

# LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2023 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor S Bowen, PCSO G Maddox, West Mercia Police and R Hewitt (Clerk). No members of the public were present.

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

### **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 #4).

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

**2.3** Non-Pecuniary. None.

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

### **3. Approval of meeting minutes from 5 December 2022 and 9 January 2023**

**DECISION:** The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2022 were amended in two places to reference the Diamond Jubilee. With these amendments the minutes of both meetings were agreed and signed.

### **4. Flooding matters**

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

An update from Herefordshire Council's natural flood management project officer was noted. Discussions are ongoing with local landowners; more reports and meetings are likely and it looks as if several options may be feasible. The NFM project officer is to keep the parish council informed on developments.

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

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

Ward Cllr. S Bowen reported on the decision to increase council tax by 4.99 percent, the new contraflow cycle lane in Hereford, children's services and planned maintenance at the Courtyard Theatre.

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

PCSO G Maddox, West Mercia Police, provided a report on local policing matters, and expressed interest in being updated on the latest SID speed data.

Concern was raised by Cllr. G Poulton at the condition of Eye Lane by the junction with the lane going to the ongoing wetlands works. Cllr. Brandish said the locality steward was seen checking overgrown hedges in Luston.

Cllr. Brandish asked the parish council to note the sad news that Luston's oldest resident had passed at Christmas. The parish council expressed condolences and thanked the Good Neighbour Scheme for the support provided for people in the community.

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

The drainage grant requested by the parish council for recent works has been paid by Herefordshire Council (£3,101.50). The precept request agreed at the December 2022 meeting has been submitted to Herefordshire Council (£18,000.00) and will be paid to the new parish council account. A VAT reclaim has been completed for the period to 30 November 2022 (£4,515.21).

A tree surgeon has been commissioned to undertake minor work by the telephone kiosk. The landowner's permission will be required to undertake the proposed work. Additional, more extensive work may be required, and this will be assessed once the trees in the area of the kiosk are all in leaf.

Cllr. Wood has kindly fixed a road name sign at Lilac Grove. The following defects have been reported to the highway authority: Damage to Eye Lane by entrance to lane by wetland works; re-report of overgrown hedge at Luston; blocked culvert under C1040; drain on B4361 by Ashfield Cottage; grips on Eye Lane and Lydiatt's crossroads; and potholes on Townsend Park, junction of Hill Road, Luston and B4361 by Eyecote. The defibrillators' status has been updated online.

## **8. Planning**

**8.1** 230115 Luston Primary School, Westland View, Luston, HR6 0EA. Proposed works to Ash 1 (A1): large, ivy-covered ash with a broad crown. To be pollarded to a final height of approximately 12' (below the roof-level of No.7 Westland View). Ashes 2-6 (A2-A6): tall, mostly upright ash trees. To be pollarded to final heights of between 6' and 15' depending on proximity to buildings, etc. Two dead thujas (T1 & T2): to be completely dismantled, leaving tall stumps (approximately 6') for use in the Schools wild area. All work to be undertaken in order to ensure the safety of staff, pupils and public, as well as the house of No.7 Westland View from failure of dead/dangerous trees. **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported.

**8.2** 230077 The Meadowe House, The Broad, Leominster, HR6 0AB. Proposed new entrance gates. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

**8.3** Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have granted planning permission for 223619 1-4 Holywell Cottages and listed building consent for 223559 Berrington Hall. Updates from planning enforcement were noted. Herefordshire Council have advised that their phosphate credit scheme may be applied to planning application 190032.

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

**9.1** Sandbags at Cawley Hall. The cost of a pallet of sandbags from a supplier in Hereford was considered. On delivery to the hall, they will need to be moved to the shed by the lengthsman. **DECISION:** It was agreed to order a pallet of sandbags at a cost of £235.00 (+VAT) for the benefit of the community.

**9.2** Drainage grant funded works. The meeting looked at whether and how to use the approximately £1,200 of drainage grant funding that remains available, and whether to include grips as advised by the lengthsman. **DECISION:** It was agreed to commission two day's ditching work from the lengthsman and focus on: Lydiatt's crossroads, Eye Lane, Seggin Lane and C1040 from Eyton Common to the parish boundary.

**9.3** Lengthsman and P3 footpaths annual maintenance plan 2023-24. The proposed annual maintenance plan for 2023-24 was reviewed. It was noted that there is likely to be a new lengthsman grant in 2023-24. **DECISION:** The annual maintenance plan was agreed, and the clerk delegated to apply any grant that may be forthcoming to the appropriate budgets in the agreed plan.

**9.4** Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISIONS:** Potholes on the B4361 by Eyecote and junction with Hill Road, Luston. Manhole cover on B4361 by White House. Blocked/ semi-blocked drain by Tremezzo on the B4361. Request for sweep of gutters, including for Westland View and The Willows.

**9.5** Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. Cllr. Pearson asked the parish council to note that the footpath officer is ready to step down from the role. **DECISION:** To review appointment of footpath officer at the annual meeting in May 2023.

## **10. Finance**

**10.1** Payments for consideration:

D C Gardening Services, installation of SIDs – £72.00

Tangled Web Solutions, hosting and maintenance 2023-24 – £330.00

HALC, membership and subscription 2023-24 – £745.08

Clerk, wages, January 2023

**DECISION:** Payments were approved.

**10.2** Review direct debit payment(s):

Gigaclear, broadband service, January and February 2023 – £72.00

**DECISION:** Payments were noted.

## **11. Playground at Luston**

The Clerk informed the parish council that a number of expressions of interest in participating in a playground working group have been received from members of the public. **DECISION:** The parish council noted the expressions of interest and agreed in principle to set up a playground working group subject to meeting with the interested members of the public.

## **12. Plaques for Jubilee trees at Eyton Common**

Several options and quotations for tree plaques were considered for the two trees planted on Eyton Common to mark the Diamond and Platinum Jubilees respectively. A replacement plaque is needed for the Diamond Jubilee tree. **DECISION:** To purchase two tree plaques from two different suppliers, slate effect Diamond Jubilee tree plaque (20\*15cm) and stake for £173.76 and Platinum Jubilee tree plaque (A5) and stakes for £144.99.

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

There were no matters raised.

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

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_