

HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 15th February 2024 at 19.00 in the Village Hall

Present

Councillors: Steve Hunt (Chair), Jamie Rogers (Vice Chair), Julia Pearson, Brendyn Rossouw.

In attendance: Parish Clerk – Lynda Wilcox. 13 local residents.

- 1. Apologies for absence** were received from James White.
- 2. Declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation ...** There were none.
- 3. Co-option to fill current two vacancies following the election process.**
 - 3.1 It was RESOLVED to co-opt Alistair McHarg to fill one of the two vacancies. Mr McHarg signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place at the table.
- 4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th September.**

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.
- 5. Open Session:**
 - 5.1 Ward Councillor, Graham Biggs was not able to be present.
 - 5.2 Views of local residents on parish matters included:
 - 5.2.1 Debris in ditches – Jamie Rogers felt that the ditches were currently fit for purpose.
 - 5.2.2 Consideration would be given to re-joining the Lengthsman Scheme which could enable additional drainage funding for member parishes.
 - 5.2.3 A document concerning biomass sustainability was mentioned by Alistair McHarg, who would send a link to the parish clerk for forwarding on to interested persons.
 - 5.2.4 Three Willow trees had come down across the River Lugg – the Chair would report this to the Environment Agency.
 - 5.2.5 A narrow section of the Wye Valley Walk along the Stank was impassable. The Chair would report the matter to the Environment Agency and the Vice Chair would have a word with the local landowner.

6. Parish Land

- 6.1 Parish land boundaries were confirmed, and it was RESOLVED to obtain quotes for fencing on the boundary of parish land behind the play area. The fencing would be in line with that already undertaken on the orchard boundary.
- 6.2 Parish Orchard ... James White had informed the clerk that the 5-year maintenance plan was on schedule and the bird boxes were about to be installed.
Mention would be made in the Newsletter about the fact that local residents were welcome to enjoy walking around the Parish Orchard and also to eat any of the apples.
- 6.3 It was RESOLVED not to access further trees for the orchard/parish as part of a tree planting initiative.

7. Tupsley Area of the parish

- 7.1 Siting of new noticeboard for Bishopfields ... The Clerk reported that once she received contact details for the Property Management Company for Bishopfields from a local resident, she would contact them for permission to site the new noticeboard in the vicinity of the old Oak tree/play area.
- 7.2 Request for new road sign for Copsewood Drive ... The Clerk had visited a resident of Copsewood Drive to view a damaged road sign which required repair or replacement. As it was unlikely that Herefordshire Council would fund such work, it was RESOLVED that the parish council would offer funding, if required.
- 7.3 Eastern Bypass and access road ... In the absence of the Ward Councillor, the item would be deferred until the next meeting.

8. Footpaths:

- 8.1 Herefordshire Council's new proposals concerning Footpaths Officers ... Following discussion and hearing the views of the joint Footpaths Officers, it was RESOLVED that Footpaths Officers would continue to be volunteers on behalf of and insured by the parish council. The Clerk would therefore not give their contact details to Herefordshire Council, and they would not be signing a form stating that they were directly responsible to the Public Rights of Way Team.
- 8.2 Proposed diversion of public footpath HB1 ... It was RESOLVED to support the proposed diversion.
- 8.3 No new matters were raised by the Footpaths Officers.

9. Planning:

- 9.1 It was RESOLVED to support the following planning application:
 - 9.1.1 Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, Hampton Dene Road. Proposed removal of existing single storey gymnasium structure, and construction of replacement larger single storey multi-use space.
- 9.2 The following planning permission was noted:
 - 9.2.1 Orchard House, Whitehall Road. Proposed variation of condition 2 of planning permission 102562 (Proposed new dwelling and associated garage) – To allow for the re-positioning of the garage.

10. Finance ... The Bank balance was noted as £95,376.76.

- 10.1 Members considered the draft budget prepared by the Clerk and it was RESOLVED to retain the precept at £21k for the forthcoming financial year 2024/2025.
- 10.2 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:
 - 10.2.1 Information Commissioner ... annual fee £40.00.
 - 10.2.2 Election recharge ... £154.44.
 - 10.2.3 Clerk's salary December & January
 - 10.2.4 Nationally recommended pay increase from 1.4.23
 - 10.2.5 Autela Payroll Services ... £162.80.
 - 10.2.6 HMRC - £222.70.
 - 10.2.7 HALC annual subscription £630.79 + £126.16 VAT.
 - 10.2.8 Parish Contractor ...
- 10.3 To note payments under Clerk's Delegated Powers:
 - 10.3.1 Parish Contractor: Inv.94 (£260), Inv.15 (£260), Inv.33 (£260) & Inv.52 (£320).
 - 10.3.2 Clerk's salary ... October/November 2023.

11. Mordiford Bridge.

- 11.1 The Chair reported on a site meeting with the Ward Councillor and Environment Agency on 24th November, when the following topics were discussed:
 - 11.1.1 Local flood mechanisms and previous flood events.
 - 11.1.2 Summary by the EA of the current flood defences, maintenance activities and reviews that they have carried out.
 - 11.1.3 Confirmation that Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty carry out inspections of Mordiford Bridge during flood events and will continue to do so.
 - 11.1.4 Balfour Beatty's scheduled repairs to the bridge were currently programmed for summer 2024.

- 11.1.5 A meeting for Herefordshire Flood Groups was held on 29th November and included speakers from Herefordshire Council, Balfour Beatty, The Environment Agency and the National Flood Forum. The Clerk had notified the Hampton Bishop Flood Group and members had attended.
- 11.1.6 The missing flap valve at the Junction of Church Lane onto the B4224 Wallflower Row was highlighted by the Parish Council. Following the site meeting, Herefordshire Council had confirmed that the supply and construction of a penstock valve is to be included within the 2024-25 Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty annual plan.

- 11.2 Members considered a priority signage scheme proposed by Dormington & Mordiford Parish Council which Balfour Beatty had agreed to implement for a fee of £10k. However, the general view was that the current traffic self-management system did not need to be changed and members therefore declined to contribute £5k to the proposed scheme.

12. Dogs roaming loose on parish roads.

- 12.1 Reports were still coming in about dogs roaming loose on parish roads. One dog was even jumping over gates and scaring dog owners and dogs in their own gardens. The Chair had been liaising with Police and residents were advised to notify the Police of incidents as they occurred.

13. Matters raised for the next meeting ... Thursday 28th March 2024.

- 13.1 No additional matters were raised than those mentioned above.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.55.

SIGNED DATE