

HAMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 28th March 2024 at 19.00 in the Village Hall

Present

Councillors: Steve Hunt (Chair), Jamie Rogers (Vice Chair), Alistair McHarg & Julia Pearson.

In attendance: Parish Clerk – Lynda Wilcox and 22 local residents.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Brendyn Rousseau and James White.
2. **Declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation ...** There were none.
3. **Co-option to fill a current vacancy following the 2023 election process.**
No candidates had applied.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th February.**

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes and they were signed as a true record by the Chair with one amendment: Deletion of Brendyn Rossouw from those present.

5. **Open Session:**

- 5.1 Ward Councillor, Graham Biggs was unable to attend the meeting but had been present informally for an hour prior to the meeting and gave his report (which would be circulated by the clerk) and had answered questions on the following two topics.
 - 5.1.1 Eastern Bypass ... Herefordshire Council (HC) Cabinet had resolved to pursue a Western Bypass rather than an Eastern one
 - 5.1.2 Proposed development on land to the East of Hereford South of Ledbury Road ...
 - i) The application had recently been advertised on the HC website and planning officers were awaiting the views of consultees. Cllr Biggs urged members of the public to make their views known via the HC website.
 - ii) As it was a major application in close proximity to an SSSI, the application was likely to take a while to be processed. Cllr Biggs felt that it would be appropriate for the PC to submit comments once they had been able to take account of all submissions on the HC website.
 - iii) There were already sufficient comments on the HC website to warrant consideration for the application to be taken to the HC Planning Committee.
- 5.2 Views of local residents on parish matters:
 - 5.2.1 Residents expressed their concern at the apparent inaction of the parish council to deal effectively with flooding concerns within the parish. A petition was handed in to the Chair, requesting that the PC set up a Flood Working Group to address all

outstanding matters relating to flooding including a timeline for action. One such action would be to engage a new hydrologist to undertake a report on the parish. Cllr McHarg offered to identify suitably qualified persons to undertake that task.

- 5.2.2 It was noted that debris from a wall had fallen into a ditch – the Chair offered to contact the owner of the property.
- 5.2.3 Councillor Rogers outlined the work that the PC had already undertaken, and it was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair would meet with the Flood Group.
- 5.2.4 There was a request to update the parish council website to welcome residents from the Tupsley area, as well as ensuring that minutes could be located more easily.

6. Planning:

6.1 To comment on planning application:

- 6.1.1 P240422/F Land to the East of Hereford South of Ledbury Road (A438) Hereford. Outline planning application for the demolition of existing buildings and structures and the erection of up to 350 dwellings (including affordable housing), a farm shop and café, employment workspaces, and land for a potential primary school, along with associated parking, access roads, walking and cycling routes, public open space, landscaping, sustainable urban drainage and other associated works, site clearance and infrastructure. All matters reserved except access, which is partially reserved, with detailed approval sought for the primary vehicular site access via the A438.

It was RESOLVED that the PC would comment once they had been able to consider all viewpoints on the application via the HC website.

- 6.1.2 Comments from the public were due by 13th April but the target determination date for planning officers to determine the application was Tuesday 11th June.
- 6.1.3 It was RESOLVED to accept a quote for planning advice from Kirkwells Planning Consultants for around £2.5k (based on £100 per hour). This would include research, a site visit in April by their designated planning officer, a meeting in the Village Hall to which local residents would be invited to make their views known, and a draft submission (including material considerations from national, county and parish NDP policies) for the PC to consider and formally approve before sending to HC.
- 6.1.4 Request for PC to cover copying costs of Action Group against App: P240422. It was RESOLVED on a casting vote to meet the proposed copying costs of a poster prepared by the Action Group up to a maximum of £250 subject to the content being deemed appropriate by the Chair and Clerk.

- 6.2 A consent for works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order was noted: Brambly Hedge, Rectory Road, Hampton Bishop. T1 Lime – Remove low limb rubbing on BT cable at rear of the tree, crown clean to remove dead and

weak/crossing branches, remove mistletoe crown lift to gain a clearance of 4-5m from ground level.

T2 Sycamore – Crown clean to remove dead and weak/crossing branches, crown lift to gain a clearance of 4-5m from ground level and remove to restrict encroachment to dwelling.

7. Parish Land

- 7.1 Following the consideration of quotes for fencing on parish land behind the play area, it was RESOLVED to award the contract to M H Law for the sum of £1860.00. The Chair would request that the work be undertaken prior to the fete on 8th June.
- 7.2 The placement of bird boxes was noted.

8. Tupsley Area of the parish

- 8.1 Siting of new noticeboard for Bishopfields ... It was RESOLVED to site the new board in the vicinity of the Oak tree and play area, subject to the agreement of the Property Management Company responsible for the maintenance of the area.
- 8.2 Eastern Bypass and access road ... As mentioned in Item 5, above, Cllr Biggs had confirmed that Herefordshire Council Cabinet was pursuing a Western Bypass rather than an Eastern one.

9. Expression of interest for the Lengthsman Scheme

- 9.1 It was RESOLVED that an Expression of Interest to join the Lengthsman Scheme as soon as possible, would be sent to HC.

10. Flooding and ditching issues within the parish

Discussed at Item 5 above.

11. Footpaths:

- 11.1 Update from the Footpaths Officer and considered action ... No matters were raised.
- 11.2 Participation (with 11 other parishes) in 50th Anniversary of Wye Valley Walk by surveying current condition within the parish to enable improvements throughout the whole of the Herefordshire. Planning meeting scheduled for 15.4.24.
It was RESOLVED to participate in the scheme and the two parish Footpaths Officers would attend the meeting on 15th April.

12. Finance ... Bank balance noted as £93,749.

- 12.1 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:
 - 12.1.1 Clerk's salary for March 2024.
 - 12.1.2 HMRC ... To set up direct debit for payments. March payment £274.40.
 - 12.1.3 Parish Contractor invoice for March - £340.00, plus fitting of bird boxes £50.00.

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- 12.1.4 New batteries had been ordered for the second SID but there was a technical problem which required parts being sent back to Elan City.
- 12.2 Deadline for External Audit noted as Monday 1st July 2024.

13. Village Hall

- 13.1 It was noted that the parish council had applied for a free framed picture of the new King, which could be displayed in the Village Hall.
- 13.2 It was RESOLVED to make advance payment of hall hire for 2024 ... £112.
- 13.3 Grass-cutting ... To consider:
 - 13.3.1 Topping up £972 advance grass-cutting grant for 2023 to meet overall cost of £1,800. It was RESOLVED to make a second grass-cutting grant of £828.00 to meet the full cost of grass-cutting around the Village Hall for 2023.
 - 13.3.2 It was RESOLVED to take on the grass-cutting contract for 2024 now that contractor is charging VAT.
- 13.4 It was RESOLVED to make a grant of £500 towards Village Scene. It was noted that the magazine was delivered to residents within the Tupsley area of the parish.

14. Matters for next scheduled meeting on 23rd May.

No further matters raised other than above.

SIGNED DATE