

5/2023

HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 19.00 in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Steve Hunt (Chair), Sophia Gabrielle, Susan Marr, Julia Pearson, Jamie Rogers and Val Watson.

In attendance: Lynda Wilcox – Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from: James White.
2. **Declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation ...** There were none.
3. **Minutes of the previous meetings:** 24th January and 28th February
It was RESOLVED to adopt both sets of minutes and they were signed by the Chair.
4. **Flooding/Drainage/Ditch Issues ...** Update from Chair and action:
 - 4.1 It was noted that:
 - 4.1.1 All ditches in the village were in good order.
 - 4.1.2 A planning application had been submitted to undertake engineering works to reinforce Mordiford Bridge at flood arch No.2 and No.3. The works would involve dismantling the existing parapet; casting a new reinforced concrete core against the existing upstyream spandrel wall; extending the new concrete wall into the parapet; and cladding the exposed concrete with masonry to match the existing bridge.
5. **Open Session:**
 - 5.1 A brief verbal report from Ward Councillor John Hardwick, included:
 - 5.1.1 Herefordshire Council was in purdah in readiness for elections on 4th May. John Hardwick was standing again and referred members to current information contained in the Leader's March newsletter.
 - 5.2 Views of local residents on parish matters, included:

- 5.2.1 A request for the removal of an old fence alongside the children's play area, which was now redundant due to a new fence having been erected on the boundary of parish council land by the adjoining landowner. A site visit would be undertaken, in readiness for discussion at the May meeting.

6. Planning

- 6.1 Update and action on Section 106 monies for Bishop Fields ... The clerk reported:
 - 6.1.1 The Clerk had held a Zoom session with the current officer dealing with Section 106 monies at Herefordshire Council, when she explained that monies for the development on the Tupsley edge of the parish, had been allocated to sites far away from the site and in Hereford City parish because discussions had only been held with the adjoining Hereford City Council rather than Hampton Bishop Parish Council in whose area the development had taken place.
 - 6.1.2 To regularise the situation, the Clerk had suggested that Herefordshire Council should spend some of the remaining Section 106 monies on surfacing the entire length of the current very muddy Holywell Gutter Lane with stones or shingle for easy pedestrian access.
 - 6.1.3 Furthermore, dead Elm trees and heavily overgrown shrubs and small trees should also be cut back along the entire length of the lane which was barely passable at some points, although regularly used by families from the new estate.
 - 6.1.4 Any remaining monies could be used to alleviate flooding at the lower end of the lane, where it meets the B4224.
- 6.2 Impact of possible future development on Lower Lugg Meadow.
 - 6.2.1 A parish councillor from neighbouring Bartestree & Lugwardine Parish Council, was concerned about possible development on the Lower Lugg Meadow, reference to which had apparently been made in forward plans published by Herefordshire Council.
 - 6.2.2 It was RESOLVED to keep a watchful eye on the situation.

7. Road Safety ... Feedback from a site visit between the Chair and Clerk and an officer from West Mercia Police Road Safety Team, included:

- 7.1 A document on speed reduction measures undertaken in other areas of the country being circulated to all parish councillors and put on the website.
- 7.2 A suggestion that, when appropriate the hedge on the left of Church Lane as one exits on to the B4224, be cut back to improve visibility. The Chair had already spoken to the landowner in question, who was willing to undertake the work.
- 7.3 Addressing visibility issues at the junction of Rectory Lane and the B4224.
- 7.4 Speed checks would be undertaken on the B4224 in the near future.

8. Parish land ... Update and action:

- 8.1.1 The completion of parish land registration was noted.
- 8.1.2 Works in the Orchard under the 5-year Enhancement Plan would be undertaken as soon as formal permission had been granted by Herefordshire Council, which was anticipated by the end of the month.

9. Adult Fitness Equipment: Update and action:

- 9.1 Councillor Gabrielle gave an update on feedback from the recent consultation which had resulted on 22 responses out of 100 leaflet drops.
- 9.2 It was RESOLVED not to pursue adult fitness equipment at the current time, due to the low response to several consultations with local residents. The Chair thanked Councillor Gabrielle for her efforts.

10. Finance ... Bank Balance noted as £85,270.00.

- 10.1 Payments considered:
 - 10.1.1 Outstanding payments for Village Hall hire during 2022-2023 ... In the absence of an invoice from the Village Hall, the item was deferred to the May meeting.
 - 10.1.2 It was RESOLVED to pay the Parish Clerk's salary for March and it was noted that her February salary had been paid under delegated powers.
- 10.2 Payments made under Clerk's delegated powers were noted as:
 - 10.2.1 Noticeboard for Bishop Fields ... £1600 + £320 VAT.
 - 10.2.2 Pedestrian Gate ... £161 + £32.20 VAT.
 - 10.2.3 Information Commissioner ... £40 annual fee.
 - 10.2.4 Weatherall Tree Surgery £650 + £130 VAT.

11. B4224 Strategy Group

- 11.1 Members considered a request from Dormington & Mordiford PC to fund 50% of an invoice for £933.14 for a traffic feasibility study on Mordiford Bridge, commissioned and paid for by that PC.
- 11.2 It was noted that the feasibility study had been mentioned by Dormington & Mordiford PC at a meeting of the informal B4224 Group in September 2022, when it had been suggested that the two parish councils might wish to liaise on the project.
- 11.3 Since then, no communication had been received from Dormington & Mordiford PC on who or what to commission, simply a request for 50% of the completed project.
- 11.4 In the total absence of any prior communication on a now completed project by a neighbouring parish council, it was RESOLVED not to contribute.

12. Village Hall ... Grass-cutting grant for financial year 2022-2023.

- 12.1 In the absence of a grant request from the Village Hall Committee, it was RESOLVED to consider the matter at the May meeting.

13. Footpaths: Update from the Footpaths Officer and considered action:

- 13.1 The Footpaths Officers had no new problems to report.
- 13.2 It was thought that the previously reported damaged gate would soon be replaced by a new one alongside the stile. The new gate was likely to be locked, to ensure the safety of livestock.
- 13.3 A walker had injured themselves on a steep and muddy slope on the Lugg stank and it was suggested that a handrail would be helpful. The Chair would liaise with the Environment Agency and the matter would be placed on the May agenda.
- 13.4 The damaged footbridge in the vicinity of Red Bank was on Herefordshire Council's list for repairs.
- 13.5 It was suggested by the Ward Councillor that finances for the repair of the damaged footbridge along the right of way (the course of which was being disputed by Herefordshire Council) might be obtained from an outside organisation concerned with farming in protected landscapes.

14. Common Land ... Update on damaged bridge:

- 14.1 The Clerk was liaising with the landowner, to urge repairs to the damaged bridge.

15. West Mercia Police ... Top three policing requirements for Hampton Bishop.

- 15.1 It was RESOLVED that the top three policing concerns were:
 - a) Burglary.
 - b) Drug dealing.
 - c) Speed of traffic.

16. Four yearly election process leading to elections on 4th May 2023

- 16.1 The Clerk outlined the election process/deadlines and handed out nomination forms to all interested parties.

17. Date of first meeting of new parish council

- 17.1 The first meeting of the new parish council would be held at 19.00 on Tuesday 16th May 2023, in the Village Hall.

SIGNED DATE