

# LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 1 JULY 2024 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

**In attendance:** Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb; and R Hewitt (Clerk). Six (6) members of the public were present.

**1. Receive apologies for absence** – R Bennett Jones.

**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 13 and 20 May 2024**

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

**5. Matters raised by local residents**

Overgrown hedges and a verge on the B4361 were raised as potential hazards for pedestrians using the pavement in Luston. It was noted that these have been raised with the highway authority, and followed up with the locality steward, for appropriate action. A hedge on Townsend Park was also felt to be overgrown. Holy Well may benefit from additional maintenance by appropriately trained and knowledgeable volunteers.

Concern was expressed at parish council plans set out in the Eye newsletter for a community amenity and playground at the Luston wetland. The suggestion was made for the amenity land and playground to be located elsewhere to safeguard the wildlife at the wetland.

**6. Community Amenity at Luston Wetland**

The meeting reviewed a draft Expression of Interest for community asset transfer of land by Herefordshire Council which owns the wetland. The Chairman of the village hall committee kindly offered to explore the option to locate a playground at Cawley Hall. **DECISIONS:** To amend the community asset transfer of land proposal to focus on establishing a community area to view wildlife and provide a link for pedestrians to access Cawley Hall. To suggest that the playground working group meets with the village hall committee to look at options for a playground.

[Cllr. E Coates joined the meeting.]

**7. Flooding matters**

The flood working group reported on an online meeting held with Herefordshire Council's natural flood management team. Photos and videos of surface water run off on land above Luston taken by a member of the working group have been shared with Herefordshire Council.

The natural flood management team expressed an interest in understanding the locations where the footage was taken. The Wye and Usk Foundation is to meet with additional owners of land above Luston. A member of the working group said surface water run-off from the surrounding hills can vary and does not always come from the direction of the Riddle, for example the Eighteen Acre field. Photos of the ditch behind the Willows provided by a member of the working group were shared with Herefordshire Council after the online meeting. The suggestion was made that the parish council might consider purchasing or leasing land for the purposes of natural flood management. The Clerk reported that the Consumer Council for Water will not be taking any further action on the complaint made about sewerage infrastructure at Luston. **DECISION:** The reports were noted.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb highlighted PROW grant funding, the increased cost to fix the swing bridge across the Lugg at Eyton and the option to protect areas of verge for wildflower planting. The number of potholes repaired has increased dramatically, significant sections of the A4110 are to be resurfaced as well as an area by Bicton. No resurfacing is programmed for the B4361 though this might be addressed in the next financial year.

The minority administration at Herefordshire Council was re-confirmed in May 2024. There have been no subsequent meetings of Herefordshire Council. The drainage fund is to be launched soon. It will fund ditching work and gathering of data such as a drainage map. Flooding schemes aimed at keeping surface water off roads may benefit from additional funding.

Cllr. Coates asked that the verge cut in Eyton is delayed in order to protect wildflowers. A member of the public asked that when potholes are inspected the impact on cyclists should be given more weight.

## **9. Planning**

**9.1** 241249 The Whym, Luston, HR6 0BX. Very large spruce pine tree close to house and front gate next to lane: take down to ground level as grown too large and a danger to house. Take out boughs from 2 old apple trees in front of the property between house and neighbouring field, to save the trees and make future maintenance safer and easier.

**COMMENT:** No comment made as decision taken by time of the July meeting.

**9.2** 241539 Iona, Moreton Eye, HR6 0DP. Proposed ground floor front extension.

**COMMENT:** The planning application is supported.

**9.3** Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have refused a non-material amendment for 240961 New House. Works to trees within a conservation area are allowed for 241249 The Whym and partially for 240767 Green Orchard (T1, T2 and T3). Works to trees covered by a tree preservation order (TPO) have been refused for 240767 Green Orchard (T4).

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

The Clerk's report was deferred to the next meeting.

## **11. Highways and environmental matters**

**11.1** Platinum Jubilee tree at Eyton Common – Deferred.

**11.2** 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.

**11.3** Lengthsman and P3 footpaths – Deferred.

**11.4** Review Herefordshire Council PROW grant for 2024-25. A proposal prepared by the footpath officer was supported without amendment. **DECISION:** To apply for a £1,699.50 PROW grant, and highlight repairs required to two bridges.

## **12. Finance**

### **12.1** Payments:

DC Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths (May 2024) – £984.00

DC Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths (June 2024) – £204.00

Clerk, Re: Gigaclear, broadband service, June 2024 – £57.17

HMRC, PAYE to 5 July 2024 – £133.60

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

### **12.2** Review direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, July 2024 – £57.17

ICO, data protection fee 2024-25 – £35.00

Clerk, wages (May and June 2024)

**DECISION:** The payments were noted.

**12.3** Mandate for new Gigaclear contract. **DECISION:** The mandate was updated and signed.

## **13. Parish Council Summit**

Agree up to two (2) participants to represent the parish council on 9 July 2024. **DECISION:** The Chairman kindly agreed to attend the summit.

## **14. HALC training schedule**

**DECISION:** The schedule of courses was noted.

## **15. Matters for consideration at the next meeting (no discussion)**

No matters were raised.

## **16. Date of Next Full Council Meeting**

**DECISION:** The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 2 September 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.31pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_