

# LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 4 OCTOBER 2021 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor S Bowen; and R Hewitt (Clerk). Six members of the public were present including two school governors.

### 1. Receive apologies for absence – K Wood.

### 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 minutes from 6 September 2021

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

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

Ward Cllr. Bowen reported on children's services, the installation of the new Dean of Hereford, and repairs required for Shire Hall and the Town Hall. The planned JCB patcher has yet to be purchased. A mulberry tree is to be planted on Castle Green as part of The Queen's Green Canopy. There have been changes to cabinet member responsibilities.

### 5. Flooding matters

[Cllr. E Coates joined the meeting.]

The hydrologist report remains outstanding. There is to be a site meeting this week. The Chairman of the school governors expressed frustration at the progress of the highway authority led project to resolve the drainage problems at the school and it was noted that work to fix drainage at the A49 end of Eye Lane remains outstanding. A report from Welsh Water on their investigations carried out over the previous year was noted. **DECISION:** The hydrologist will be asked to provide the report by the next meeting. Additional incidents since September 2020 when the manhole cover on the B4361 overflows will be brought to the attention of Welsh Water, and a request will be made for more to be done to identify the source(s) of the surface water run-off that is likely entering the sewerage infrastructure via other drains, including potentially highway drainage. Ward Cllr. Bowen kindly agreed to facilitate a meeting with the highway authority to discuss the outstanding drainage projects by the school and at the Ashton end of Eye Lane.

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

The external auditors have completed their report for 2020-21, which noted that the smaller authority was exempt from review in the prior year "thus we have not reviewed any evidence to support the prior year comparatives on the [annual return]". The external auditor report and certificate and notice of conclusion of audit have been placed on noticeboards in the three group parishes and posted on the website.

The second part of the 2021-22 precept (£8,000.00) has been paid by Herefordshire Council. Herefordshire Council have paid for the cost of the installation of the gauge in Luston by the lengthsman (£306.77). The highway authority will support the deployment of the retro-fitted solar panel powered SIDs on posts with 5mm thick walls. A claim for a VAT refund (£5,194.78) has been made to HMRC. At the end of August 2021, the balance of parish council funds held at the bank was £10,834.75. The provider of broadband services deducted £60.00 in error last month – to rectify this the provider is to roll forward the period with no charge from 31 December 2021 to 31 January 2022.

Highway defects have been reported to the highway authority, including potholes, weeds on the pavement at the Broad, grips on the B4361, maintenance of trees at the Willows, and moss on the pavements. The lengthsman is to clear grips at Lydiatt's crossroads, cut around village signs and road signs, and cut back briars from sections of the verge along Eye Lane.

An application to the Woodland Trust has been completed for a sweet chestnut tree on Eyton Common. The asset manager at Herefordshire Council has confirmed that the highway authority has adopted the streetlights on Westland View – the website defect reporting system at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk) has yet to be updated to reflect this.

Herefordshire Council have written to confirm that LJ36 at the Broad “has now been legally diverted”. West Mercia Police have accepted the invitation to attend the November meeting to talk about rural crime issues and prevention.

## 7. Matters raised by local residents

The following matters were raised: prominent drain cover to the side of Eye Lane (Ashton end), large stone on PROW, smell from sewage system outside Cawley Hall on two occasions, and bell ringing practice at Eye Church.

## 8. Planning

**8.1** 213242 and 213243 Berrington Hall, Berrington, HR6 0DW. Proposed construction of a service building to house a new biomass boiler and store, plus waste bin store and secure storage for gardener's and farmer's machinery. The latter to replace agricultural buildings demolished as part of reinstatement of the curved wall garden (for which listed building consent was granted). **COMMENT:** The parish council supports the planning application and application for listed building consent.

**8.2** 213195 Park Farm, Eye, HR6 0DL. Proposed steel portal framed agricultural manure storage building. **COMMENT:** The parish council supports the planning application.

**8.3** 213278 Moreton Lodge, Moreton Eye, HR6 0DP. Replacement two storey extension. **COMMENT:** The parish council supports the planning application.

**8.4** 213544 - Meadow View, Luston, HR6 0EB. To remove 2 conifer trees at the entrance to the drive, this is because they grow to tall and there are power lines crossing them, and also they are breaking through the small wall, and also a small tree next to them that has died. To remove conifers at the other side of the driveway as well, these have died and we'd like to remove and replace with the same. Require a Silver birch tree pruning as to tall and spreads close to the house, and also over the boundary hedge next to the pavement. **COMMENT:** The parish council supports the proposed tree work.

8.5 213305 Folly Field, Yarpole Lane, Leominster, HR6 0BX. Creation of private agricultural drive to serve new agricultural building (application 211805). **COMMENT:** The parish council supports the planning application.

8.6 Update on planning decisions. Herefordshire Council has granted planning permission for 212372, 19 Townsend Park.

## 9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Litter Pick – A letter of thanks to a member of the public who regularly litter picks on Eye Lane was proposed. **DECISION:** The Clerk was asked to write to the member of the public and thank them on behalf of the group parish council.

9.2 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** There were no matters raised.

9.3 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISION:** Scrape mud from section of footway/ verge in Luston.

9.4 Grit salt – Option to store 1 tonne of salt locally was considered. **DECISION:** No further action required.

## 10. Finance

10.1 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman/ P3 footpaths (Sept. 2021) – £828.00

Clerk, wages, September 2021

HMRC, PAYE for period to 5 October 2021 – £3.60

PKF Littlejohn, external audit fee for 2020-21 – £240.00

**DECISION:** Payments were approved.

10.2 A quotation for an alternative broadband service at Cawley Hall was considered.

**DECISION:** To accept the quotation subject to the activation fee being paid by the Cawley Hall management committee.

10.3 A quotation for the cost of two new SID posts with 5mm thick walls for the solar powered SIDs was reviewed. **DECISION:** It was agreed to purchase the two new posts for £363.18 (+VAT). The cost will be shared with Richards Castle and Orleton Parish Councils.

## 11. HALC ‘Wise Owl’ training schedule

The training schedule was reviewed. **DECISION:** Cllr. E Coates to attend Grassroots session on 2 November 2021.

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

West Mercia Police discussion on rural crime issues and prevention.

## 13. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

**DECISION:** The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 8 November 2021 at Cawley Hall, Eye.

[The meeting was subsequently deferred to Thursday 11 November 2021].

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.19pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_