

16th July 2020

HOPE UNDER DINMORE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 16th July 2020 at 7.00pm in
Hope under Dinmore Village Hall Car Park

**This meeting was held under strict social distancing guidelines and with all health and safety measures in place.
Masks and hand sanitising were available.**

MINUTES

Present:

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

In attendance: Parish Clerk: Mrs L Hay;

One member of the public was present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the July meeting.

1. Apologies for absence received from Cllr. John Stone; Cllr P Stephens
2. To receive declarations of interest or written requests for dispensations – none declared
3. Consider co-option of new Parish Councillor. The Chairman introduced Martyn Hackeson-Poole who lives in Newton Lane and who has shown interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

The Clerk explained that although Mr Hackeson-Poole lived in Newton Lane – he lived within the three-mile radius and would therefore be eligible to fill the vacant position which existed within Hope under Dinmore Parish Council

Mr Hackeson-Poole was invited to give a short presentation after which it was unanimously agreed to invite him to join the Parish Council. Mr Hackeson-Poole signed the Acceptance of Office form and moved to the table with full voting rights.

The Clerk will inform the Election Officer tomorrow.

4. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 23rd January 2020 had been circulated – these were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman.
5. Highways and Environmental Matters: update on lengthsman Funding Grant.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Balfour Beatty were offering extra funding towards resolving some of the drainage problems that exist throughout Herefordshire. This work to be undertaken by the lengthsman where possible.

The Clerk confirmed that during a village walk about by the lengthsman, the Locality Steward and the Chairman they had identified local drainage issues which would certainly benefit from additional funding. The Clerk confirmed she had completed and submitted an application form for a grant.

Cherrybrook - Ward Cllr Crockett mentioned the possibility of Stonewater applying for the £5000 grant/funding which was being offered to houses that had been affected by recent flooding. The Clerk will forward the online link/information to Stonewater's representative Hannah Bragg.

Parish Councillors also requested a copy of the information and online link – the clerk will forward the information.

There are visibility issues at the top of the village road due to an overgrown hedge. The Chairman will liaise with the landowner.

There are also issues regarding a walk way between the garage and the mobile homes – again the Chairman will liaise with the landowner.

The Clerk reported having received an email from Hannah Bragg from Stonewater with regard to the hedge to the rear of 9 - 11 Cherrybrook which is accessed via a private road which she understood serves a business and a couple of dwellings. This hedge is on a bank to the rear of these houses and the hedge is now very overgrown and she wondered if the Parish Council could approach the various residents with a view to getting it cut back.

The Clerk reported that she had asked both the lengthsman and the Locality Steward to look at the hedge in question - their comments together with local comments from the Parish Councillors present -

16th July 2020

lead to the conclusion that the hedge in question would appear to be the responsibility of Stonewater.

Clerk to inform Stonewater.

6. Finance: Accounts sheets and the schedule of payment sheet had been circulated and it was unanimously agreed to pay the outstanding invoices via on line banking.

6.1 All correspondence associated with the 2019 -2020 end of year accounts had been previously circulated.

6.2 The Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020 was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

6.3 The Annual Accounts for 2019/2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

6.4 Chairman signed Certificate of Exemption which will now be submitted to the External Auditor.

All documents will now be displayed on the website.

The Notice of Public Rights will be displayed from the 1st September 2020. The slight delay is due to the Clerk moving house but the accounts will be available from that date if any members of the public wish to make an appointment.

6.5 It was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr Robert Taplin as Internal Auditor for financial year ending 31st March 2021

A donation of appreciation for his services during 2019/20 was agreed and the Clerk will send a cheque with a card of thanks.

7. Website suitability after September. The Clerk reported that she had spoken with Mark Millimore and the Parish Council website is all set - the Accessibility menu is on the website so people can ask for the web page to be "read" to them, navigate via the keyboard rather than using the mouse and make text bigger etc. All within the new government legislation requirements.

8. Hope under Dinmore Hampton Houses. The Chairman explained that during the lockdown – he had been approached by Mr P Collins the present Trustee for Hampton Court Houses with a view to asking

16th July 2020

the Parish Council if they would be prepared to take over the role of future Trustees.

The Clerk met with one of the Wellington Trustees and after discussion it was decided that the Parish Council could not become the Trustee as a whole but that this role should be under taken by individuals.

As there was some urgency – and the lockdown guidelines were unclear – Neil Ramsay together with Leslie Legge and Lesley Hay put their names forward and have subsequently been accepted as the new Trustees.

Mrs Lesley Hay will act as Trustee/Administrator and it was agreed that her Parish Council hours would be increased from 6 to 8 per week and that the Parish Council would then invoice Hampton Homes for the additional costing associated with these additional 2 hours.

The Clerk confirmed that whilst she had some of the paperwork – she was yet to meet with Mr Collins for an official handover.

Councillors present were invited to become a Trustee and Mrs Adele Morgan very kindly put her name forward. The Clerk will inform the Charity Commission Board.

It was agreed that the Hampton Houses would become a permanent item on future agendas.

9. The problems associated with the Covid19 virus and holding future meetings was discussed. It was agreed that the way forward may be to hold Virtual/Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future.

Zoom meetings last for 40 minutes without charge but Parish Councils are able to buy a licence to allow additional time and that there are grants available towards the purchase costs associated with the licence. Clerk will make enquiries.

Unfortunately, it was noted that Cllr Pritchard will be unable to join any virtual meetings but the Clerk will keep him fully up to date.

16th July 2020

10. Planning matters: 201415 Newton Court Farm – these details had been circulated. Ward Cllr Crockett confirmed that there had been no decision taken as yet. There were no comments/objections expressed by the Councillors present.

Planning application: 194229 Bathfield, Hope under Dinmore.
Erection of replacement dwelling. No decision made to date.

11. Ward Cllr Crockett explained how Herefordshire Council had responded to the unprecedented circumstances presented by Covid19.

Ward Cllr Crockett remind those present of the Virtual Parish Summit meeting to be held next Friday – two members from each parish are invited to attend. The Clerk will register to attend.

Please see the Ward Councillor's up to date report attached to the end of these minutes.

12. Date of next meeting – 17th September 2020 – 7.00p.m. The venue for this meeting will depend on the guidelines in place at that time regarding the use of the Village Hall but will probably be via Zoom.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

Signed:

Date

Ward Councillor Report July 2020

Well what a first 6 months, not only the flooding as a consequence of 'Storm Dennis' but now this 'new normal' of the Covid-19 virus! Herefordshire Council reacted swiftly in both of these crises and is continuing with plans for more and ongoing support for Parish Councils to facilitate local resilience planning through the Talk Community Programme.

16th July 2020

Herefordshire Council has received Government funding towards Transport management, we are at present looking towards reducing speed limits in the City and Market Town areas to 20mph this would improve the safety and health of people, living, working and visiting Town centres in the County.

I am sure you are all aware of the Councils purchase of Maylord Orchard, we were already the freehold owner of this property and the purchase was through Capital receipt from previous sales of Council owned properties e.g small holdings. We are looking at developing the space for innovative projects and encouraging opportunities that increase social value.

The U & C road funds that we received a short time ago are being held until a complete assessment of all roads has been carried out. A decision on which roads will benefit from repair will be planned on a priority basis.

LOCALLY.

Talk Community Programme Hope-under-Dinmore has had good engagement with Herefordshire Councils Link Worker for this area of concern, throughout the Covid lockdown. They have assisted with any identified needs or shortfall.

The Flood alleviation plan is continuing to be produced as many areas in our County were affected. BBLP are at present completing a countywide survey to identify all works that need completing and an action plan will be produced. Local drainage grants have been offered through BBLP, and I am pleased that HUD have applied for this.

It's time for the next Parish Council Summit (Thursday 23rd July 7pm), I do hope you are supporting this and that HUD's input will be included in this collaboration of information and Community planning.

I have contacted our North Herefordshire MP Bill Wiggin to rearrange the cancelled meeting to discuss the concerns with the A417/A49 junction. I await his response.

I thank you all for your continued support and hope we all stay safe and well in these challenging times.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns.

Pauline Crockett

Ward Councillor