

24th January 2019

HOPE UNDER DINMORE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 24th January 2019 at 7.00pm in
Hope under Dinmore Village Hall

MINUTES

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr Leslie Legge (Chairman); Cllr John Stone; Cllr J Pritchard; Cllr N Giles; Cllr A. Morgan (Vice Chairman); Cllr. Mrs K Clarkson; Cllr Paul Stephens;

In attendance: Parish Clerk: Mrs L Hay; Ward Cllr Pauline Crockett;

Two members of the public were present.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence: Cllr. N Ramsay;

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensations: Cllr Clarkson and Cllr Stone signed on behalf of the village hall.

3. Report from local Police Officer – no representation present. However, the Clerk reported having received a recent email with regard to – Crime Prevention Advice. It was discussed and agreed not to take up the offer of a Crime Prevention Presentation based on previous attendance figures being so low at similar events.

4. Community Governance review – An update from John Coleman - Democratic Services Manager and Statutory Scrutiny Officer
No further update at present but there are no problems expected to be associated with Hope under Dinmore's proposed changes.

5. Ward Councillor Pauline Crockett –

Ward Member report January 2019

1. December seemed to be a quiet month in regard to Council business, although on reflection serious decisions were made. There were several future projects accepted by the Cabinet in December and these

24th January 2019

programmed projects will need to be carried out by the incoming administration, so nothing is set in stone.

[Peterchurch Primary School Rebuild](#) Cabinet approved the commissioning of a feasibility study for the rebuild of Peterchurch primary school on the current site. Construction cost c. £4 million this is based on Colwall costs.

[Purchase of accommodation to meet strategic priorities](#) i.e. supportive accommodation for vulnerable people with complex needs at a cost of approx. £740,000

[Development Regeneration Programme - Station Approach project approval](#) Cabinet approved progressing the Station Approach project to stage 2, the development of a full business case for Stage 2 includes a development fee of up to £752,648.

[Hereford Centre for Cyber Security – Joint Venture and Financial Arrangements](#) Cabinet approved the establishment of a joint venture company with University of Wolverhampton, and associated financial arrangements for the Hereford centre for cyber security the council will provides a capital loan, on commercial terms, to the new company of £3.5m

Children's services at Herefordshire Council have been in the press due to a judgement against us, we have accepted that errors have been made by our social workers and their managers over a very prolonged period of time. The Independent Group Members feel that further discussions and assurances are required therefore we have initiated a request for an extraordinary public Council meeting in this regard. This was accepted and was carried out on Friday January 18th, this will be followed by a Social care symposium tomorrow headed by the High Sheriff of Herefordshire and Judge Keenan.

Locally, planning applications continue to be submitted on a regular basis, many have complex issues related to them. We have experienced delays in applications as we have had several experienced officers leave the service. We are now interviewing for 4 new planning officers, interviews commence tomorrow.

24th January 2019

I am in discussion with BBLP regarding the request for a grit bin to be installed near Trunk Cottage, as soon as I get a definitive answer, I will contact the Parish Clerk.

The Public path diversion order for HD4 has now been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate for due consideration.

6. The Chairman opened the Open Session and invited those present to raise any local issues which they wished discussed.

6.1 Additional grit bins – Ward Cllr Crocket has taken this request forward to Balfour Beatty. After discussion it was agreed that if Cllr Crockett's request was unsuccessful, the Parish Council would provide a suitable grit bin to be installed near Truck Cottage and this would have to be filled and maintained at the Parish Council's expense. To await a response to Cllr Crockett's request.

Resolved: Clerk to inform resident

6.2 A resident asked if the Parish Council had any information on the recent upgrade to superfast broadband. It was confirmed that there is no active superfast broadband available in the village as yet despite cables being laid. After some discussion, it was suggested the resident approaches her provider to ask if/when the broadband will be available.

Resolved: Clerk to inform resident.

(6.3) Land opposite Cherry Brook – caravan. The Chairman explained he had approached the owner who had explained that the caravan was used to house a device which recorded the noise levels associated with the A49. This equipment and recording are both associated with the planning application for a single dwelling on this site. The caravan had now been removed together with a car which was also parked on the land.

Reference was made to recent work being undertaken by Network rail on the left before you climb the hill. It is reported that there have been as many as 15 vehicles associated with this work with some parking in the passing bay making it difficult for vehicles to pass on the narrow road.

24th January 2019

These vehicles have caused a considerable amount of damage to the verges. The Chairman will discuss this with the Locality Steward with regard to who is responsible for making good the damage caused.

Resolved: Clerk to contact Locality Steward.

With no further questions the Chairman Closed the Open Session.

7. Minutes of last meeting: It was agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 20th September, 2018 were a true record and it was unanimously voted they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

Clerk's update

7.1 HALC Information corner and training programme circulated – noted charges will rise from April 2019.

The Clerk explained that she had received an invoice from HALC to cover costs for hosting the new PC website/ domain name until October 2019. It was agreed this should be paid but that cheaper alternatives were available. Note made to defer item until August.

7.2 Village trees - the clerk explained that an email had been circulated with regard to the safety/maintenance of trees owned by Parish Councils. It was confirmed that Hope under Dinmore Group Parish Council do not own any trees and any health and safety issues associated with village trees were the responsibility of the land owners.

8. Reports and update on:

8.1 Cherry Brook – no representative present.

8.2 News from Newton – there is a broken grit bin in Newton Lane by the post box which has now become unfit for use.

Resolved: Clerk to liaise with Locality.

The excess water that is accumulating and flowing just above Newton Cider in Newton Lane is becoming a problem particularly if the

24th January 2019

temperature drops and ice forms. It is thought that the underground drains maybe blocked.

Resolved: In the first instance Clerk with liaise with the Locality Steward to arrange a meeting between Cllr Stephens, the Chairman and the Locality Steward.

8.3 Queenswood – A letter has been received from a resident drawing the Parish Council’s attention to the appalling state of their access road with thick mud and breaking down of verges - all due to the ongoing movement of heavy vehicles lugging out timber. This is making life intolerable for those residents living along the road. It was noted that at some time in the past, it had been suggested that horse power would be used to tush the wood to the main road making a far less mess, but this idea does not seem to have been followed up.

After lengthy discussion, it was acknowledged that the Parish Council had previously been in contact with the management of Queenswood highlighting these same issues without any successful outcome. It was, therefore, reluctantly agreed that little would be gained by the Parish Council again approaching the management of Queenswood but that an approach by the residents themselves may achieve more success in getting these issues resolved.

9. Finance Matters:

9.1 Payments made since last meeting –

(a) A November Schedule of Payments had been circulated. Due to the late cancellation of the November meeting – it was unanimously agreed, retrospectively, that the November invoices should be paid and the clerk confirmed that she had raised the cheques and these had been signed and paid.

9.2 Outstanding Invoices - schedule of payments had been circulated and it was agreed that the outstanding invoices should be paid and cheques were raised and signed.

9.3 **Payments to church yard maintenance** The Clerk reported that National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had put out guidance

24th January 2019

saying that there was a lack of clarity between the 1894 Local Government Act (which prohibits Parish Councils to contribute to the upkeep of church assets) and the 1972 and 2011 Local Government Acts which appear to allow this; NALCs view being that it was illegal for Parish Councils to make any kind of donation to Churches or to the upkeep of churchyards (except closed churchyards).

The Clerk had approached the Clerk's professional body (SLCC), their advice being that this should be discussed with the Parish Council, giving them the NALC advice and letting them make a balanced judgement. The SLCC felt that as long as the Parish Council could show they had considered the issue and could give the reasons why they have come to the conclusion they had, then there should be no problem in continuing to support the maintenance of the churchyard.

Resolved: The NALC view was noted but the Parish Council agreed to continue contributing to the upkeep of the churchyard. It noted that if any other requests were made from religious organisations or groups within the Parish these would be discussed openly and indiscriminately considered as and when they occurred.

9.4 **Precept/Budget 2019/2020.**

The Precept/Budget for 2019-20. The Clerk had previously circulated the current expenditure figures and a forecast for expenditure as of 31st March 2019. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed by a show of hands to increase the Precept from £10,500 to £11,500.

This increase is to help offset the loss of the lengthsman and P3 funding. It was also agreed to establish a village maintenance fund in case emergency/additional funding became necessary due to flooding/replacement of sand bags etc.

It was also noted that there are forthcoming Parish Council Elections due in May when, should an election be called, estimated costs of £1400 were liable to be re-charged to the Parish Council.

There was discussion on the financial viability of continuing to produce a village newsletter. It was acknowledged that, despite continual requests for advertising/editorial material, there had been

24th January 2019

very little support so it was reluctantly agreed, for the time being at least, to discontinue producing a village newsletter. However, it was agreed that a small amount of budget should be set aside in case it becomes necessary to produce a leaflet drop at any time in the future.

Resolved – the Clerk to forward the application form for the Total Precept Requirement to Herefordshire Council.

10. To Receive Reports:

10.1 Village Hall Committee - Councillor J Stone reported a bank balance of £1962 with outstanding invoices due to be paid in of nearly £2000. Bookings remain stable. General maintenance work on the toilets remains on going.

10.2 Village Footpaths – Footpaths Officer Cllr N. Giles

Generally, the footpaths are in good order for the time of the year. However, there is an unsteady rail on the stile under the bridge and to the left – clerk will liaise with lengthsman.

If Network rail is successful in diverting the HD4 footpath, the alternative footpath is very difficult to negotiate and it maybe that the ditch needs to be dug out. Clerk will liaise with Locality Steward and lengthsman and arrange a site visit with the Chairman to discuss feasibility and price for this work.

It was suggested that the Parish Council purchase some 'stile packs' with the remainder of their P3 monies. Clerk to liaise with lengthsman.

11. Highway Matters:

11.1 Lengthsman work schedule for January/February – to repair damaged bin; inspect underpass and repair broken stile. There maybe other jobs following the site visit between the Locality Steward and the Chairman.

Resolved: Clerk with liaise.

24th January 2019

12. Planning: Planning consultations since last meeting –

12.1 Upper Buskwood – information only as in Wellington Parish
No further update.

12.2 Update on Planning application: 183231- Land described as off
Tavern Meadow– no further up date. See item 6.3

13. Items for the Next Agenda (no discussion) none

Correspondence: - none not already covered in the minutes.

14. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting –

on Thursday 21st March 2019 - 7.00p.m. start.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

Signed:

Date: