

80/13 Community Week Committee

- (a) **Resolved:** to confirm the membership of the Community Week Committee for the period until the next Annual Meeting of the Council as Cllr Will Jackson (ex-officio), Cllr Peter Lefroy-Owen (ex-officio), Mrs Pym Paxton, Mrs Jean Kimberly, Mr Mike Kimberly, Ms Louise Norman, Mrs Margaret Strangwood, Mrs Olwen Helme, Mrs Molly Firth; and any other member of the community wishing to attend meetings .
- (b) **Received:** the minutes of the Community Week Committee held on 22 May 2013 (Minutes Annexe 80/13).

81/13 Clerk's report

Received: a report from the Clerk on various matters, including: the sale of The Lamb Inn; Neighbourhood Planning; the Lengthsman Scheme; Installation of noticeboards at Risbury Village Hall and Stoke Prior Post Office; Stoke Prior Village Hall car-park; SLCC Herefordshire AGM; Highway defects reported; the appointment of Balfour Beatty in place of Amey as roads contractor from 1 September 2013; repair required to BT phone box at The Lamb reported (Minutes Annexe 81/13).

82/13 General Financial Matters

- (a) **Received:** a report and financial statement from the RFO (Minutes Annexe 82/13a).
- (b) **Received:** the report from the External Auditors (Minutes Annexe 82/13b).
- (c) **Resolved:** to approve payments detailed in the RFO report section 3.

83/13 The Lamb Inn

- (a) **Reported:** from the Clerk that a formal offer had been made by the Council to purchase The Lamb Inn on 20 May 2013, but a higher offer had been accepted and contracts exchanged on that offer on 24 May 2013. The identity of the purchaser and their intentions for the pub were unknown, but it seemed likely that the new owner may wish to develop the site. The Clerk had written to Herefordshire Council setting out the Council's position opposing any change-of-use and the evidence to support this, in line with planning policies S11 and CF6 on the protection of community facilities.
- (b) **Resolved:** To ask the Working Party to re-convene to consider and recommend any action which the community should take to protect The Lamb Inn as a community facility.

84/13 Neighbourhood Planning

- (a) **Reported:** that following public notice, the application to designate the group parish as a Neighbourhood Area had been approved on 3 July 2013 (Minutes Annexe 84/13a).
Noted in discussion: that a Neighbourhood Plan could potentially provide protection against inappropriate development which otherwise would be permitted under general national planning policy and the new Local Plan; however, many residents who attended the recent Parish Meeting might have been confused or uncertain about the value of a Neighbourhood Plan, and more efforts to explain this were needed.
- (b) **Received:** a proposed Service Level Agreement with Herefordshire Council (Minutes Annexe 84/13b).
Resolved: to defer approval of the SLA until a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had been appointed and had given initial consideration to drawing up a project plan.
- (c) **Resolved:** to ask the Clerk to draft a flyer for distribution with the September Parish Pump, explaining the proposal to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and the possible advantages of this, and asking for volunteers to join a Steering Group and assist in other ways.

85/13 District Councillor's report

- (a) **Received:** District Councillor Millar's report for July 2013 (Minutes Annexe 85/13).
- (b) **Noted:** Balfour Beatty's taking over the public realm services contract from Amey from 1 September would not affect current projects or applications; it was hoped that the new contractor would deliver as good or better a service as Amey at a lower cost.
- (c) **Noted:** the new Local Plan would be voted on by Herefordshire Council on 19 July; if approved, although still requiring external examination before being formally adopted, its policies would have the status of emerging policy, and so would override the previous UDP: one consequence of this would be that all existing settlement boundaries would cease to exist, giving greater freedom for developers unless the area had a Neighbourhood Plan which could include such boundaries for towns and villages.
- (d) **Noted:** all the councils in Hampton Court Ward were intending to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan: Bodenham and our Group had been approved as Neighbourhood Areas; Hope under Dinmore was awaiting approval; and Docklow Group was discussing having a joint plan with Bredenbury Group.
- (e) **Noted:** a Ward meeting of Clerks and Chairs would be convened in the early autumn.

86/13 Lengthsman and Winter Maintenance Scheme

- (a) **Reported:** from the Clerk, that the Lengthsman contract had been signed, an initial survey of work required done, and the first work instructions had been issued to the contractor.
- (b) **Noted:** it was believed that no detailed plans of highway drainage were available, and the Council would have to build up its own plans and knowledge as the Lengthsman work was done, drawing on local residents' knowledge for any specific places where there were drainage problems.

- (c) **Resolved:** to approve a proposal from the Clerk that the Council apply to join the Winter Maintenance Scheme, which would provide a stock of salt-grit at a suitable location in the parish, for spreading on roads or re-stocking salt-grit bins (either by the Lengthsman or by local residents themselves).

87/13 'Fastershire' grants for community projects

- (a) *Received:* information about grants for projects (Minutes Annexe 87/13).
(b) **Resolved:** to approve a proposal from the Chairman and Clerk to submit an application for a grant for a project to encourage and support more residents to use the internet.

88/13 Herefordshire Association of Local Councils

Resolved: to nominate Cllr Mrs Margaret Bemand as representative to the HALC Executive for 2013-14.

89/13 Matters for information and future business

- (a) *Noted:* circulars sent to the Council (already circulated or on the table):
(i) HALC Information Corner 17 May.
(ii) Change to consultation of neighbours about Planning Applications.
(iii) HALC Information Corner 21 June.
(iv) Good Councillors Guide 4th edition.
(v) Notice of preferred bidders for Public Realm services (inc highways).
(vi) Living Well for Longer grant scheme
(vii) Welsh Water customer forum for local councillors, 15 July.
(viii) Briefing Note on Firearms licensing.
(ix) Herefordshire Armed Forces Community Covenant, Military Charities Helpdesk.
(b) *Noted:* the concern of one councillor at the new requirement for a mandatory GP certificate for anyone taking out or renewing a firearms licence. It was noted that anyone concerned about the new procedures could take this up with their MP or the Police and Crime Commissioner.

90/13 Dates of meetings

Noted: that future meetings would be held at 7.30pm on:
Wednesday 25 September 2013 (Stoke Prior Village Hall)
Wednesday 20 November 2013 (Risbury Village Hall).
Wednesday 15 January 2014 (Risbury Village Hall).
Wednesday 19 March 2014 (Risbury Village Hall).
Wednesday 21 May 2014 (Annual Meeting) (Stoke Prior Village Hall).

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date