

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 4 MARCH 2024 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

In attendance: Ms C Edwards, Trustee, The Wankland Trust; Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb; Mr J Pearson, Footpath Officer and R Hewitt (Clerk). Three (3) members of the public were present.

1. Receive apologies for absence – E Coates.

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. None.

3. Approval of meeting minutes from 5 February 2024

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

4. Matters raised by local residents

The following matters were raised: potholes at Eyton by Lydiatt's crossroads and South Lodge; blocked drains and culvert by the Ashton end of Eye Lane; and sewage overflow at Luston by the culvert under the B4361. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb said a meeting is being facilitated with Welsh Water to look at the sewage overflow incidents.

5. The Wankland Trust

Ms. C Edwards, Trustee, The Wankland Trust said the Charity Commission have advised there need to be at least two trustees and invited members of the public and parish council to volunteer to be a trustee. The whereabouts of the charity file is uncertain. The Clerk was asked to check the parish council archive. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb volunteered to be an additional trustee.

6. Flooding matters

[Cllr. Talbot Ponsonby chaired the meeting.]

Cllr. Pearson reported on a recent walkabout by the flood group, which identified further potential natural flood management projects towards Riddle Common and suggested that a bund could be effective in a number of locations to help relieve pressure on the brook at times of high rainfall.

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb highlighted an initiative by Orleton Parish Council to work with the Stewardship Scheme, and kindly offered to convene a meeting to review what flood alleviation measures might be possible under the scheme.

A member of the flood group has put together an overview showing how surface water flows from above Riddle Common, and kindly offered to share this information with the parish council and flood group.

DECISION: To review the next steps after the Stewardship Scheme meeting facilitated by Ward Cllr. Hurcomb.

[The Chairman resumed the chairing of the meeting.]

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb highlighted new lengthsman, PROW and drainage grant schemes in 2024-25. There will be a consultation on proposed bypass schemes for Hereford. The number of potholes on roads is getting worse. A budget of £5 million has been set for programmed highway works, split 50:50 between A & B and B & C roads.

8. Planning

8.1 Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have granted planning permission for 240053 New House. Works to trees are allowed for 240031 14 Townsend Park and 233647 5 Lilac Grove.

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

The response to the Hinkley Point C proposals for weir improvements to the Lugg has been submitted. A notice of vacancy has been posted for Eyton Parish. The defective SID has been fixed under the maintenance contract. The SIDs will remain deployed in Luston for longer than usual pending the completion of additional preparations by Richards Castle Parish Council.

Cllr. Coates has been registered for the next Grassroots training by HALC (there are two free training sessions available to members). The calculation of HALC membership fees has been checked as raised by a councillor, and the arithmetic based on the template provided by HALC, is correct.

A missing drain cover on Croft Lane has been reported to the highway authority. The Pensions Regulator requires a re-declaration of workplace pensions by 30 May 2024 – this will be reviewed by the finance working group in preparation for the annual meeting in May 2024. The response to the consultation on dog control orders has been submitted. The broadband provider to the village hall is undertaking software upgrades to the network which may lead to brief periods of downtime. Meetings were attended with the flood group and at Eyton with the locality steward. Two step verification security has been added to the website. A decision on the request to use an area of the wetland as a community amenity space remains outstanding.

10. Highways and environmental matters

10.1 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. The Clerk reported that the locality steward meeting at Eyton was helpful. Jobs were raised to clear the culverts on Seggin Lane among other matters, and an issue referred to the drainage team. **DECISION:** Highway defects raised under #4 Local Residents will be reported to the highway authority. Potholes and standing water on the B4361 above Luston, pavement by The Willows, Luston, and piping of water to main ditch by Moreton Eye will be brought to the attention of the highway authority.

10.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. The footpaths officer's report was noted. Conditions have been too wet to be able to undertake very much on the PROW network.

10.3 Herefordshire Council guidelines for parish footpath officers. **DECISION:** To obtain the opinion of the parish council's insurers on the guidelines.

11. The Eye newsletter

A request to increase the annual donation was considered. **DECISION:** It was agreed to donate £350.00.

12. Finance

12.1 Payments:

DC Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths (January/ February 2024) – £636.00

The Eye, donation 2023-24 – £350.00

Tangled Web Design, website maintenance – £360.00

Clerk, wages, February 2024

DECISION: Payments were agreed for electronic payment. The Clerk's wages will be paid by standing order going forward.

12.2 Review direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, March 2024 – £36.00

DECISION: Payment was noted.

13. Commemoration of D Day, 6 June 2024

Participation in the commemoration of D Day in 2024 by lighting a beacon. **DECISION:** Deferred.

14. Annual Parish Meetings

Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meetings, including date, agenda and reports.

DECISION: Deferred.

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 8 April 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.18pm.

Signed as a true record_____

Date_____