

LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUSTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT CAWLEY HALL

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

In attendance: Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb; and R Hewitt (Clerk). Three (3) members of the public were present.

1. Receive apologies for absence – A Brandish.

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 of 1 July 2024

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

5. Matters raised by local residents

[Cllr. Coates joined the meeting.]

Members of the public raised concerns at the speed of traffic through Luston on the B4361. The Vice Chairman noted enforcement had been carried out recently on two occasions by West Mercia Police. **DECISION:** It was agreed to consider options to address speeding at the next meeting.

Cllr. Coates reported that the white lining on the junction by Eyton common is faded and needs to be repainted.

6. Flooding matters

The Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project Officer has indicated that landowners above Luston are being approached and concerns regarding a ditch will be raised with Balfour Beatty Living Places, the agent for the highway authority. An announcement of Sustainable Farming Initiatives (SFI) 2024 made by Defra was noted. It is hoped this is a significant step towards providing more clarity for farmers. **DECISION:** To request an update on NFM projects and activities at Luston.

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

Ward Cllr. Hurcomb's written report was noted. It may be possible to obtain PROW supplies from Hoople.

8. Planning

8.1 240151 Land to the West of B4361 Luston. Proposed foul and surface water drainage infrastructure to serve development of 8 dwellings approved pursuant to 231701/F, with associated changes to landscaping. Re-consultation on new plans and/ or documents.

COMMENT: The amended plans and documents are supported.

8.2 242007 Berrington Hall, Berrington, HR6 0DW. Installation of a new wet heating system in courtyard buildings at Berrington Hall, involves creating small penetrations through walls, floors and ceilings for copper pipework. **COMMENT:** It was resolved to make no comment.

8.3 Update on planning decisions: Herefordshire Council have granted planning permission for 241539 Iona.

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

The annual return 2023-34 has been submitted to the external auditor and notices published on the website and parish noticeboards. A site meeting for Herefordshire Wildlife Trust to survey Eyton Common was held during the summer and was attended by several commoners. The following defects have been raised with the highway authority: An overgrown verge by Lilac Grove, white lining on Lydiatt's crossroads and broken drain cover on Croft Lane. A meeting with the Cawley Hall Chairman to discuss a playground in the grounds is expected to take place shortly with a member of the playground working group. The defibrillators have been checked and the status updated on The Circuit. Both sets of pads will require replacing by October 2024. Bank charges are to be made monthly instead of quarterly from September 2024. The parish council may wish to consider participating in a campaign supported by NALC and SLCC concerning lithium-ion batteries. The HALC conference is on Saturday 26 October 2024.

Herefordshire Council have indicated that proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) mean the housing target will increase from 773 dwellings to 1,375 dwellings per year, an increase of 11,400 dwellings over the 20-year plan period. Government is consulting on the proposed NPPF changes.

The Vice Chairman and the Clerk provided a brief verbal report on the official opening of the Wetland in August 2024. An announcement has been made by Herefordshire Council. The Chairman and Clerk made a brief verbal report on the Parish Council Summit held in July 2024.

10. Highways and environmental matters

10.1 Platinum Jubilee tree at Eyton Common: The survey of the common carried out by the wildlife trust found that the Sweet Chestnut planted for the Platinum Jubilee had died.

DECISION: To obtain a recommendation for a suitable replacement tree.

10.2 Highways – Matters to bring to the attention of Balfour Beatty. **DECISION:** No matters raised. Defect raised under #5 will be reported to the highway authority.

10.3 Lengthsman and P3 footpaths. The lengthsman has been asked to cut back growth/ clean highway signs in the parishes. A quotation has been obtained from a new supplier for spraying of weeds. PROW defects in Eyton and Moreton/ Ashton reported by members of the public have been passed to the footpath officer. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb kindly agreed to review the two bridges highlighted in the PROW grant with Herefordshire Council's PROW team. **DECISION:** It was agreed to defer spraying of gutters to spring 2025. Scraping of the gutters in Luston was commissioned for November 2024. Also to include the railway bridge and humpback bridge on Eye Lane and kerbed section at The Broad before the bridge on the B3461.

10.4 Environmental Grants: The successful outcome of the application to Herefordshire Council for a PROW grant was noted (£1,699.50). Projects to include in an application to Herefordshire Council for local drainage grant funding were considered. **DECISIONS:** The agreement to vary the lengthsman contract to include the PROW grant was agreed and signed. The Clerk was delegated to make an application for local drainage grant funding for the various projects agreed at the meeting and to review projects at Eyton in consultation with Cllr. Coates.

11. Finance

11.1 Payments for consideration:

DC Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths (July 2024) – £276.00

DC Gardening Services, lengthsman/ footpaths (August 2024) – £564.00

Wel Medical, defibrillator pads (x2) – £143.88

Clerk, administration and office 2023-24 – £467.35

DECISION: Payments were agreed for electronic payment.

11.2 Review direct payments:

Gigaclear, broadband service, August and September 2024 – £114.34

Clerk, wages (July and August 2024)

DECISION: The payments were noted.

12. Community Amenity at Luston Wetland

The meeting reviewed an email from Herefordshire Council which stated that a community asset transfer is not possible because the site is closed and to be owned by Herefordshire Council in perpetuity. However, there is “potential for a small section of higher ground accessed via a permissive path to be fenced in order to provide a viewing platform for local residents and visitors”.

The Vice Chairman and Clerk reported on a brief meeting held with the responsible officer at the Wetland opening event during the summer. Ward Cllr. Hurcomb also was present. The suggestion was made to include a path for public access from the viewing platform to the access road, but this was not supported by the county council. **DECISION:** To accept the offer of a viewing platform at the Wetland. Local landowners will be approached to propose a new permissive path along the boundary of the Wetland to connect Luston to Cawley Hall.

13. Parish Council Summit

Agree up to two (2) participants to represent the parish council on 8 October 2024.

DECISION: The Chairman and Clerk kindly agreed to attend the summit.

14. Community Risk Management Plan 2025-30 consultation

The Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service consultation on potential local risks and/ or concerns was noted. **DECISION:** To be completed by members on an individual basis should they wish to do so.

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

Sponsorship of a WWII sign and publication of Council Matters articles.

16. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

DECISION: The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 7 October 2024.

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

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____