

21<sup>st</sup> November 2019

**HOPE UNDER DINMORE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 at 7.00pm in  
Hope under Dinmore Village Hall

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

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

In attendance: Parish Clerk: Mrs L Hay;

Six members of the public were present.

- 1. To Receive Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Paul Stephens;
- 2. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensations:** None
- 3. Report from local Police Officer** – no representative present.
- 4. Community Governance review** – no further update at present.
- 5. Ward Councillor Pauline Crockett.** The Ward Councillor expressed her sincere apologies for not attending the last meeting.

Herefordshire Council update: -

Preparation for the next financial year's budget is underway, this involves many tough decisions on how and where to allocate the decreasing funds available to Local Authorities (if anyone has any ideas, please let me know) we are also looking ahead at the 4 year Medium Term Finance Strategy (MTFS) which looks at the ambitions of the Council and how this could be achieved.

Our priorities are: -

- Build communities to ensure everyone lives well and safely together

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- Support an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources
- Protect our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live

September hosted our first Parish Council Summit; good attendance was achieved (90 PC members) and healthy debate was had!

'Herefordshire Now' our resident magazine has been launched with a theme of 'Stay well this winter' I will bring some copies to the next meeting, but it is also available on the HC website.

Cabinet have held 2 meetings recently, agreeing to establish a new earmarked reserve of £150,000 to investigate different models of delivering council housing and a new earmarked reserve of £550,000 to enhance edge of care services for young people. This is an indication of two of the priorities of the new administration.

The next Cabinet meeting is to be held at Leominster Library on 27th November at 6pm, we are trailing different venues around the County to encourage local attendance and engagement, please attend if possible.

My Cabinet role has been busy as usual, looking at items such as, the procurement of the Community Equipment Service, we will be looking to approve the commissioning in December.

I attended an amazing afternoon at Herefordshire's All Seasons Dance Studio where we hosted a 'Music and Memories' event for residents affected by dementia and their relatives and carers on Thursday 26 September. The dementia friendly tea dance was just one of thousands of events that have taken place and Herefordshire's event successfully brought over 70 residents together to enjoy an afternoon of music and laughter.

Locally, I have been in regular contact with Queenswood Country Park in regard to local residents concerns with 'parking fines' for residents, and their visiting families and friends who have received such notices, this has been highly controversial and has been addressed by their management team with apologies. (any further concerns please email me)

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Planning applications have been dealt with in accordance to policies and HUD have only 1 outstanding application 193037 Upper Newton Farm (Newton Hampton Court Parish)

Speeding around HUD, Queenswood area and the A49/A417 junction is a major concern due to the continual accidents and 'near misses' that are reported, I am at present liaising with our local MP and HC Infrastructure Cabinet member in this regard. Hopefully some further news next meeting.

Please see the report from David Hitchiner - Leader of Herefordshire Council - as an attachment to these minutes.

## **6. The Chairman opened the Open Session –**

Local residents came to the meeting to discuss the very dangerous A4117 - A49 junction and to present a petition to the Ward Councillor.

It was acknowledged that this junction is renowned for being dangerous and has been the subject of on-going discussion for many years. Various suggestions were made on how improvements could be made.

After discussion, it was agreed that the petition should continue to run until the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 which would represent the findings of a three-month campaign.

Unfortunately, due to the General Election – the MP Bill Wiggin was unable to visit the area last week. However, once the new Member of Parliament has been elected the Ward Councillor will again arrange an on-site meeting when local views can be expressed and the petition can be handed over.

Further to the concerns raised about random gun shots very near to Northside Park and the footpath – the land owners have been made aware of the concerns and the matter will now be addressed.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were a true record and it was unanimously voted they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

**8. News from:**

8.1 Cherry Brook – no representative present.

8.2 Newton all quiet at the moment.

**9. Finance Matters:**

9.1 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.

9.2 The Clerk explained that she had now received the Precept Application Form for 2020/21.

The Budget for 2020-21 was discussed and it was unanimously agreed – by a show of hands – to increase the Precept application to £11,750.00. The Clerk will send in the application form.

**10. To Receive Reports:**

10.1 **Village Hall Committee** - Councillor J Stone reported that bookings remain stable. There is £5,100 in the current account with no outstanding invoices to be paid. The village hall committee are now considering plans for 2020 which include finalising the repair to the roof; re surfacing the car park and getting the perimeter hedge cut. There has been discussion on purchasing a cork notice board for inside the hall to discourage the use of blue tac which damages the paint work.

10.2 **Village Footpaths** – Footpaths Officer Cllr N. Giles reported that the footpaths are generally in good order for the time of the year.

HD4 - public path diversion order - this request was submitted to the Secretary of State who decided NOT to confirm the Order – therefore the existing line of the path remains the legal line.

**11. Highway Matters:**

11.1 Lengthsman has installed a new bin by the SLOW road sign at the entrance to Cherrybrook.

11.2 Lengthsman to be asked to inspect the valves at Cherry Brook.

11.3 Following the recent heavy rain and subsequent flooding - it was agreed that it would be beneficial to carry out some maintenance work to the main village ditch owned by Mr Mosinski. The Clerk to liaise with Mr Mosinski and the Locality Steward.

11.4 During the recent flooding, sand bags were distributed in various houses in the village. It was agreed there was a need to replace these and to purchase a palette of 50 ready filled bags from Radbournes. Clerk will place an order and liaise regarding delivery/unloading.

11.5 Locality Steward to be asked to inspect Newton Lane and Cherry Brook – with a view to having them jetted/swept as both very silted up after the flooding.

11.6 Clerk to check with the Locality Steward that the salt bins have been filled.

**12. Planning:** No new planning applications since last meeting.

Update on outstanding planning application:

12.2 Planning application: 183231- Land described as off Cherrybrook– no further up date.

**13. Correspondence:**

**Travellers site** – the Ward Councillor confirmed that it has been agreed that there is to be a ‘one night stop over’ transition site at the OK Diner in Leominster. This will allow travellers a one-night respite site – but, if abused, will allow the police to use powers of enforcement to move travellers on.

**Balfour Beatty Parish Briefing** - unfortunately, the Ward Councillor it unable to attend the Balfour Beatty Parish Briefing to discuss contract performance, winter preparedness and how they support communities. The Ward Councillor explained that, if any Councillor is able to attend, there is an opportunity to raise questions with the Senior Management Team.

Thorn Depot, Rotherwas - 5<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.

Kingsland Depot, Shirlheath - 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.

**14. Items for next agenda** – not for discussion – none raised.

**15. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting** – on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 with a 7.00p.m. start.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.

Signed:

Date:

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Leader of Herefordshire Council – David Hitchiner – Newsletter 2019

Welcome to my first Leader's Newsletter. This monthly update provides an overview of the key activity that Cabinet Members and I have been involved in, and aims to keep you better informed on cabinet and council activity. If you have any queries related to the topics covered, please contact the relevant Cabinet Member.

We are working towards setting the 20/21 budget and a four-year medium term financial strategy (MTFS) which sets out in broad details the ambitions of the council and how the budget is proposed to be realigned to deliver this ambition. In parallel to the budget process, work continues to develop the Corporate Plan 2020-2024 which describes the strategic priorities, direction of travel and high level plans for the next four years.

Our proposed priorities are:

- Build communities to ensure everyone lives well and safely together
- Support an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources
- Protect our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live

We held a Parish Summit on the 20th September to launch the consultation with around ninety attendees. There were a series of events in different parts of the county, targeted focus groups and an online survey. These findings will now feed into the Budget Consultation in November. This engagement has allowed us to talk to over a thousand people- including some hard to reach communities and younger people. Feedback will inform the draft budget and corporate plan that will be proposed to full council in February 2020.

Our resident magazine, Herefordshire Now, will be available in early November, with the theme 'Stay well this winter'. There will be multiple copies available for each councillor at Plough Lane. Please contact the communications team if you would like more copies.

At the cabinet meeting on 24th October the Cabinet agreed to establish a new earmarked reserve of £150,000 to investigate different models of delivering council housing and a new earmarked reserve of £550,000 to enhance edge of care services for young people. This is an indication of two of the priorities of the new administration.

For some of us the awful weather has dominated the past few days. Council officials and BBLP have been working hard to minimise the impact on people and properties. In my ward the rain has highlighted areas where drains are not working effectively. Areas of concern need to be logged with your locality steward, which I am sure you are doing. Where people are concerned, this is where our strong communities come

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into their own. For new councillors (such as me) we may not be aware of the systems the Council has in place to deal with emergencies such as this. I will be asking the appropriate directorate to communicate these systems to you.

The Cabinet meeting on 27 November is being held in the library in Leominster. For those with Parish Councils at that end of the county in particular, could you please remind them that this location is being chosen to give people who live out of Hereford an easy opportunity to attend. Thank you.

Commissioning, procurement and assets – Cllr Gemma Davies Cllr Davies is exploring how public procurement contracts can best support local businesses and communities. Cabinet members undertook a visit to Preston City Council in July to understand how they have introduced new ways of working. This included a review into their 300 largest public service contracts and sought out barriers to smaller businesses winning contracts. This approach has delivered around 23% of savings for the city council. As an example, their £2m school meals contracts was broken down into multiple smaller contracts of a size manageable to both large and smaller local businesses, which led to more local food being used in school meals and supported the wider local supply chain.

Museums, Libraries and Archives Services have experienced significant budget reductions in recent years, without any significant closures or reductions in service and with the support of communities. Cllr Davies is focussed on reviewing the current allocated budgets and exploring the levels of investment required to protect what we have while providing a more sustainable future for these important services. She will be learning how other councils manage museum services to ensure we choose what is right for Herefordshire. Cllr Davies will also explore what investment is possible to protect our valued library services across the county, and also what can be achieved through additional funding, including capital investment in buildings and facilities, across Museums, Library and Archive services.

Children and families – Cllr Felicity Norman Reports on Corporate Parenting Annual Report and the Fostering and Adoption Annual Report were discussed prior to going to the cabinet feeder and cabinet.

Finance update provided to Cllr Norman and the increase in spend on LAC placements, which continues to be a challenge, reviewed.

Slides on the budget 2020/2021 revenue and capital were reviewed in advance of cabinet briefing discussion. Concept of social care pool of revenue discussed along with need to spend on edge of care service, and getting to good (increasing the capacity of social work teams and quality assurance).

Discussed aims and objectives, content, presentations and supporting materials for cabinet briefing sessions focusing on children and families on 1 October 2019.

Reviewed August social care performance, including the continued challenge of recruitment, resulting caseloads particularly in our CP/Court teams, the recently

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launched dedicated recruitment campaign, the different progress in some key performance indicators.

Environment, economy and skills – Cllr Trish Marsh There are a number of exciting new developments underway which will support the economic growth of the county. The Cyber Quarter - Midlands Centre for Cyber Security is a £9m joint venture between the council and the University of Wolverhampton. Located on Skylon Park (Hereford's Enterprise Zone) construction is underway and due to be completed in summer 2020. The £7m redevelopment of a World War One Shell Store on the Enterprise Zone will establish the first business incubation space available in the county, and is also due to open in summer 2020. Construction has also commenced on the 178 bedroom first purpose-built student accommodation in Hereford on Station Approach. Due to be completed in September 2020, the student accommodation will support the development of higher education in Herefordshire, critical to supporting the growth of the economy.

Fastershire as a Herefordshire Council programme has been named Best Public Sector Impact project that demonstrates an exemplary approach to supporting the deployment of new digital infrastructure. The Independent Networks Co-operative Association (INCA) has recognised the project's approach in breaking down barriers to make progress in the deployment of broadband, using innovative ways of creating a step change in digital connectivity in a very rural areas.

In 2012, less than 1% (0.6%) of Herefordshire premises has access to superfast broadband. The Fastershire project has so far achieved coverage of 88%, so there has been significant progress to provide faster broadband to businesses and residents. This coverage is set to increase to 97% with the current contracts delivered by Gigaclear, Airband and Openreach.

A revised broadband strategy is due for a decision by Cllr Marsh in November, addressing how to complete the superfast broadband reach and deployment of full-fibre. The remaining premises will be

some of the most difficult to reach and often isolated, so the council are looking a introducing a grant scheme as a way of getting broadband to those remaining areas.

Finance and corporate services – Cllr Liz Harvey

Herefordshire Council has signed up to the national digital declaration. This declaration aims to affirm collective ambition between local public services and national government specifically to:

§ design services that best meet the needs of citizens

§ challenge the technology market to offer the flexible tools and services we need

§ protect citizens' privacy and security

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§ deliver better value for money.

These aims match Herefordshire Council's approach to increase the use of the on-line services and the declaration allows the council to access additional training and funding opportunities.

As part of the Modern Slavery Action 2015 local authorities are required to publish an annual statement on its activities to use its powers, influence and responsibilities to prevent and act against modern slavery. To endorse this statement the cabinet are making the commitments as outlined below:

Proactive – improve awareness, understanding and identification of modern slavery with council staff and members being proactive in reporting suspected incidents.

Protect – safeguard children and adults to not be at risk of modern slavery, and support victims with care and services.

Partnership – to work in partnership with other agencies, residents and businesses to address the causes and effects of modern slavery on people.

Providers – create effective systems and controls to safeguard against any form of modern slavery taking place through the contracts we hold.

Prosecute – to work with agencies to gather evidence to hold perpetrators to account.

Policies – to have in place the policies and practices that enable the reporting of modern slavery and reduces the exploitation of people in the first place. Infrastructure and transport – Cllr John Harrington In August, Cllr Harrington took a decision to pause and review the Hereford bypass and Southern Link Road schemes. This decision was called in by the General Scrutiny Committee in September, who recommended Cllr Harrington reconsider the decision in light of some specific recommendations. Cllr Harrington has now taken the further decision, giving due regard to the recommendations. The decision now includes the continuation of some project development activity already scheduled for the Southern link road (subject to funding), and the completion of a number of assessments and reports already underway for the Hereford bypass. It also confirms a commitment to consult widely during the review. I would like to thank the General Scrutiny Committee for their valuable feedback.

Both the Hereford and South Wye Transport Packages include improvements to walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure in the City, and work towards the implementation of these will continue subject to funding being available. The scope of the review is now being considered, and a further decision on this will be taken by Cllr Harrington toward the end of the year.

The new bike share scheme 'Beryl Bikes' launched in Hereford this summer and has been a tremendous success. Since the launch, Beryl cyclists have clocked up over 7,960 rides totalling over 20,400 km/miles As a hybrid of traditional bike share

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schemes with 150 bikes located over 40 ‘Beryl bays’ across the city, the scheme is ideal for short trips in and around the city. The scheme has been extremely well received by local residents who have been enjoying the easy app-based system.

The Hereford City Centre Transport Package (HCCTP) consists of the City link road (which opened in December 2017); a new transport hub at Hereford railway station and improvements to the public realm including improved walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure in Commercial Road,

Blueschool Street and Newmarket Street. Following a period of design development, there will soon be a decision by Cllr Harrington to commence stakeholder engagement and public consultation about these proposals.

Work will shortly commence on the review of the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy. The existing Core Strategy provides a commitment to begin a review in 2019 and national policy requires a five-yearly review (the existing Core Strategy was adopted in 2015). Over the next few months the Cabinet will be working with officers to consider the scope and extent of the review and the timescale for preparation of the Plan. Initial work will begin on the preparation of key elements of supporting evidence and an assessment of the existing policies will be undertaken to help identify where changes are required.

Health and Adult Wellbeing Cabinet Member, Cllr Pauline Crockett,

The procurement of the community equipment service was launched in early October and has promoted the expected level of interest from the market. Cabinet will now be asked to approve the commissioning and the award of contract on 19 December.

Herefordshire’s All Seasons Dance Studio was host to a ‘Music and Memories’ event for residents affected by dementia and their relatives and carers on Thursday 26 September. The dementia friendly tea dance was just one of thousands of events that have taken place on BBC World Music Day across the UK. The Herefordshire event successfully brought over 70 residents together to enjoy an afternoon of music and laughter. The event was also attended by The Mayor of Herefordshire, Cllr Kath Hey, Herefordshire Council’s Chairman, Cllr Sebastian Bowen, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Wellbeing, Cllr Pauline Crockett and Cllr David Summers.

Association of Directors Adults Social Services (ADASS) undertook a peer review in September on the Adults & Communities directorate ambitious plans to promote wellbeing, protect vulnerable people and manage future demand for formal adult care services through new community partnerships. The “Talk Community” programme is an all encompassing approach to working with Herefordshire’s communities.

The Peer Review team were asked to consider how our current plans and partnerships can be strengthened to increase or accelerate the impact on population wellbeing, community resilience and managing the demand for formal care. A feedback presentation was provided on the final day and we are awaiting the draft report.

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The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and local government which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing, and live independently in their communities for as long as possible. The BCF plan for 2019/20 has been submitted and is currently being reviewed through the regional and national assurance process. The Health and Wellbeing Board has approved the joint plan between the local authority and the CCG which agrees the joint funding for a number of schemes, services and initiatives, national conditions and performance metrics. The plan provided an updated-on delivery during this year and the local health and social care integration plans.

Apologies- update are awaited from Housing, Regulatory Services and Community Safety Cabinet Member. If this becomes available shortly, I will amend this document and recirculate.

Decisions taken during October are available online. Forthcoming decisions are available on the forward plan.