

# LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2022 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor S Bowen; and R Hewitt (Clerk). One member of the public was present.

The Chairman asked the meeting to note the sad passing of Ted King, former chairman and clerk of the parish council and officer of Leominster District Council. His local knowledge and support of the community was unsurpassed, most recently helping to resolve a local drainage issue, and he will be missed.

**1. Receive apologies for absence** – None.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

**2.1** Disclosable Pecuniary. The Chairman and Vice Chairman declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the hydrology report commissioned by the parish council.

**2.2** Non-disclosable Pecuniary. None.

**2.3** Non-Pecuniary. None.

**2.4** Written requests for dispensation. None.

### **3. Approval of minutes from 6 December 2021**

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

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

The 2022-23 budget will be considered at the next meeting of the county council. The roads require more funding. The council's velocity patcher and JCB patcher will be of some help in managing the "deteriorating asset". Social care accounts for 75 percent of the budget. Ward Cllr. Bowen recently attended a service at Hereford Cathedral to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

### **5. Wankland's Gift**

A request from the charitable trust to help identify new trustees was considered. **DECISION:** To publicise the request in the next Parish Council Matters article.

### **6. Flooding matters**

[The Chairman and Vice Chairman left the meeting. Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby kindly agreed to chair the meeting.]

The hydrologist report on Luston was considered. **DECISION:** To share the report with the drainage team at the highway authority and invite the senior highway engineer to a site meeting to review what can be done to improve the culvert under the B4361. Riparian owners will be invited to the site meeting as well. Cllrs. Talbot Ponsonby and Oatley kindly agreed to attend the site meeting.

[The Chairman and Vice Chairman re-joined the meeting. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby and resumed the chairing of the meeting.]

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

In consultation with the Chairman, new pads have been purchased for the defibrillators in Luston and Eyton. The three lamp posts on Westland View have been adopted by Herefordshire Council. Community Speed Watch volunteers are still required to achieve the required minimum number of 6 volunteers. One of the new volunteers has kindly offered to help find more people to participate in the speed watch scheme. There is a new drainage grant from the highway authority and this will be on the agenda of the next meeting. The existing broadband provider at Cawley Hall has been given notice, and Gigaclear will provide the new service as agreed by the parish council. Potholes on Townsend Park, Westland View and at Eyton have been reported to the highway authority. Worn road surface at Lilac Grove and footpath bridge on LJ25 also have been reported.

## 8. Matters raised by local residents

Cllr. Brandish reported that trees have been pollarded by the highway authority at the Willows junction, and the mini library at the phone box is being well used. Cllr. Poulton reported litter on the passing place located on Eye Lane between Moreton and Eye. Ward Cllr. Bowen said a defect highlighted on the A49 towards Leominster has already been reported, as has the removal of a hedgerow, and that Herefordshire Council is taking action in respect of the caravans and other vehicles at Eyton Common. Cllr. Oatley said vehicles are not stopping at Lydiatt's crossroads because the white lining has worn away and needs renewing – this should happen within two months.

[Cllr. Coates joined the meeting.]

## 9. Planning

**9.1** 214368 Land adjacent to Lustonbury, Luston, HR6 0AP. Application for variation of condition 2 & 6 permission 193738 - (Variation of conditions 2 & 8 permission 190763 (Proposed erection of three dwellings with associated landscaping and infrastructure.) to increase floor levels). To allow amendments to the landscaping plan. **COMMENT:** The parish council objects to the application on the grounds of the landscape and hedgerow issues raised by Herefordshire Council internal consultees.

**9.2** 214541 Green Orchard, Luston, HR6 0EB. Norway Spruce (x3) - sectionally dismantle down to ground level. Not considered as decision made by planning authority.

**9.3** 214491 11 Westland View, Luston, HR6 0EA. Proposed works to T1 Hazel - Fell, low amenity and excessive shading. T2 Hawthorne - Fell, low amenity and excessive shading. Not considered as decision made by planning authority.

**9.4** 220046 Walnut Tree Cottage, Luston, HR6 0EB. Works to various trees on the boundary between Walnut Tree Cottage and the newly constructed property to the south in order to reinforce/improve the straggling hedgerow and to introduce a level of privacy between the new dwelling living rooms and those of Walnut Tree Cottage. Fell crab apple (1 on plan) as it is of little merit, and replace with native species. Reduce hawthorn (2 on plan) and unknown tree (3 on plan) to promote lower growth, and remove straggling lower limbs. Maintenance pruning of the elder (4 on plan). Fell elder (5 on plan) which is of no great merit. It is our intention to plant more trees and/or shrubs on the area of land. **COMMENT:** The parish council supports the proposed tree work.

**9.5** 214480 5 Lilac Grove, Luston, HR6 0EF. Proposed works to semi mature self seeded silver birch (around 15 years old) - works to fell tree, but leave stump to a height of around 2 metres as standing dead wood for wildlife habitat. The tree is growing on the fence line between 5 Lilac Grove and the field behind, is pushing the fence over and is undermining an oil tank which runs the risk of causing a leak of heating oil. It is also overhanging and crowding a young hawthorn tree that we wish to retain. **COMMENT:** The parish council supports the proposed tree work.

**9.6** Update on planning decisions. Herefordshire Council has granted listed building consent for 213794 Luston Court. Prior approval is granted for 214327 Agricultural buildings on land at Homelands Farm. The appeal is dismissed for APP/W1850/W/20/3245470 Cleevie Barn. Works to trees within a conservation area are allowed for 213544 Meadow View, 213763 The Brick House, 214541 Green Orchard and 214491, 11 Westland View. Consent is given for works to trees covered by a tree preservation order for 213991 Tudor House.

## **10. Highways and environmental matters**

**10.1** Defibrillators – The process for checking the devices and purchase of consumables was reviewed, and proposal to facilitate a training session for members of the public considered. **DECISIONS:** Cllrs. Coates and Oatley kindly agreed to check the status of the defibrillator at Eyton on a weekly basis and record the check in the book stored in the cabinet. The volunteer who checks the Luston defibrillator will be asked if they wish to continue. The book in the cabinet at Luston in which checks are recorded appears to be missing. Cllr. Brandish kindly agreed to help check the status of the Luston defibrillator. Consumables are purchased by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman. The parish council will facilitate a new training session.

**10.2** Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. The Vice Chairman reported that the highway authority has acknowledged a problem with the drains by the B4361 culvert and it is proposed to address this in the coming year's drainage programme. Also, Welsh Water is doing some work to get the drains sorted. The Clerk reported that the highway authority has not identified any defects on the highway drainage system by the school and so cannot use highway drainage funding at the location.

**DECISION:** The highway authority will be asked to ensure that the drains by the B4361 culvert are included in the coming year's drainage programme.

**10.3** Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISION:** A report of a missing cross rail on the footbridge "opposite the Balance Inn" will be passed to the footpath officer.

## **11. Finance**

**11.1** Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman/ P3 footpaths (January 2022) – £960.00

Lidar Logic, Luston hydrology report – £1,900.00

Tangled Web Solutions, hosting and maintenance service – £330.00

Luston Group Good Neighbour Scheme, donation – £500.00

HALC, subscription and affiliation 2022-23 – £720.32

Clerk, two pairs of pads for defibrillators – £124.80

Clerk, wages, January 2022

**DECISION:** Payments were approved.

**11.2** Mid-year accounts, 2021-22, were noted. The 2022-23 budget and precept proposed by the finance working group was considered and the effectiveness of internal financial controls reviewed. **DECISION:** The 2022-23 budget was agreed, and the precept set at £16,000. The Clerk's wages will be paid in line with SCP30/24 from 1 April 2022.

Systems of internal control are considered effective in safeguarding public money and resources.

**11.3** Three quotations were considered for a new shed at Cawley Hall to replace the shed blown down in a recent storm. **DECISION:** A new 10x8 foot timber shed will be purchased from and installed by Timberworld Products Ltd.

**12. Herefordshire Local Plan 2021-2041 Strategic Spatial Options Consultation**

The spatial options consultation was considered. **DECISION:** The Clerk was delegated to respond on behalf of the parish council in consultation with the Chairman.

**13. Resurfacing of Cawley Hall car park**

Deferred.

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

Celebrations to mark the Platinum Jubilee, signs at Lydiatt's crossroads and Tunnel Lane, and parish council website.

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

**DECISION:** The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 7 March 2022 at Cawley Hall, Eye.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_