

**HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a parish council meeting held on  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 at 7.30 pm VIA ZOOM**

**Present**

Councillors: Steve Hunt (Chairman), Mark Frankland, Susan Marr, Julia Pearson, Jamie Rogers & Val Watson

**In attendance**

Parish Clerk – Lynda Wilcox, Ward Councillor – John Hardwick, six local residents.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Chris Plant.
2. **Declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation** ... there were none.
3. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting** ... 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
  - 3.1 It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record.
  - 3.2 In response to a query, the clerk confirmed that the draft minutes had been on the website since 12<sup>th</sup> June.
4. **B4224 – Speed & Milestone**
  - 4.1 Mark Frankland reported on the zoom meeting of a new Strategy Group with representatives from all parish councils along the length of the B4224 which he had attended with the clerk. The object of the Group was to collectively identify issues such as speeding, signage, weight restrictions etc and seek to resolve those issues with the assistance of Herefordshire Council. It was RESOLVED to continue membership of the Strategy Group and Mark Frankland would attend future meetings with the clerk. It was further RESOLVED that data from the SIDs would be shared with the new Strategy Group.
  - 4.2 Herefordshire Council had requested that the SID operating times be in line with their regulations for one month on and two months off, using the logic that motorists would ignore permanent SIDs. It was RESOLVED that Mark Frankland would ensure compliance but, in the meantime, Susan Marr suggested that the parish council should challenge the rationale of the current regulations, using the data from the SIDs over the last few months. It was therefore RESOLVED that Mark Frankland would retrieve the relevant data to enable the clerk to put the case to Herefordshire Council.
  - 4.3 Action in relation to the damaged milestone was discussed and it was RESOLVED to fund the cost of the repairs that were being undertaken by a member of the Milestone Society.
5. **Flooding/Drainage/Ditch Issues**
  - 5.1 Members noted the order for ditch work by Paul Yeomans (£1300) requested by Clerk under delegated powers. It was anticipated that the works would be undertaken in the near future and Jamie Rogers had offered to take the spoil on his land. Jamie Rogers clarified that the work would include open ditches from the Lawns on Church Lane to Daggy Powell's Lane, approximately 30 metres of ditch on Nick Layton's side of the road then half way along the asparagus/carrot field (Kier Rogers to fund) and on to Pippin Close – the small ditch opposite Pippins Lodge and the last few properties before the main road. Whitehall Road, starting from Whitehall Lodge and then all open ditches up to the Church. Jamie Rogers would be paying for work on the ditches outside 1 & 2 Orchard Cottages and Nick Layton would fund works from the culvert to the Church.
  - 5.2 Members considered a second quotation from Paul Yeomans (£1106) for piping under the tarmac drive of Oak Court in Church Lane. Jamie Roger clarified that this would enable a culvert to connect two ditches and enable water to flow freely again. It was hoped that water would flow past the Elms, alongside the road past the entrance to Hampton House and into the culvert by Church Road

on the right-hand side of the road. It was RESOLVED that Jamie Rogers, Val Caton and George Kerr would have a site meeting to establish that digging up the drive and inserting a culvert would actually enable water to flow into the drainage system, as anticipated. Once this was confirmed, the clerk was authorised to order the works to go ahead. However, members agreed with the chairman that this work should not set a precedent and would be a one-off.

- 5.3 Update from Cllr Hunt re EA (Environment Agency) repair work to Wye & Lugg Stank and consider action ... the chairman reported that contractors (Jackson) had started work on 27<sup>th</sup> July by flying over the rivers to identify low spots (from Braemar Gardens to the Bunch of Carrots plus the Lugg Meadows) which will be able to be restored to their original height. The work would include over-tread to compensate for where ploughs cut into the bank. Between 400-600 tons of soil would be required. Due to the extensive floods in Hampton Bishop this year, the EA would be spending an additional £200k over and above their original budget for the parish.

- 5.4 Update from Cllrs Hunt & Rogers and consider action on parish pump & flap ... The chairman reported that the Environment Agency had appointed ARUP Consultants to look at the dispersal of surface water and existing flood management to see what improvements could be achieved by the most cost- effective means

PUMPING STATION: It was likely that a pumping station at Mordiford Bridge would not be cost effective in relation to the efficiency of what it would be able to achieve at times of flooding. It was noted that a 4" pump in a Worcestershire parish had cost £400k and they had been required to spend much more than its actual cost to maintain it. The pumps used by the EA at Mordiford Bridge were 24".

MORDIFORD BRIDGE: It had been established that Herefordshire Council owns the bridge wall at Mordiford and they were aware that it leaked during the March 2020 floods, as were the EA.

Herefordshire Council will be undertaking repairs which will require the bridge to be closed.

BROKEN FLAP: Herefordshire Council thought they had removed the cast iron 24" flap about 15 years' ago. The EA did not believe that it was necessary to replace the broken flap. The chairman had undertaken laser measurements and the far end of the reception was blocked, as well as being higher than the outlet pipe. Following discussions with local farmer, Nick Layton, the latter had agreed to remove trees once his current crop was harvested, which would enable the pit to be cleared and water to flow better.

The chairman had also asked a civil engineer to give a price to make a new flap valve which could be jointed on to a new 14" thick facing. The valve would be buried so that JCBs could scrape the area without damaging the new valve. Fitting a new structure would cost £2.5k. The cost of removing the trees and taking them away would have cost around £2 if Nick Layton hadn't offered to undertake the work and cover the cost.

It was noted that ARUP would be considering the benefits of a new flap.

- 5.5 Purchase of flood equipment/tools for storage in PC shed ... The Villagers Association was compiling a report on making the village hall an emergency rest centre, anticipating that equipment could be stored in the parish council's adjoining garage. It was RESOLVED to discuss the matter at the September meeting when the Villagers' Association's proposals were available.

- 5.6 Provision of height markers in ditches ... In line with item 9 of the parish council's post flood report in March 2020, the chairman had obtained a quote for stainless steel posts @ around £90 per post. It was RESOLVED that the posts be purchased. The Flood Mitigation Group had already obtained permission for them to be screwed to the front wall of the relevant homes alongside deep ditches.

- 5.7 Update from Resilience Working Group: Cllrs Marr, Rogers & Watson ... Jamie Rogers reported that he had found a culvert under the road about 50 yards from Llanfair Villas but it wasn't shown on the drainage maps supplied by Herefordshire Council. It was RESOLVED that the chairman and the ward councillor would check out the maps that had been issued to ascertain whether they were the most up to date. Jamie Rogers reported that George Kerr had identified several ditches which were still overgrown, even though the parish council had agreed to cut them back last year. He had therefore approached a local contractor with a hedge strimmer who charged £25 per hour. Susan Marr felt that volunteers from the Flood Mitigation Group might like to

volunteer to do the work but, following further discussion it was RESOLVED that Jamie Rogers should organise the work through his contractor.

FLOOD MITIGATION GROUP: It was noted that local residents had set up their own Flood Mitigation Group and had held two zoom meetings, one of which was with the EA and Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty. Herefordshire Council had forwarded notes of the meeting to the clerk and she had circulated them to all councillors. Susan Marr and Val Watson felt it had been a very successful meeting and the chairman hoped that he would be invited to attend future meetings because it was important for everyone to work together. The god cake by the Church was destroyed during the March floods and the group was trying to repair it because it was a prominent feature in the village. The group was to have a stand at the fete in August and notes of all their meetings would be posted on the parish website.

## **6. Open Session**

### **6.1 Ward Councillor John Hardwick's report included:**

- 6.1.1 Waste disposal sites across Herefordshire were gradually reopening following their closure due to Coronavirus.
- 6.1.2 Toilets were also re-opening.
- 6.1.3 223 workers on a farm at Mathon had tested positive for Coronavirus but the outbreak was being dealt with effectively by a voluntary lockdown at the farm. Herefordshire Council employees had been working very hard to maintain essential services throughout the peak of the Coronavirus pandemic and ensure that residents who were self-isolating had access to food and supplies via designated support workers.
- 6.1.4 The annual canvass was underway – approximately 20k people would need to respond but the remaining 50k would not need to.
- 6.1.5 Herefordshire Council had purchased Maylord Orchard shopping centre because it was an important four acres of land in the centre of the city.

### **6.2 Views of local residents on parish matters:**

- 6.2.1 A local resident queried whether Herefordshire rubbish was being taken out of the country to Turkey. John Hardwick confirmed that Herefordshire recycling was taken over to Worcestershire.

## **7. Play Area**

- 7.1 The chairman commented that minor works to equipment on the play area had been halted due to Coronavirus.
- 7.2 The annual inspection was to be undertaken in July and all remedial works would then be recommenced.
- 7.3 The clerk would be undertaking a risk assessment and preparing notices for display at the play area in readiness for the Church fete on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

## **8. Parish Orchard**

- 8.1 Members noted a cut of the orchard by Mr Barrell authorised under the clerk's delegated powers, at a cost of £100.
- 8.2 Members considered an additional orchard cut prior to the Church Fete on 22<sup>nd</sup> August for parking purposes and RESOLVED that Mr Barrell be requested to undertake a second cut, even though there was a possibility that the fete may have to be cancelled at short notice due to Coronavirus.

## **9. Finance ... The following payments were noted:**

- 9.1 HMRC ... £153.00
- 9.2 Clerk's salary for June & July.

## **10. Footpaths**

- 10.1 On behalf of his wife (Parish Footpaths Officer) Mark Frankland had very little to report, except for a problem 5x bar gate on the bridleway at Drovers Bridge in Hampton Meadows alongside the Lugg Meadows. The footings of the gate were loose and the gate plus gate posts were in a poor condition which made it difficult for riders to lift and shut the gate.
- 10.2 An Alder tree was again growing out of the mortar of the stonework on the last archway of the bridge, which would need attention before it caused damage to the bridge.
- 10.3 It was RESOLVED that the clerk and chairman would liaise with the owners of the land (thought to be the Herefordshire Nature Trust) to endeavour to remedy the above problems.

## **11. Road safety at Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School request for zebra crossing/lights.**

- 11.1 Members discussed a request from a resident in the Tupsley area of the parish for a second zebra crossing or pedestrian lights across the A438 in the vicinity of Perrystone Lane and Hampton Dene Road, for the benefit of schoolchildren crossing the road at that point.
- 11.2 Ward Councillor John Hardwick commented that such a crossing could cost between £30 and 50k, which would cut heavily into the already meagre highways budget available to Herefordshire Council.
- 11.3 It was RESOLVED that the clerk would make enquiries of both Hereford City and Herefordshire Council as to the feasibility of the request, in the knowledge that a zebra crossing was already in situ further down the A438 (opposite Whitern Way) at a now closed rear entrance/exit to Bishops School.

## **12. Village Maintenance Contractor**

- 12.1 It was RESOLVED to make payments for June £250.00 and July £250.00.
- 12.2 Following discussion about the ongoing maintenance of the roadside area in the vicinity of Daggy Powell's Lane, it was RESOLVED that the Maintenance Contractor be asked to include that area in her general monthly work programme and the chairman would outline the exact requirements.
- 12.3 The clerk clarified that the Village Maintenance Contractor was engaged by the parish council and undertook designated work for the parish council. The previous Lengthsman had been part of Herefordshire Council's scheme to fund local work through parish councils but that scheme had finished a few years' ago.

## **13. The following delegated comments on Planning & Licensing applications were noted Planning applications supported under Clerk's delegated powers:**

- 13.1 Application 191070 ... Re-consultation on Chapel Lane Studios – Demolition of rear aspect to provide new garden/amenity space, including new French doors in new/amended gable end wall to rear.  
NB: It was noted that the application had just been APPROVED by Herefordshire Council.
- 13.2 Application 201490 – Whitehall Farm ("Coppice Barns" at land end of the lane by The Holts).  
Proposed agricultural building for storage of agricultural machinery, hay and foodstuffs.  
NB: It was noted that the application had since been WITHDRAWN by the applicant.

### **Prior Approval for Agricultural & Forestry Buildings & Operations**

- 13.3 Field Meadow, Hampton Bishop. Application for prior notification of an agriculture storage building.  
NB: It was noted that the application had been WITHDRAWN by the applicant because prior approval was required.

### **Tree applications supported under Clerk's delegated powers, following consultation with the Parish Tree Officer:**

- 13.4 Application 202189 ... Pentilo Cottage, Rectory Road, Hampton Bishop.

Proposed works to T1 – Leyland Cypress. We would like to fell it and replace with a Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan). T2 – Betula pendula. This tree has died and is dangerous – we would like to fell and replace with another Birch.

13.5 Application 201854 ... Eightlands, Hampton Bishop.

T1 Yew (Takus Baccata) – remove tree and replace with 2 ornamental trees.

13.6 Application P201874/K ... The Chimneys, Hampton Bishop.

T1 – Norway Spruce – not in good health to be removed and replaced.

T2 – Silver Birch – crown reduction by 20% to rebalance the canopy.

13.7 Application 202159 ... Fir Tree House, Hampton Bishop.

Proposed works to Leyland Cypress – removal as it is too large for its surroundings and proximity to the house. Removal subject to nesting birds.

**Licensing application for determination by Herefordshire Council:**

13.8 Application Ref EB/PRO1910 ... Redbank Barn, New Groves Lane, Hampton Bishop.

Indoor Films, Indoor/Outdoor Live Music. Sunday-Thursday 10.00-24.00. Friday-Saturday 10.00-01.00.

13.9 Sale/Supply of Alcohol (consumption on and off the premise): 10.00-24.00 Monday to Thursday and 10.00-01.00 on Friday and Saturday. Indoor/Outdoor Late- Night Refreshment: Sunday-Thursday 23.00-24.00 & Friday-Saturday 23.00-01.00.

**14. Aspects of PC Website:**

14.1 Members noted that the website was now in compliance with new accessibility regulations and met new government security measures, as well as GDPR requirements.

14.2 One councillor commented that she had difficulty finding items on the website.

**15. Frequency of parish council meetings ... continue with bi-monthly or change to monthly**

Following due consideration, it was RESOLVED to retain the current bi-monthly meetings. It was further RESOLVED that the clerk would send draft minutes to each councillor when she posted them on the website.

**16. Items for next meeting**

16.1 In response to a comment that some of the drainage work supposedly completed by Balfour Beatty had not yet been undertaken, Councillor Hardwick commented that there were a couple of items that the Locality Steward was still looking into. Mark Frankland commented that proposed works outside his house were still awaited.

SIGNED ..... DATE .....