
Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council held on Wednesday 15 January 2014 at 7.30pm in Risbury Village Hall

Present: Cllr Alan Bathurst
Cllr Kenneth Bemand
Cllr Mrs Jane Hinton
Cllr William Jackson (Chairman)
Cllr Richard Thomas
Cllr Mrs Stephanie Wilson
Cllr Mrs Margaret Bemand
Cllr Mrs Jenny Ellerton
Cllr Michael Hubbard
Cllr Peter Lefroy-Owen
Cllr Rodney Thompson

with: District Cllr Jeremy Millar (from Minute 11/14)
Officer in attendance: Mr Philip Brown (Clerk)

1/14 Apologies for absence

None.

2/14 Declarations of interests and dispensations

- (a) No declarations of interest were made.
- (b) No applications for dispensations under Standing Order 25 were received.

3/14 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2013.

4/14 Matters for report arising from the minutes of 20 November 2013

- (a) Herefordshire Council budget consultation (minute 122/13a):
Reported: that following consultation with the Chairman, the Clerk submitted no response on behalf of the Council, as there was no consensus from councillors on any points to be made. It was noted that Herefordshire Council had to make very deep cuts to its 2014-15 budget, needing to save a total of £67m over 6 years from 2010, which was 44% of its net disposable income.
- (b) Website (minute 115/13b)
Reported: that the Chairman had set up the new group parish website: www.hfspgroup.org.uk and Facebook page. This had a contact page to email the Chairman or Clerk and would soon include other Council information including councillors, policies, minutes and agendas. There would also be an 'incidents' page to report matters to the police or Herefordshire Council, a Neighbourhood Planning page, parish history and photographs (more good photographs were needed). The link to The Lamb website now meant that The Lamb web-page now came up in any search-engine.

5/14 Chairman's announcements

Reported:

- (a) The Chairman had received several calls about localised flooding during the recent heavy rains; there was general agreement that the Lengthsman work had improved roads drainage, but two locations needed attention by Herefordshire Council: near St Luke's Church and near Wheelbarrow Castle – the Clerk had reported this to Balfour Beatty and requested a meeting to discuss improvements to the drains here.
- (b) An estimate was being obtained for lettering to replace the defaced roadsigns around the parish.
- (c) The *Fastershire* project would now provide initial computer/internet training for residents at no charge, if communities provided a venue. The School had agreed to host these sessions which would be organised for later in the year and advertised in the March Pump.

6/14 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

7/14 Clerk's report

Received: a report from the Clerk (Minutes Annexe 7/14) covering: The Lamb Inn; Lengthsman Scheme works and budget; delivery of salt-grit stores under the Winter Maintenance Scheme and new salt-grit

bins to replace those stolen in Risbury; repairs to most logged roads defects; complaints about mud on roads; diversion of HU2 footpath at Risbury Mill; alerts sent out about a spate of burglaries in Risbury.

8/14 Planning Committee and Planning issues

(a) Planning Committee 7 January 2014

Received: an oral report on the Planning Committee held on 7 January 2014 which considered Application 133173: Burnt Mill, Hampton Wafre: erection of two Gaia133 11kw wind turbines on 27m tubular towers, 33.5m height to blade tip. The applicant and nine other local residents attended the meeting: the committee heard from six local residents objecting to the application, and one supporting. After considering these and discussing the application, the Committee resolved to submit the following comments: *The Committee supports the application, as meeting the planning requirements of policy CF4 (Renewable Energy). The Committee took note of the views of local residents, including objections about the impact on the landscape, but judged that this impact was outweighed by the generation of green energy for use in a local business.*

(b) Pre-application notification and advice

Received: A proposed amendment to Standing Order 32 to permit the Planning Committee to act as a public forum for an applicant to present and answer questions about a future application (Minutes Annexe 8/14b).

Proposed and seconded: to adopt the amendment subject to the amendment "shall not make any comments or give advice or make resolutions relating to the proposed application".

Under Standing Order 36(b) the resolution stands adjourned until the next ordinary meeting.

9/14 Neighbourhood Development Plan

(a) *Received:* notes of a meeting of members of the Steering Committee (inquorate) held on 11 December 2013, and an oral report on the Meeting held on 8 January 2014.

(b) *Noted:* George Burgess had reluctantly resigned from the Committee because of new work commitments, so the Committee was urgently seeking a replacement member and someone to take over as Project Manager. Gemma Webster from Herefordshire Council's NP Team had attended the committee and given useful advice and information. The project plan was becoming clearer and progress being made with preparing for initial community consultation events and a questionnaire. A budget had been agreed, and applications for a £7000 government grant and £5000 Lottery grant would be submitted.

(c) *Noted in discussion:* A new committee had been elected for Stoke Prior Village Hall, who were deferring the proposed grant application for refurbishment and car-park, and considering all possible options for the future of the Village Hall. The Village Hall would probably be included in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

10/14 The Lamb Inn

(a) *Received:* an oral report from the Working Party: the solicitor's letter had been sent to the owner on 22 November, and a reply received through Cobb Amos agents on 18 December, saying that the Council's offer of £195,000 for the whole site was not acceptable, but that the vendor had decided to re-package the Lamb for sale as a whole site. The whole site, including the garden, had been advertised for sale on 15 January at £239,950.

(b) *Noted in discussion:* it was welcome that the site was again advertised as a pub (or other permitted uses) and it was believed there was interest from publicans in this. However, the asking price was high for the pub's condition, and the Working Party's recommendation was to take no further action at this stage in respect of making an offer.

(c) *Agreed:* that it be suggested to the seller's agents that potential publican buyers may wish to talk to the Council about the community's support for the pub.

11/14 General Financial Matters

(a) *Received:* a report and financial statement from the RFO (Minutes Annexe 11/14).

(b) *Noted:* The Community Week Committee had always donated any surplus to chosen charities (in 2013, the Village Halls). Any member of the community was welcome to attend Committee meetings, and could suggest activities and uses for any surplus generated during Community Week.

(c) **Resolved:** to authorise payments as detailed in the RFO report section 3 (cheque 492 amended to £32 for hire of Risbury Village Hall for committee meetings).

12/14 Revenue Budget and Precept 2014-15

(a) *Received:* a revised proposed budget for 2014-15 (Minutes Annexe 12/14).

- (b) *Noted:* the proposed reserves included £1200 against the costs of by-elections; the next scheduled elections would be in May 2015; the clerk's expenses of £120 were for petrol costs – other expenses were minimal and stationery/consumables were covered under Administration costs.
- (c) **Resolved:** to approve the Revenue Budget for 2014-15 as presented.
- (d) **Resolved:** to set a precept of £6400 for 2014-15.

13/14 District Councillor's report

- (a) *Received:* District Councillor Millar's report for December 2013 (Minutes Annexe 13/14).
- (b) *Reported:* Herefordshire Council was making further job cuts and savings to cope with large cuts in central government funding; nearly all responses to the budget consultation had rejected the idea of a referendum on a greater-than-2% council-tax increase. The Council would be disposing of the Brockington site and concentrating services on the Plough Lane and Shire Hall sites, and cuts to front-line services would mean a reduction in face-to-face customer facilities, with joint Council/Library information service. Cllr Millar had attended a lunch for Herefordshire Carers' Support, attended by the Princess Royal, who had gone on to formally open the new cattle market.

14/14 Highways: mud-clearing

- (a) *Noted:* the report from the Clerk (Minutes Annexe 7/14) concerning complaints from parishioners about mud not being cleared from roads, and reports to the police about this.
- (b) *Noted in discussion:* the exceptionally heavy rains of recent months had made this problem more difficult than usual, and most farmers did not have machinery to clear mud from roads. However, there was a risk to farmers in not clearing mud because in the event of an accident they could be held liable, and the police had issued warnings that in this event they would prosecute.

15/14 Stoke Prior Community Primary School

- (a) *Received:* a letter from the Chair of Governors to parents and councillors concerning the possible expansion of the School (Minutes Annexe 15/14).
- (b) *Noted in discussion:* the Chairman had spoken to the Headteacher who is talking to parents about expansion of the school's facilities and also establishing a pre-school, not necessarily on the same site. These issues should be included in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- (c) **Resolved:** to encourage and support the Governors and Headteacher of the School in their plans for expanding the School's facilities and establishing a pre-school in the community.

16/14 Diversion of Public Footpath HU2

Received: the formal consultation on the diversion of HU2 at Risbury Mill, running to 22 January 2014 (Minutes Annexe 16/14), which the Council had previously supported.
Noted: the proposed dedication of a new pathway to connect HU2 to the road near to bridleway SP27.

17/14 Matters for information and future business

Noted: circulars sent to the Council:
 (i) Roadworks on Newmarket Street and Widemarsh Gate in Hereford (circulated 19/12/13).

18/14 Dates of meetings

Noted: dates of future meetings (all at 7.30pm):
 Wednesday 19 March 2014 (Risbury Village Hall).
 Wednesday 21 May 2014 (Annual Meeting) (Stoke Prior Village Hall).
 Wednesday 16 July 2014 (Stoke Prior Village Hall).
 Wednesday 24 September 2014 (Risbury Village Hall).
 Wednesday 19 November 2014 (Risbury Village Hall).

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date