

HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the parish council on
Thursday 26th November 2020 at 7.30 pm VIA ZOOM

Present

Councillors: Steve Hunt (Chairman), Mark Frankland, Julia Pearson, Chris Plant, Jamie Rogers & Val Watson.

In attendance:

Parish Clerk – Lynda Wilcox, Ward Councillor John Hardwick, PCSO Georgie Boswell & six local residents.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Susan Marr.

2. Welcome to PCSO Georgie Boswell

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Boswell and her colleague from the Hereford Rural North Team of West Mercia Police, who confirmed that the parish had been very quiet over the last six months. She confirmed that her contact details could be displayed on the parish council website for the benefit of local residents and then took her leave of the meeting.

3. Declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation.

- 3.1 The Chairman declared an interest in item 9.1., due to his work connection with Folbigg.
- 3.2 Val Watson declared an interest in item 8.3 as Chairman of the Villagers' Association.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting ... 24th September 2020.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record of the September meeting.

5. Flooding/Drainage/Ditch Issues

- 5.1 Consideration of actions arising from notes of the 6th November meeting with Herefordshire Council:

- 5.1.1 The Chairman referred to the meeting notes (which were on the website) and outlined the changing financial implications of householder riparian ownership, particularly on the B4224, now that Herefordshire Council was no longer able to continue with ditch and culvert work on behalf of riparian owners, due to financial cutbacks.
Following discussion, it was RESOLVED that the parish council supported the principle of maintaining ditches/culverts on behalf of householders within the village community and would therefore seek costings for undertaking ditch and culvert work on behalf of householders fronting the B4224 in addition to the ongoing works on the loop roads in the main village area. Discussions would be held with large landowners with lengthy frontages onto the roads, as to their contributions. The Finance Working Group would factor the cost into a draft precept paper which would be debated at the January meeting of the parish council.

- 5.2 Chairman's update and consideration of action:

- 5.2.1 Some sample flood markers had been made and the Chairman would be organising a meeting with a representative from the Flood Mitigation Group.

- 5.2.2 Representatives from Balfour Beatty and Historic England had met the Chairman on site to discuss improvement works on Mordiford Bridge to be undertaken in 2021. Assurances had been given that immediate action would be taken to safeguard the bridge if it appeared to be threatened by further floods prior to commencement of the scheduled works.

In response to a query about the adverse impact of HGVs traversing the bridge, Councillor Hardwick commented that it was difficult to ascertain whether vehicles were using it for local access or simply passing through. He commented that the B4224 Strategy Group was discussing the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) with Herefordshire Council – see agenda item 7.

- 5.2.3 The Environment Agency (EA) was still undertaking works on the Wye and Lugg flood stanks. It was noted that this had been ongoing for over four months now and one of the hold ups had been acquiring sufficient clay to put on the stone, prior to a layer of top soil being placed on the clay. The coconut matting impregnated with grass seed would be pegged down to stop erosion at times of flood but was unlikely to germinate at this time of year. The work would be completed in 2021 but the height of the stanks had already been raised from last year's level and ongoing surveys would be undertaken throughout the winter.
- 5.2.4 A conference call with the EA's Asset Manager had resulted in assurances that cameras had shown that all pipes and flap valves were in good order.
- 5.2.5 A draft of the ARUP report was currently under consideration by the EA and would hopefully be released to the parish council in the near future.
- 5.3 It was noted that the parish clerk had requested permission for the parish council to undertake further tree removals to facilitate flood prevention works on Rectory Road.
- 5.4 It was noted that Herefordshire Council was keen for local residents to complete their on-line survey concerning property affected by flooding by the deadline of 10th December 2020. It was clarified that even if your property hadn't actually been flooded, if you had been affected by flood water (i.e. unable to leave your home) then you should complete the survey.

6. Open Session

- 6.1 Ward Councillor John Hardwick gave a brief report including:
 - 6.1.1 Herefordshire Council finances were in a serious condition as they were £14.8m overspent. In the absence of government support, some serious number crunching was underway.
 - 6.1.2 Balfour Beatty had purchased a new rotary digger and it may be possible for them to use the digger for ditching or other work within a parish, subject to funding arrangements being put in place between Balfour Beatty and the parish council.
 - 6.1.3 In response to a query about visibility issues on the new road arrangements at Mordiford School, Councillor Hardwick commented that although he had not attended a Mordiford PC meeting to ascertain their views, he understood the new system was working well. He added that the intention was to enable local car parking in the school's car park, out of school hours, so as to avoid on road parking.
 - 6.1.4 Works on the closed section of the B4224 leading into Fownhope were continuing. The contractor undertaking works by Stone Cottage would be nailing into the rock face and, unfortunately, that would mean that the temporary footpath on the side of the road would need to be closed. The works were scheduled to be completed in February 2021.
 - 6.1.5 John Hardwick commented that he would soon need to leave the meeting.
- 6.2 Views of local residents on parish matters:
 - 6.2.1 A local resident who lived in a thatched cottage commented that, for the first time, she had found spent rocket fireworks on her patio following bonfire night and was obviously very concerned that they could have set her house alight. She asked whether newcomers to the parish and seasonal workers could be made aware of the risks fireworks posed to the homes and lives of local residents. The Chairman offered to have a word with local landowners and the clerk would put a notice on the parish council website.
 - 6.2.2 In response to a query, Councillor Rogers confirmed that the problem gate on the bridleway at had been repaired but he was not sure if the trees had yet been removed from the bridge.
 - 6.2.3 In response to a query about a drainage map, the Chairman clarified that the parish council was waiting for Herefordshire Council to update its current map which appeared to be out of date.
 - 6.2.4 The clerk answered a further query about the wobbly post at a kissing gate which she confirmed was about to be rectified by the parish contractor.

Councillor Hardwick left the meeting.

7. B4224 Strategy Group

- 7.1 Members had considered notes of the November meeting of the Strategy Group, together with the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which had been discussed with Herefordshire Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, John Harrington.
- 7.1.1 Councillor Frankland outlined the work of the Group which had brought together eleven parish councils along the B4224 to endeavour to reduce the speed and amount and type of traffic using the road, via a partnership agreement with Herefordshire Council i.e. the draft MoU. It was RESOLVED that the parish council supported the content of the MoU.

Councillor Watson left the room

8. Finance

Following consideration, it was RESOLVED to make payments under 8.1 and 8.2 below:

- 8.1 Village Maintenance Contractor ... October £250 and November £250.
- 8.2 Clerk's salary for October and November.
- 8.3 Villagers' Association request for grass-cutting grant ... It was RESOLVED that the request for an increased grant towards annual grass-cutting be considered with other requests from the Villagers' Association during draft precept discussions by the Finance Working Group which would come back to the January meeting of the parish council for decision.
- 8.4 Members noted receipt of the second half of the 2020/2021 precept ... £8,750.00.

Councillor Watson returned to the room

- 8.5 Members considered parish councillor attendance at training courses and RESOLVED that councillors be authorised to attend local training courses between meetings subject to funds remaining in the training budget.

Councillor Hunt left the room

9. Play Area

- 9.1 Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to pay an invoice for the following works by Folbigg Fabrication: replacement of slide buffalo boards, resetting of gates to avoid finger entrapment & repairs to the soft close gate ram @ £358.00 + VAT.
- 9.1.1 It was further RESOLVED to order works by other contractors, including the parish contractor (to lay new matting) to meet the requirements outlined in the annual safety report.

Councillor Hunt returned to the room

10. Parish Orchard ... To consider the following maintenance works:

Both the parish council and the Villagers' Association had sought quotations from tree surgeons for removing and cutting back overgrown trees and shrubs the fence lines alongside the orchard. It was RESOLVED that Councillor Rogers would meet with a representative from the Villagers' Association to clarify whether both contractors were quoting for exactly the same works. Subject to his satisfaction that this was the case, he would ask the parish clerk to order the work from the most cost-effective contractor.

11. Footpaths

- 11.1 The Footpaths Officer's husband, Councillor Frankland, commented that all paths appeared to be in good order and no complaints had been received.
- 11.2 Members considered the problem of dog mess on footpaths and Councillor Plant commented that he had collected 13 bags of dog waste from the Colcombe Lane area. The Chairman reminded

members that they had previously supported a ‘stick and flick’ approach because of the abundance of bags which were deposited in any kind of receptacle (including sheep troughs) along the river footpath. However, Councillor Plant had ascertained that Herefordshire Council had a different 3-year policy in place which commenced in 2018 and would expire in March 2021. He offered to liaise with the clerk and Herefordshire Council to ensure that the latter body included the possibility of ‘stick and flick’ when they considered their next policy from April 2021.

12. Planning

12.1 Application 203726 ...Serene Cottage

Proposed first floor extension to garage to form annexe accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling.

It was RESOLVED to support the above application.

12.2 Application 203374 ...Stepaside

Proposed Ash tree removal due to being too large for surroundings (imposing on both the garden and the walkway on the roadside).

It was RESOLVED to support the above application, subject to the Parish Tree Officer’s comment.

Members noted the following permissions granted by Herefordshire Council:

12.3 Application 202931 ... Trees on Western side of B4224 adjacent to Meander View, Hampton Bishop.

The trees are situated on the face of an Environment Agency maintained flood embankment. Mature trees with a large canopy can cause a ‘sail-effect’ and in the event of their toppling over, result in significant damage to the flood embankment. The proposal is to carry out a crown reduction on ten trees: 3x Sycamore (A), 5x Ash (B), 2 x Beech (C). Also, crown lift two trees by 2m above ground level: 1 x Ash (B), 1 x Horse Chestnut (D).

12.4 Application 202989 ... Willowcroft, Hampton Bishop. T1: Thorn (90% dead) – fell to ground level. T2: Silver Birch (80% dead) – sectionally dismantle down to ground level. T3: Purple Plum (70% dead) – sectionally dismantle down to ground level.

12.5 Application 203395 ... Rose Villa

Proposed works to T1 – Large ash pollard – situated in the middle of the field – it has large and over-weighted limbs that look likely to fail without a serious weight reduction. I propose to re-pollard back to the old points to make sure this tree continues to thrive. T2-Willow-situated on the fence line – cut back overhanging limbs to fence line.

12.6 Application 201368 ... Court Farm – Rectory Road

Erection of single-storey extension.

13. Next Meeting

13.1 Following a request from the Villagers’ Association to change the current meeting night so as to facilitate another regular hall booking, it was RESOLVED that future meetings would be held on the last Wednesday of each month, rather than the last Thursday and it was further RESOLVED that they would commence at 19.00 rather than the current 19.30. The clerk would publicise dates for 2021.

13.2 Matters raised for the next meeting included setting the precept for 2021/2022.

SIGNED DATE