

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2023 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

In attendance: Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb and R Hewitt (Clerk). Two (2) members of the public were present.

1. Receive apologies for absence – None.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Disclosable Pecuniary. None.

2.2 Non-disclosable Pecuniary. None.

2.3 Non-Pecuniary. None.

2.4 Written requests for dispensation. The Chairman's written request for dispensation in respect of 'Flooding Matters' was granted on grounds of community interest (b. knowledge of flooding which considered to be in the interests of persons living in the authority's area). The dispensation was agreed for the period up to the next election of the parish council in May 2027.

3. Approval of meeting minutes from 6 November 2023

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

4. Flooding matters

[Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby chaired the meeting.]

The Vice Chairman and Cllr. Coates reported on a 2023 Herefordshire Flood Groups Meeting held on 29 November 2023. A template community flood plan was provided to attendees. Flood incidents should be reported to the appropriate authority, which can help in funding for alleviation projects in the longer term.

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb added that Orleton is to be the first parish in the country to trial the power to close roads due to flooding. Regrettably the national flood forum has no funding at present for the county. A regular annual meeting for Herefordshire Flood Groups is planned. The River Lugg is to be 'modelled'.

The meeting noted that the request for a virtual meeting with the natural flood management team has been declined and the suggestion made to ask potential landowners to contact the NFM people to discuss possible opportunities. **DECISION:** To approach a local landowner to open a dialogue regarding possible NFM projects.

[The Chairman 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 written report. Potholes if serious can be escalated. Plans are being made for additional capital spending on the highway network. Council tax is likely to increase by 4.99 percent in 2024-25. 70 percent of the county council's budget is required for children and adult social care. Lengthsman funding is to be supported for the next five years.

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

Poor road surfaces on junctions of Lilac Grove, The Willows and Townsend Park with the B4361, and blocked culverts on Kingsland road, Eyton have been reported to the highway authority.

The Chairman reported on the recent tour of the Wetland area organised by Herefordshire Council. There may be an opportunity to use some of the site, subject to suitable fencing, as community amenity land for a playground and to facilitate a route to Cawley Hall from Luston using public rights of way. The Clerk was asked to find out more information from Herefordshire Council.

7. Matters raised by local residents

Highway defects raised were noted and will be looked at under #9 Highways and environmental matters.

8. Planning

8.1 233181 and 233425 Pool Cottage, Croft Lane, Luston, HR6 0ED. Renovate existing cottage, form enlarged opening, provide roof/dormer over single storey section of dwelling. Demolish garage structure and shed and erect a single storey store/studio building.

COMMENT: The proposals in the planning application and application for listed building consent are supported.

8.2 Appeal APP/W1850/W/23/3322225 Re: 223835 Land adjoining Tudor House, Luston. Proposed erection of 2 No. 3 bed single storey dwelling houses. **DECISION:** It was agreed to make no further comments on the application.

8.3 Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have granted planning permission for 232610 The Steppes. An update from planning services on discharge of conditions for 190032 was noted.

9. Highways and environmental matters

9.1 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** To report missing well cover on verge and re-report blocked culverts on Kingsland road, Eyton.

9.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. **DECISION:** To maintain grips on Lydiatt's crossroads.

10. Finance

10.1 Payments:

DC Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths – £1,512.00

Herefordshire Council, administration for election, May 2023 – £386.66

Clerk, wages, November 2023

Clerk, wages, December 2023

HMRC, PAYE to 5 January 2024 – £121.77

DECISION: Payments were agreed for electronic payment.

10.2 Review direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, December 2023 – £36.00

DECISION: Payment was noted.

10.3 Mid-year accounts, 2023-24, were noted. The 2024-25 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 £22,500.00. Internal financial controls are considered to be good.

11. Community Policing Charter

The community policing charter with West Mercia Police was reviewed. **DECISION:** The priorities in the current charter were confirmed for the new period without amendment.

12. Public space protection order (PSPO)

Consultation by Herefordshire Council on renewal of PSPO was considered. **DECISION:** The parish council agreed that there are no new areas to report for consideration for dog control orders and the protection order can be renewed covering the same areas as the existing public space protection order.

13. Council Matters articles in the Eye

Cllr. Coates requested that drivers using the lanes should keep off the verges to maintain the integrity of the grips taking surface water from the road to ditches, and that riparian owners maintain their ditches.

DECISION: The schedule of articles, February-May 2024, was agreed.

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

No matters were raised.

15. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 5 February 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____