

Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council

DRAFT – subject to
confirmation

Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council held on Wednesday 19 March 2014 at 7.30pm in Risbury Village Hall

Present: Cllr Alan Bathurst
Cllr Kenneth Bemand
Cllr Mrs Jane Hinton
Cllr William Jackson (Chairman)
Cllr Rodney Thompson
Cllr Mrs Margaret Bemand
Cllr Mrs Jenny Ellerton
Cllr Michael Hubbard
Cllr Richard Thomas (from Minute 23/14)
Cllr Mrs Stephanie Wilson

with: District Cllr Jeremy Millar
Officer in attendance: Mr Philip Brown (Clerk)

19/14 Apologies for absence

None.

20/14 Declarations of interests and dispensations

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

21/14 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 19 January 2014.

22/14 Matters for report arising from the minutes of 19 January 2014

None.

23/14 Chairman's announcements

Reported:

(a) A consultation on a review of bus services and subsidies by Herefordshire Council had been received on 17 March – the Council was looking to save £1m over the next two years on the transport budget. Local residents were urged to respond to the consultation, especially users of the 426: responses could be submitted on-line or paper copies obtained from the Clerk.

(b) The Chairman had attended a police meeting in Bromyard which had raised the issue of increasing crime in Bromyard since reductions in police cover there, and a cold-calling bank-card scam about which a leaflet had been provided and put up on noticeboards.

(c) Plans for Community Week (21-27 July) were being made: meetings of the Committee were open to everyone – the next meeting was on 29 April, or residents could submit ideas to the Committee.

24/14 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

25/14 Clerk's report

- (a) *Received:* a report from the Clerk (Minutes Annexe 25/14) covering: the Lengthsman Scheme, recent flooding, Highways maintenance and replacement of defaced signs; complaints from residents about burning of stable waste at a property in Risbury and dangerous trees in Risbury.
- (b) *Noted:* thanks to the Clerk and Chairman for their work during the recent flooding.
- (c) *Noted:* the re-appearance of serious potholes in Blacksmiths Lane and School Hill in Risbury, which had been reported, and the absence of any repairs to the C1110/C1055 Risbury Mill to The Drum, possibly because these had been graded as less severe. The repairs undertaken by the VelocityPatcher machine were better than those made by hand-tools. Cllr Millar reported that the underlying cause of defects (such as springs) should be addressed when about 70% of U and C roads were re-laid in the major roads investment programme planned: £15m in 2014-15 and £5m in 2015-16. Additional government funds had been obtained for the impact of the recent severe weather on roads.

26/14 Planning Committee and Planning issues

- (a) *Received:* the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7 January 2014 and 5 February 2014.

- (b) *Reported:* A meeting of the Planning Committee had taken place at 7.00pm on 19 March 2014, and had noted that comments from residents and statutory consultees had been submitted about 133481: Great Marston Farm, installation of 50kw wind turbine.
- (c) Pre-application notification and advice
Resolved: to adopt the amendment to Standing Order 32 (Minutes Annexe 26/14c).

27/14 Neighbourhood Development Plan

- (a) *Received:* minutes of the Steering Committee of 8 January, 12 February, 12 March 2014.
- (b) *Noted:* the successful application for a government grant of £7000, and the conditional award of an Awards for All Big Lottery grant of £5137 for the costs of project.
- (c) **Resolved:** to approve the proposed budget for the project (Minutes Annexe 27/14c).
- (d) **Resolved:** to appoint Data Orchard Ltd to provide advice on questionnaire development and to analyse and report on the questionnaire data, at an estimated cost of £3379.
- (e) **Resolved:** to appoint Andrew Ford DipTP, DipUD, MPhil, MRTPI through Community First CIC to provide professional planning advice on identifying issues & options, reviewing the draft plan and technical writing, an advice on pre-submission, at an estimated cost of £1820 for 52 hours consultancy.
- (f) **Resolved:** (i) to authorise the Steering Committee to commission development of an NDP website after obtaining three quotes for this, up to £1400; (ii) to authorise the Clerk to purchase a data projector & screen, up to £357; to authorise the Clerk to spend up to £900 for budgeted items for the April *Your Community Your Future* consultation events.

28/14 The Lamb Inn

- (a) *Noted:* an oral report from the Chairman: Herefordshire Council's Strategic Asset Manager had written to the agents about the Community Asset Listing, causing some confusion, as it was understood this had lapsed and the Council had confirmed to the agents that it had not applied for renewal of the listing. The Council's borrowing approval expired on 23 April, but there were several other interested buyers intending to re-open The Lamb as a pub, and the Clerk and members of the working group had talked to three of these.
- (b) *Noted:* the Council had not previously considered purchasing the property and leasing it long-term with conditions, which would remove responsibility for finding a tenant, but reduce the level of control over the pub
- (c) *Agreed:* that in view of the regular contact which the Chairman had with the agents about the Council's continued interest, and the ample written evidence of this and the community's opposition to development of the site, it was not necessary to make another formal written expression of interest.

29/14 General Financial Matters

- (a) *Received:* a report from the RFO (Minutes Annexe 29/14).
- (b) **Resolved:** To approve the authorisation of payments as detailed in section 3 of the RFO's report.

30/14 Lengthsman contract 2014-15

Resolved: to renew the Lengthsman contract with Richard Mills Farm Services for 2014-15.

31/14 District Councillor's report

- (a) *Received:* District Councillor Millar's report for February & March 2014 (Minutes Annexe 31/14).
- (b) *Noted:* progress on the new Cattle Market shopping centre in Hereford was advanced, with the flagship stores due to open in April. The roadworks should be finished by the end of March with a 20mph speed limit on the inner ring-road and a 'shared pedestrian/car environment'. 600 new car-parking spaces would be on-site. There had been many negative comments about the unattractive blank brick-wall exterior of the development. Regional enterprise funding would pay for the new link-road from Commercial Street to Edgar Street, which would replace the inner ring-road.
- (c) *Noted:* Additional £2.6m government funding for education in the county from April 2015 would halve the funding disparity between Herefordshire and the best-funded counties.

32/14 Consultations

- (a) Draft Transparency code for parish councils with a turnover not exceeding £25,000

Resolved: that the Clerk submit agreed responses to a consultation on the mandatory publication of financial and other information on-line, in place of external audit requirements (Minutes Annexe 32/14), including recommending a £100 minimum level for publishing individual items of expenditure.

(b) Herefordshire polling stations and districts

Noted: the consultation proposed no changes to polling districts or stations in the Group Parish.

(c) Review of county bus services and subsidies (see minute 23/14a above)

Noted: the consultation had been received too late for the Council to consider this at the meeting, but the Clerk would consult with the Chairman on submitting a response.

33/14 Correspondence

(a) *Received:* a letter concerning the hazards of traffic to horse-riders in the group parish (Minutes Annexe 33/14).

(b) *Noted:* the provision of more signs would probably not affect the behaviour of drivers, and there was a general problem with the speed of some traffic and paucity of bridlepaths. This could be considered under the Neighbourhood Development Plan work, and could be raised at the coming *Your Community, Your Future* events.

34/14 Matters for information and future business

(a) *Noted:* circulars sent to the Council:

- Library and customer services proposals press release (circulated 20/01/14)
- Herefordshire Council budget consultation response summary (circulated 25/01/14)
- Balfour Beatty Parish Newsletter and contacts list Jan 2014 (circulated 05/02/14)
- Letter from Chair of School Governors re questionnaire responses (sent 06/02/14)
- Herefordshire Local Development Scheme Jan 2014 (circulated 07/02/14)
- Recycling Centre survey (circulated 20/02/14)
- Affordable Housing allocation policy news release (circulated 20/02/14)
- HALC Information Corner 18/02/14 (circulated 20/02/14)
- Severe weather funding initiatives (circulated 24/02/14)
- Herefordshire CPRE Spring 2014 newsletter (circulated 12/03/14)
- Police leaflet warning about bank details scam (circulated 12/03/14)
- HALC Information Corner 10/03/14 (circulated 12/03/14)
- Healthwatch Herefordshire information (to be tabled by Cllr Lefroy-Owen)

(b) *Noted:* The CPRE newsletter raised the widespread concern about Herefordshire's lack of a rolling 5-year housing supply, which under the National Planning Policy Framework could open the door to development on sites regardless of the provisions of the Core Strategy or any Neighbourhood Development Plan. This situation was currently being tested in at least one high-profile case, but was not a reason for holding back on work on our NDP.

(c) *Noted:* Herefordshire Council wished to pass ownership and management of Queenswood Country Park and Bodenham Lakes to an appropriate group, and a community group was preparing a proposal to take these on.

35/14 Dates of meetings

Noted: dates of future meetings (all at 7.30pm):

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 9.35pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date