

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2022 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

In attendance: Ward Councillor S Bowen, Mr S Hodges, Economy and Environment Directorate, Herefordshire Council and R Hewitt (Clerk). One member of the public was present.

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 measures to address flooding by the culvert under the B4361 at Luston (item #5). The Chairman declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in 10.1 shading of speed indicator device by kiosk.

2.2 Non-disclosable Pecuniary. None.

2.3 Non-Pecuniary. None.

2.4 Written requests for dispensation. None.

3. Approval of meeting minutes from 7 November 2022

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

4. Guest speaker from Herefordshire Council re: highways and flooding matters

Mr S Hodges said there is a small team at Herefordshire Council looking after flooding in the county, and managing the arrangement with Balfour Beatty. The parish council and local people were thanked for sharing their local knowledge. Mr Hodges offered to share modelling work done for the wetland that is under construction and kindly agreed to raise a structural concern about the culvert under the B4361 with a construction engineer. The new natural flood management projects are funded by the Environment Agency.

[Cllr. E Coates joined the meeting.]

The view was expressed by councillors that widening the culvert is not necessarily a solution, and that more needs to be done to hold water temporarily upstream using natural flood management techniques. A recent walk has identified a number of projects aimed at doing this.

Mr Hodges was thanked by the Chairman and then left the meeting.

5. Flooding matters

Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby reported on a walk with Herefordshire Council's natural flood management team which identified possible projects to help hold water temporarily upstream. Each project is dependent on landowner consent and funding is available to support some projects. The natural flood management team is to review the suggested projects with the landowner(s). Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby thanked the flood group, particularly Mr Taylor and the Vice Chairman.

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

Ward Cllr. S Bowen reported on council tax which is likely to increase by 5 percent in 2023-24, the cost of cancelling the Hereford bypass, Shire Hall, Town Hall and forecast deficit in council finances.

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

The Clerk reported that the new parish council account has been opened, and the two accounts are being operated in tandem at present until the signatories are the same on both accounts.

Waymarker discs have been obtained from Herefordshire Council at no charge for use by the footpath officer – Ward Cllr. Bowen kindly collected the discs from Plough Lane. According to the footpath officer the driveway to the church at Eye is not a public footpath. The leaves reported on the junctions at both ends of Seggin Lane, Eyton, have been checked by the highway authority. An overgrown hedge on the A49 has been reported to National Highways. A leaning willow off Upper Eyton Common has been reported to the highway authority. A footpath bridge in reportedly poor condition (LJ29) has been raised with Herefordshire Council. No date has been provided by Herefordshire Council for repair of the swing bridge on EY5/ KL6A which has gone forward into the capital programme. Grips at Lydiatt's crossroads are due to be cleared by the lengthsman.

Planning enforcement have provided feedback on an earlier report. Two HALC training courses have been booked as agreed by the parish council. PKF Littlejohn LLP have been re-appointed as external auditors. A parish council has asked about the website and requested contact details of the business which designed and built the site.

8. Matters raised by local residents

Councillors requested a plaque for the Platinum Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee trees on Eyton Common. The following highway defects were raised: Potholes on the B4361 by the Hill Road junction, blocked culvert under Seggin Lane by Seggin House and hedges on the B4361 at Luston which are reportedly obstructing the pavement. A defective drain on the B4361 by Ashfield Cottage has yet to be fixed despite being in the highway authority's annual plan.

9. Planning

9.1 223480 Nordan Farm, Nordan, Leominster, HR6 0AJ. Proposed conversion of existing barns to create six dwellings, detached garaging and associated works. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

9.2 223417 Cross Brook Farm, Moreton Eye, HR6 0DP. Retrospective new building for storage and distribution of exhibition stands (B8). **COMMENT:** The retrospective planning application is supported.

9.5 Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have granted listed building consent for 222604 Berrington Hall.

10. Highways and environmental matters

[Cllr. Stevens left the meeting. The Vice Chairman chaired the meeting.]

10.1 Shading of speed indicator device by telephone kiosk. **DECISION:** A proposal to cut back overhanging branches with consent of the landowner was supported. The clerk was delegated to obtain a quotation for the work from the parish council tree officer and apply for the necessary permissions from the planning authority.

[Cllr. Stevens re-joined the meeting and resumed the chairing of the proceedings.]

10.2 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISIONS:** To report highway defects reported under #8, pothole on Townsend Park, and grips at Lydiatt’s crossroads and Eye Lane.

10.3 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. The remaining budgets for lengthsman and drainage grant funded works were noted. **DECISION:** Grips to be reported to the highway authority, including at Lydiatt’s crossroads.

11. Finance

11.1 Payment to ratify:

D C Gardening Services, drainage works (grant funded) – £2,269.80

Luston Group PC, deposit for new account – £500.00

DECISION: Payments were approved.

11.2 Request from Community Eye for a donation to support the newsletter. **DECISION:** A grant of £350.00 was awarded.

11.3 Payments for consideration:

Community Eye, donation – £350.00

Clerk, wages, November and December 2022

HMRC, PAYE to 5 January 2023

DECISION: Payments were approved.

11.4 Review direct debit payment:

Gigaclear, broadband service, December 2022 – £36.00

DECISION: Payment was noted.

11.5 Mid-year accounts, 2022-23, were noted. The 2023-24 budget and precept proposed by the finance working group was considered and the effectiveness of internal financial controls reviewed. **DECISION:** The 2023-24 budget was agreed, and the precept set at £18,000. Internal financial controls are considered to be good.

12. Playground at Luston

Consideration of proposal to establish a playground working group to identify possible land, grants and planning requirements was deferred.

13. Agricultural Planning Supplementary Planning Document (AP SPD)

The consultation by Herefordshire Council was noted.

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

Playground, plaques for Platinum and Diamond Jubilee trees on Eyton Common.

15. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 6 February 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.29 pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____