Beatty's drainage team have been provided with a photo of the large culvert believed to run under the school and been asked to check that it is running freely. The drainage team have been asked for an update on work to resolve the problem with the drains at the Ashton end of Eye Lane. A large tree in the brook behind the school needs to be cleared by the riparian owner, believed to be Herefordshire Council. **DECISION:** The parish council agreed to ask that the culvert under the school is checked by camera, and to request a formal update on this.

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

The Expression of interest to participate in the footpath and lengthsman schemes in 2021-22, and annual maintenance plan 2021-22, have been submitted to the highway authority. The lengthsman has taken another look at Croft Lane below Riddle Common and a recommendation was noted.

Fly tipping has been reported at Cheese Bridge, Eyton Common and on the A49 at Ashton. Potholes have been reported on Westland View, Townsend Park and on the C1040. The poor condition of the C1040 from Eyton Common to the parish boundary has been reported and resurfacing work requested. A missing Eye Lane village sign has been reported to the highway authority. The Core Strategy Settlement Hierarchy review for Luston Group Parishes has been completed as delegated and submitted to Herefordshire Council. A re-declaration has been made to The Pensions Regulator as required under the Pensions Act 2008. There has been no change in circumstances.

## **7. Matters raised by local residents**

The repair of potholes was felt to be unsatisfactory and a waste of money. The side of the road on Eye Lane is being 'chewed up' by large agricultural vehicles. An Eyton village name sign by Coxall barn was reported as missing. The two litter bins on the B4361 in Luston have been replaced by larger bins which was felt to be an improvement.

## **8. Planning**

**8.1** 203905 Kemble House, Eyton, HR6 0AH. Proposed outdoor riding arena. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

**8.2** 203675 Land South of Luston adjacent to B4361 Luston. Proposed erection of five dwelling houses with associated vehicle access from B4361. Re-consultation on amended plans or documents. **COMMENT:** The parish council considered the amended plans/ documents and agreed to reiterate the comment submitted on 8 December 2020.

**8.3** 210125 South Lodge, Eyton, HR6 0AD. Proposed single storey rear extension. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

**8.4** 210288 Bank Villa Gardens, Luston. Ash Tree - fell. The tree regularly sheds large branches which land on the oil tank and conservatory roof of WTC - risk of injury to property or persons. The considerable leaf fall also blocks the rainwater gutters of WTC and the tree roots are undermining the oil tank and may also be at least partly responsible for movement of the conservatory base. **COMMENT:** In recognition of the removal of a significant mature tree, the parish council would like to see an appropriate native species planted as a replacement, which when mature will be appropriate in size for the site/ plot.

**8.5** 210287 Walnut Tree Cottage, Luston, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0EB. Goat willow (T1) - periodic pollarding (last undertaken approximately 5 years ago). There are many very large trees in close proximity, and this adds to shadowing of our garden and much more attractive shrubs. Holly (T2) - reduction of approximately 30%. This forms part of a mixed border between Walnut Tree Cottage and Tremezzo to the west. The proposed work is part of general boundary maintenance. **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported.

**8.6** Herefordshire Council has allowed works to trees within a conservation area for 210002 Hopyard Cottage and 210115 The Old Barn.

The Clerk was asked to look at two applications for works to trees (210558 Woodfield Cottage and 210477 Foxwhelp Barn) under delegated powers.

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

**9.1** Drainage grant – Balfour Beatty/ Herefordshire Council will cover 100 percent of drainage works as set out in the grant application made in 2020. However, removal of silt and sludge found in the drains was not included in the application and the cost of removal is dependent on the quantity of silt found. The drainage work needs to be completed by 31 March 2021.

**DECISION:** The offer from the highway authority to fund all the works in the grant application (£9,230.00) was accepted. Contracts with the highway authority will be signed by the Chairman and Clerk on behalf of the parish council to enable the payment of the grant. Removal of silt and sludge will be paid from parish council funds. The lengthsman will be asked to remove mud from the gutters in Luston, ideally before the jetting and gulching of drains in the village. The culverts at Seggin Lane and drains below Riddle Common should be included in the jetting work.

**9.2 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. DECISION:** Re-report road surface on C1040 from Eyton Common to parish boundary.

**9.3 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths.** A report from the footpath officer, read to the meeting by the Clerk, was noted. Concern was raised at the storage of silage/ manure in a field by Luston and closure of a footbridge by Balfour Beatty near Lady Meadow Farm. **DECISION:** Request update from Balfour Beatty on closed bridge on PROW LJ8. Ask Balfour Beatty to check silage/ manure is stored appropriately based on a photo which will be emailed to the Clerk. Consider request from footpath officer for a parish council strimmer at the next meeting. Also consider proposal to hold a litter pick, including request for provision of bin bags, and options to increase awareness of the responsibilities of dog owners when walking through a field with livestock.

**9.4 Provision of gates on the public rights of way. DECISION:** Gates will be fitted on public footpaths where the support of the landowner has been obtained. Where possible gates will be fitted in preference to a replacement stile.

## 10. Finance

Payments for consideration:

HALC, affiliation and subscription 2021-22 – £671.38

Clerk, office costs Dec. 2019-March 2020 – £168.98

Clerk, office costs April 2020-February 2021 – £410.59

Clerk, wages February 2021

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

The Clerk reported that a request has been made to cancel a payment for £60.00 taken by direct debit for broadband at the village hall.

## 11. Lamp posts on Westland View

The lamp posts on Westland View, which are understood to be the responsibility of a housing association, have yet to be repaired or upgraded. Herefordshire Council has advised the housing association that it is a matter of public safety and needs to be resolved. **DECISION:** The parish council will write to the chief executive of the housing association to request a speedy resolution. Ward Cllr. Bowen and Herefordshire Council will be copied on the letter.

## 12. Schedule of meetings in 2021-22

**DECISION:** The schedule of meetings was agreed. It is expected that parish council meetings will return to Cawley Hall in line with the government's easing of restrictions. The timing of this is expected to be confirmed through updates to government Covid 19 regulations and guidance.

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

Village name signs. Litter pick. Dogs on leads and livestock signs.

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

**DECISION:** The next online group parish council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 12 April 2021.

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

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_