

# LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 6 JUNE 2022 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor S Bowen; Mr J Pearson, Footpath Officer, and R Hewitt (Clerk). No member of the public was present.

**1. Receive apologies for absence** – A Brandish and E Coates.

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

**2.1** Disclosable Pecuniary. The Chairman and Vice Chairman declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in measures to address flooding by the culvert under the B4361 at Luston.

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

**2.3** Non-Pecuniary. None.

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

### **3. Approval of annual meeting minutes from 9 May 2022**

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

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

Ward Cllr. S Bowen reported on a meeting held with Welsh Water. The available capacity of the sewerage system has been questioned. Roads remain an ongoing concern. Platinum Jubilee events in the Bircher parishes seemed to go well. Upcoming events include Armed Forces Day. The Duke of Kent recently visited Leominster.

[Cllrs. R Bennett Jones and W Talbot Ponsonby joined the meeting.]

The parish council congratulated Ward Cllr. Bowen on being re-elected as Chairman of Herefordshire Council.

### **5. Flooding matters**

Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby reported on a site meeting held with county drainage engineers at the culvert under the B4361 at Luston. The main outcome is that calculations are likely to be done by the engineers building the nearby wetland to check the flow rate of the brook. Further progress is not likely to be imminent – the next funding window is for 2023-24. A number of options were considered, including widening the culvert, widening the channel and building an attenuation channel. Each has a significant cost, involve engineering works beyond the capacity of the parish council and/ or will likely require use of private land. In the meantime, the parish council could work with the Natural Flood Management initiative to see if it might be possible to slow down the flow of the brook upstream of the culvert.

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

**DECISIONS:** Luston Group Parish Council decided to establish a flood group to explore ways to help reduce the risk of flooding. The focus of the flood group is to generate ideas and proposals.

Local members of the community will be invited to join the flood group and/ or share their proposals and ideas to help reduce flood risk via an article in the Eye. The flood group will partner with appropriate risk management agencies such as the Environment Agency and Herefordshire Council and have been tasked to propose Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects upstream of the brook at Luston for the local NFM catchment area. The flood group were asked to request a site meeting with the county coordinator for natural flood management projects to review and discuss ideas for potential projects. Being a working group of the parish council means that all decisions are made by the parish council. The role of the flood group is to make proposals and recommendations for consideration by the parish council.

Planning will be asked to confirm that culverts used to construct the wetland by Luston are an appropriate diameter to take the flow from the brook. A request will be made that no culverts are introduced that are smaller than those already in existence to prevent possible back up during storms.

Cllr. W Talbot Ponsonby kindly agreed to lead the flood group. The footpath officer kindly agreed to join the flood group.

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

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

The new broadband service has been installed at Cawley Hall. A direct debit of £236.00 will be deducted for the cost of installation and first month of service. Heartstart training has been scheduled for 22 September 2022, and a notice will be submitted to the Eye. The lengthsman has constructed 5 tree guards for the Green Canopy saplings planted by local children at Eyton. Balfour Beatty have investigated the complaint made about a pothole on Eye Lane and advised that there are no quality concerns with the pothole filling. A photo of the pothole repair will be submitted by the parish council in response. Treatment of weeds in gutters in Luston and Eye (by the village hall and over railway bridge) has been commissioned for July 2022. The SIDs will be deployed on 9 June 2022. A report of damage from strimming to the legs of the noticeboard on the green area by the Willows will be looked at by the lengthsman. Defects have been raised with the highway authority: road surface on Seggin Lane by junction with Croft Lane, overhanging trees on C1040 alongside stream, overgrown hedge in Luston, and request made to confirm culverts under the C1040 were cleared when recent gully work was undertaken.

**DECISION:** The parish council decided to consider whether to participate in the Talk Parish reference group being facilitated by Herefordshire Council at the next meeting.

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

A request for the council to maintain the strip of grass adjacent to the B4361 outside Kent Cottage was noted. A report that wild orchids growing next to the A49 were saved from being mowed by the highway authority was noted.

## **8. Planning**

**8.1** 221606 The Steppes, Luston, HR6 0EA. The work proposed is to pollard an ash tree.

**COMMENT:** The parish council supports the proposed tree work.

8.2 Update on planning decisions/ enforcement by Herefordshire Council. The planning matter reported at the annual meeting has been passed to Herefordshire Council. Unauthorised camping on Eyton Common over the Platinum Jubilee weekend has been reported to Herefordshire Council.

## 9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. Cllr. Oatley provided an update on the repainting of white lines by the highway authority at Lydiatt's crossroads.

9.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths – **DECISIONS:** The lengthsman will be asked to maintain (trim) the strip of land on the B4361 outside Kent Cottage, advise on the noticeboard on the public area of land by the Willows, and clear vegetation from the Luston village signs. The footpath officer reported that the maintenance of priority footpaths will be undertaken by the lengthsman shortly, including EX16 and 17. The footbridge on LJ25 between Luston and the railway bridge has been re-reported to Herefordshire Council by the clerk.

9.3 Policy for estate agent directional signs placed on the verge of the highway and other public places. **DECISION:** Agents displaying signs on the public highway will be asked to remove them and advised that they are not required. In the event that they are not removed, the parish council will remove the signs.

## 10. Finance

10.1 Risk assessment and insurance policy. **DECISIONS:** The risk assessment was reviewed and agreed. The insurance policy recommended by Gallagher (formerly Came and Co) was agreed.

10.2 Payments to ratify:

Gallagher, parish council insurance – £530.61

Timberworld, shed at Cawley Hall – £863.50

**DECISION:** Payments were ratified.

10.3 Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, lengthsman/ P3 footpaths (May 2022) – £1,210.99

SWARCO, SID brackets, padlocks etc. – £140.40

Clerk, wages, March 2022

**DECISION:** Payments were approved.

10.4 Quotation from the highway authority for road name signs on the junction of the A49 and Tunnel Lane. **DECISION:** The cost of the work was agreed (£431.74 + VAT).

## 11. Queen's Green Canopy

A local tree nursery has advised that sweet chestnuts prefer a sunny spot in free draining areas, and provided a quotation for two varieties, each approximately 2.5 metres in height.

**DECISION:** A Chestnut Regal will be purchased (£115.00) and planted in a dry area of the common. Cllr. Coates kindly offered to identify a suitable free draining location. The lengthsman will be asked to plant the tree and provide a suitable tree guard.

## 12. New planter for green area by the Willows

The parish council noted that a new planter has already been donated by a local member of the public. Cllr. K Wood was thanked for facilitating the replacement planter, and for cleaning the nearby noticeboard and bench.

**13. Former ‘Kid’s Club’ parking area by the school**

Community uses for the area were considered. **DECISION:** It was agreed to take no further action.

**14. Community projects and initiatives**

The parish council considered ideas for community projects and initiatives. **DECISIONS:** Look at a new play area, support a panto/ drama production by local people, facilitate a sunflower plant competition and hire the hall for a tabletop sale. Each initiative will be placed on a future meeting agenda for discussion and development, starting with the play area.

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

There were no matters raised.

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

**DECISION:** The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 4 July 2022 at Cawley Hall, Eye.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.33pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_