

# LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2023 AT CAWLEY HALL

**Present:** I Stevens (Chairman), R Bennett Jones, A Brandish, P Edwards, K Wood, A Capell, W Talbot Ponsonby and J Oatley.

**In attendance:** R Hewitt (Clerk). One (1) member of the public was present.

### 1. Receive apologies for absence – E Coates and C Pearson (Vice Chairman).

### 2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Disclosable Pecuniary. The 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 4 September 2023

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

### 4. Flooding matters

[The Chairman left the meeting. Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby chaired the meeting.]

Feedback from the Wye and Usk Foundation concerning natural flood management projects was noted, including a proposal to meet in the second half of October 2023. **DECISION:** To schedule a meeting with the Wye and Usk Foundation to see how best to proceed.

[The Chairman re-joined the meeting and resumed the chairing of the meeting.]

### 5. Ward Councillor D Hurcomb's Brief Report (for information only)

The meeting noted Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb's apologies.

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

Herefordshire Council have paid the second half of the precept (£9,000.00). The 2024-25 precept will need to be set by the end of the calendar year and will be on the agenda of the December 2023 meeting. The fingerpost sign for the village hall has been moved by Cawley Hall – the locality steward has been informed to confirm whether or not the Holy Well location is acceptable. The updated NALC model standing orders have been reviewed by the management working group. The following defects have been raised with the highway authority: standing water on B4361 by Quarry Farm; poor road surface on Red Hill, Eye Lane; and unreadable 'reduce speed' sign due to rust.

The head teacher, Luston School has kindly agreed to meet to share the reasons why the proposal for public access to the playground is unlikely to be possible. Proposed dates are to be provided by member(s) of the playground working group. Maintenance of the website is likely to be undertaken soon and may mean the content is unavailable for a short period.

## 7. Matters raised by local residents

A request was made for the 'road closed' sign at Ashton to be updated. A member of the public asked whether data was available to assess how effective the new Luston wetland has been since it became operational.

## 8. Planning

**8.1** 232777 Land at Eyton Hall, Eyton, HR6 0AE. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to 2 smaller and 1 larger dwelling houses and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.

**COMMENT:** The proposals in the planning application are supported.

[Cllr. J Oatley joined the meeting.]

**8.2** Update on planning decisions: None.

## 9. Highways and environmental matters

**9.1** Request to support project by the wildlife trust to survey Eyton Common. **DECISION:** Supported.

**9.2** Request from WI to plant bulbs on Holy Well. **DECISION:** Supported in principle subject to the obtaining of a cultivation licence from the highway authority.

**9.3** Proposed permissive paths/ access around wetland area for members of the public to create new circular walks and agree way forward. A map highlighting two proposed permissive paths was noted. **DECISION:** Supported. A formal request will be made to the landowner(s).

**9.4** Highways – Report on meeting with locality steward and matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** To report an overgrown verge highlighted by a member of the public, which is adjacent to the pavement and believed to be on private land. To review overgrown hedges adjacent to the highway with the locality steward.

**9.5** Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. The scraping of gutters as agreed at the last meeting has been scheduled for the end of November 2023. **DECISION:** To ask the lengthsman to undertake a day of gully cleaning of drains (£2,399.58). Additional funding was agreed for the purchase and installation of a further footpath gate in 2023-24.

## 10. Finance

**10.1** Payments:

DC Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths – £1,656.00

Orleton PC, share of 3-year maintenance contract, 2023-2026 – £564.50

Clerk, wages, September 2023

HMRC, PAYE to 5 October 2023

**DECISION:** Payments were agreed for electronic payment.

**10.2** Review direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, October 2023 – £36.00

**DECISION:** Payment was noted.

## 11. Arrangements for notices of registrable interests and election expenses forms

Declarations of registrable interest forms have been published on the parish council website in line with the requested new process from the local authority. Members should provide updates and registrable interest forms to the Clerk. A page for member notices of registrable interests has been set up on the parish council website and shared with Herefordshire Council. **DECISION:** Noted.

The Chairman asked the parish council to note the involvement of the police with regard to non-submission of Election Expenses Returns. **DECISION:** To request that Electoral Services issue a formal final warning before involving the police in chasing up election expenses returns.

**12. Review HALC schedule of courses**

Deferred pending availability of schedule.

**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 November 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.04pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_