

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 3 APRIL 2023 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

In attendance: Ward Councillor S Bowen, Mr J Pearson, Footpath Officer and R Hewitt (Clerk). One (1) member of the public was present.

1. Receive apologies for absence – I Stevens (Chairman) 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 (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 6 March 2023

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

4. Flooding matters

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

It was noted that the request has been made for a copy of the natural flood management (NFM) report as decided at the last meeting, and that the question has been asked to understand whether natural flood management measures can be viewed as enhancements under stewardship schemes already in place.

[The Vice Chairman re-joined the meeting, 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 recent engagements including the transition of the High Sheriff. There will be a high court again at Hereford within one year. The next administration will need to look at Shire Hall. The Town Hall has an outstanding collection of historic artefacts. The Courtyard needs to be supported.

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

The contract for lengthsman grant funding has been processed by Herefordshire Council. The drainage work on ditches and grips highlighted in the contract is expected to take place shortly. Reported highway defects have been raised with the highway authority, including fly tipping and overgrown hedges obstructing the pavement.

The updating of the bank mandate to enable the transfer to the new account remains ongoing. A work around may be required. The parish council's application for tree work by the telephone kiosk at Luston has been granted (230277 The Fold). Work is expected to be undertaken shortly by the contractor subject to the informatives in the decision document.

The annual return will be completed in time for the May 2023 meeting. An AGAR3 return will be required on account of the parish council's expenditure being more than £25,000. The community issues agreed by the parish council in the West Mercia Police charter have been renewed in consultation with the Chairman due to the deadline for submission.

7. Playground at Luston

Ms L Melia reported on the first meeting of the playground working group, which was attended by five members of the public, two councillors and the Clerk. The working group is considering a number of options and possibilities and recommended that the first step should be to explore whether or not it might be possible to share the facility at the school.

DECISION: It was agreed to approach the school to propose an exploratory meeting, and for the working group to identify examples of other schools doing this and/ or something similar in advance of the meeting.

8. Matters raised by local residents

The following concerns were raised: pothole on the B4361 Lustonbury corner, missing road name sign on Tunnel Lane, flytipping north of Cheese bridge, condition/ use of land off Townsend Park.

9. Planning

9.1 230761 Oaklands, Luston, HR6 0EB. Proposed works to Ash tree at the end of the garden of Oaklands to be pollarded back to main stem, in order to improve view from the house and reduce risk of tree failure into adjacent field. Tree is marked A on the map. **COMMENT:** Luston Group PC considers that the amenity value of the tree outweighs the view, particularly as the tree is located on significantly lower ground than the property. The parish council objects to the proposed tree work.

9.2 230723 Tudor House, Luston, HR6 0EB. Remove 1 x Walnut tree in the garden of Tudor House adjacent to the footpath and field entrance. Tree is showing some decay at the base, and removal of the tree now will remove risk of failure into footpath or onto neighbouring house. Tree is marked W on the map. **COMMENT:** Luston Group PC looked at an arboricultural report prepared in connection with planning application 230723 for the same site and noted an anomaly between the description in the application for tree works regarding risk of failure, and description in the Tree Report prepared for 230723 which anticipates a life expectancy of 40+ years for the same walnut tree. The description in the Tree Report implies that there is no reason to fell the walnut tree as proposed. The parish council suggests that the tree may require a further inspection to confirm its actual condition.

9.3 230791 The Brick House, Luston, HR6 0EB. T1 (group) Conifers - reduce line of Conifer hedge/trees by 50% and cut back to stems branches from inside of hedge. **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported. The hedge is overgrown into the public footpath and should be cut back.

9.4 230929 Holy Well House, Eye Lane, Luston, HR6 0DU. Pear tree (T1) and hawthorn (T2) - remove small branches in crown and reduction of outer branch tips. Crab apple (T3) - remove. Replaced by a small winter flowering Cherry tree such as Prunus 'Kursar'. **COMMENT:** The proposed tree work is supported.

9.5 230796 Bank Villa Cottage, Luston, HR6 0EB. T1 - Ash tree. Cut back tall ash stem overhanging driveway. T2 - Field Maple. Fell. T3 - Sycamore. Remove small co-dominant stem. Crown thin and reduce by 20%. **COMMENT:** Luston Group Parish Council objects to the removal of the field maple – no reason is given in the application form. The work on T1 Ash tree and T3 Sycamore is supported.

9.6 Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have granted permission for works to trees for 230115 Luston Primary School and 230277 Land adjacent to the Fold.

10. Highways and environmental matters

10.3 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. The new locality steward has been appointed. Work has been completed under the highway authority's annual plan 2022-23 (#53). **DECISION:** Potholes on B4361 from Eyecote to the bridge, including request to consider resurfacing the road, and potholes by Lydiatt's crossroads. Highway defects under #8 will be raised with the highway authority.

10.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISION:** Clear grips on Eye Lane from the humpback bridge to the Moreton sign. Herefordshire Council's PROW team will be asked about the process required to bring about a proposed permissive way. The Footpath Officer's proposal for the permissive way will be on the next agenda. The Footpath Officer's new format for monthly reports was strongly supported.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments for consideration:

DC Gardening Services, drainage grant funded works – £1,485.00

DC Gardening Services, lengthsman – £60.00

HALC, Cilca training, what's my role? – £264.00

Clerk, office/ administration 2022-23 – £466.58

Clerk, wages, March 2023

HMRC, PAYE to 5 April 2023 – £108.80

DECISION: Payments were approved.

10.2 Review direct debit payment(s):

Gigaclear, broadband service, April 2023 – £36.00

DECISION: Payment was noted.

12. Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

The meeting looked at community options to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. **DECISION:** To look at planting a wildflower meadow at Eyton Common and planting of a Black Poplar tree at the next meeting. Advice on the planting of a wildflower meadow will be requested from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust.

13. Reports for Annual Parish Meetings

The annual reports for Eyton, Luston and Moreton, Ashton and Eye parishes for the forthcoming Annual Parish Meetings on 15 May 2023 were agreed. **DECISIONS:** Cllrs. A Brandish (Luston), J Oatley (Eyton) and G Poulton (Moreton, Ashton and Eye) kindly agreed to provide the respective annual reports.

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

There were no matters raised.

15. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The annual meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 15 May 2023 and will follow the annual parish meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Signed as a true record_____

Date_____