

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 8 APRIL 2024 AT CAWLEY HALL

Present: I Stevens (Chairman), C Pearson (Vice Chairman), A Brandish, P Edwards and A Capell.

In attendance: PCSO Emma Swallow, West Mercia Police; Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb; and R Hewitt (Clerk). One (1) member of the public was present.

1. Receive apologies for absence – E Coates, R Bennett Jones, W Talbot Ponsonby, and K Wood.

2. Co-opt to the vacancy for Eyton Parish

DECISION: Deferred.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 Disclosable Pecuniary. None.

3.2 Non-disclosable Pecuniary. None.

3.3 Non-Pecuniary. None.

3.4 Written requests for dispensation. None.

4. Approval of meeting minutes from 4 March 2024

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

5. Matters raised by local residents

Potholes were reported on Eye Lane and north of Luston on the B4361 between Yarpole Lane and Eyecote. A member of the public raised concern that the sewage leaks continue to be a problem by the culvert at Luston and are causing their toilet to malfunction. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb suggested that parishes join together to highlight the problems to the water authority and said a request has been made to identify sewerage capacity.

PCSO E Swallow kindly reported on local policing matters including Operation Kermit which deploys random speed checks. Dashcam footage showing poor driving can be uploaded via Operation Snap.

6. Flooding matters

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb reported on a recent farmer's meeting attended by a local landowner. He also suggested that more should be done to keep water off the road, for example by identifying blocked drains. The culvert under the B4361 at Luston has been raised with the highways service director as requiring replacement/ widening.

DECISION: To request a meeting with the Natural Flood Management coordinator to review the options to hold water back above Luston, including new areas looked at earlier in the year by the flood group. To inform the Consumer Council for Water that the manhole cover by the culvert under the B4361 at Luston continues to leak sewage potentially polluting the nearby watercourse.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb highlighted roads programmed for surfacing work in 2024-25. A request will be made to include the B4361 by Eyecote. White lining needs to be renewed on many of the roads such as the B4362 to Mortimer's Cross. The lengthsman grant has been increased to the level of 2023-24. A new drainage grant will be available to parishes with a lengthsman. A decision on repair of the swing bridge between Eyton and Kingsland is pending. Tunnel Lane has more than 100 potholes. Please participate in the Local Plan consultation.

8. Planning

8.1 240557 Pool Cottage, Croft Lane, Luston, HR6 0ED. Renovate and repair existing cottage and re-roof single storey rear flat roof extension. **COMMENT:** The application for listed building consent is supported.

8.2 240736 Land at Blackpole Cottage, Luston. Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to one larger dwelling house (Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. **COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

8.3 204317 Land at Bicton House. Proposed detached affordable dwelling and garage/workshop. Re-consultation on additional and updated plans or documents.

DECISION: Declined to comment.

8.4 240767 Green Orchard, Luston, HR6 0EB. T1 - 2 Willow Trees conjoined at the base within our boundary to be felled to ground level. T2 - 1 Large Willow Tree within our boundary to be felled to ground level. T3 - 1 Horse Chestnut (conker) Tree within our boundary to have crown reduction. T4 - 1 Oak Tree (TPO) to have crown reduction of full height (height unknown) of the tree for partial reduction of branches reaching over within our boundary. **COMMENT:** The parish council objects to the proposed works for T2, T3 and T4 on the grounds of community amenity value.

- T2 Large Willow. There is evidence that the tree has been pollarded in the past and the parish council believes that pollarding is the appropriate course of action given the tree's amenity value.
- T3 Horse Chestnut. There are very few horse chestnuts in the village, and it is felt that this healthy, flourishing tree should be considered for a Tree Protection Order.
- T4 Oak. The parish council is concerned that the work proposed will cause irreparable damage to the oak which has a tree protection order. The tree should be left alone.
- T1 conjoined willow trees (x2). There is no objection to the proposed work.

8.5 Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have allowed works to trees for 240200 22 The Willows.

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

Defects reported to the highway authority were noted, including potholes on Eye Lane and north of Luston on the B4361 between Yarpole Lane and Eyecote. Drainage defects have been reported on Seggin Lane, Eye Lane (x3) and on the B4361 north of Luston by the sharp corner and start of the 30mph zone. Pavement defect by the Willows has been reported as well. Two footpath bridges on LJ28/29 have been reported as defective to Herefordshire Council.

HALC's Grassroots training was cancelled. The course material will be provided to Cllr. Coates. The annual return 2023-24 will be completed shortly. An external audit will be required as payments for the year exceed £25,000. Agendas have been deleted from the website so that the minutes can be more easily located on the meetings web page.

10. Highways and environmental matters

10.1 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** No action required. Defects raised under #5 have been reported to the highway authority.

10.2 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. It was noted that stiles will be replaced shortly by gates on LJ11 off Eye Lane.

10.3 Herefordshire Council grants. **DECISION:** To register interest in the drainage grant and PROW grant.

11. Finance

11.1 Payments:

DC Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths (March 2024) – £102.00

HMRC, PAYE to 5 April 2024 – £193.50

DECISION: Payments were agreed for electronic payment.

11.2 Review direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, March 2024 – £36.00

Clerk, wages (March 2024)

DECISION: Payment was noted.

11.3 Arrangements for internal audit: **DECISION:** A new internal auditor was appointed to undertake the 2023-24 return (Ms L Pearson). An honorarium was agreed.

12. Draft Herefordshire Local Plan consultation (Regulation 18)

A response to the consultation by Herefordshire Council was considered. **DECISION:** To establish a working group to review the survey and recommend a response for consideration at the next meeting. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllrs. Brandish and Capell kindly offered to join the working group.

13. Community Policing Charter

The policing charter with West Mercia Police was reviewed. **DECISION:** The existing priorities were confirmed without amendment: speeding, thefts from outbuildings and anti-social behaviour.

14. Commemoration of D Day, 6 June 2024

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

15. Schedule of Meetings 2024-25 and Annual Parish Meetings

DECISION: The schedule of meetings 2024-25 was agreed. The Annual Parish Meetings will be held at 7pm on Monday 13 May 2024. Members providing reports were proposed and agreed.

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

No matters were raised.

17. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The annual meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 13 May 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.13pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____