

Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council

DRAFT – subject to
confirmation

Minutes of the meeting of the Group Parish Council held on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7.30pm in Risbury Village Hall

Present: Cllr Alan Bathurst
Cllr Richard Collins
Cllr William Jackson (Chairman)
Cllr Chris Marston
Cllr Richard Thomas
Cllr Ken Bemand
Cllr Hugh Fowler-Wright
Cllr Janette Fullwood
Cllr Gill Stovold
Cllr Stephanie Wilson

With: District Cllr John Harrington, and 3 members of the public.
Officer in attendance: Mr Philip Brown (Clerk and RFO).

132/19 Apologies for absence

- (a) *Received:* apologies for absence from Cllr Zoe Burge.
(b) **Resolved:** under Standing Order 10 to excuse Cllr Burge's absence until the next meeting.

133/19 Declaration of interests and dispensations

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

134/19 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 2 October 2019.

135/19 Matters for report arising from the minutes, not covered elsewhere on the agenda

None.

135/19 Chairman's announcements: Clerk and RFO

Noted: the Clerk and RFO, Philip Brown, announced he would be standing down from the role on 1 October 2020, and would discuss with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman arrangements for recruiting a successor and covering the various roles performed. Councillors expressed their appreciation of Philip for his service to the Council and the community.

136/19 Public participation

No matters were raised other than under specific minutes.

137/19 Clerk's report

Received: a report from the Clerk (Minutes Annexe 137/19).

138/19 District Councillor's report

- (a) *Received:* an oral report from Cllr Harrington:
- The Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Development Plans in Herefordshire were being reviewed, in compliance with the revised National Planning Policy Framework. If parishes wished, site allocations could be included by Herefordshire Council in its own plans, rather than in NDPs. HC wished to reduce the target of new homes for the county, but build council houses for rental.
 - As part of the review of the bypass and Hereford transport strategy, a trial of alternative to the traffic lights south of Hereford was planned.
 - The possibility of additional railway stops at Pontrilas and Marden were being explored.
 - Herefordshire Local Access Forum was now at full strength, to improve public rights of way.
 - Reinstatement of some Lengthsman and P3 grants was being discussed.
- (b) *Noted:* answers to questions from councillors: some of the funds raised from the sale of smallholding farms still remained, and should be spent on capital projects; HC was looking at enabling parishes to do more highway and drainage maintenance; dealing with the phosphates/nitrates levels in the Lugg and Frome catchment area was a matter for the Environment Agency.

139/19 Walkway/cycleway on old Leominster-Worcester railway line

- (a) *Received:* an oral introduction to a proposal for a walkway/bridleway on the old railway line.

- (b) *Noted in discussion:* the proposal was at a very early stage, and faced problems of many different landowners, missing bridges and lack of funding. Councillors suggested that the proposers be realistic about re-routing some sections, and aim initially to open short stretches of the original route.

140/19 Planning Committee and planning applications update

Received: minutes of the Planning Committees held on 21 October 2019 and 11 November 2019.

141/19 General Financial Matters

- (a) *Received:* a report from the RFO (Minutes Annexe 141/19a).
- (b) *Received:* the Bank Reconciliation Statement for the second quarter of 2019-20 which was checked and signed by Cllr Bathurst.
- (c) **Resolved:** to authorise payments as detailed in the RFO report section 3.
- (d) *Received:* notes of the Finance Working Group held on 4 October 2019 (Minutes Annexe 141/19c).
- (e) **Resolved:** to amend Financial Regulation 11.1 as recommended by the Working Group.
- (f) **Resolved:** that a debit card be issued to the Clerk, as recommended by the Working Group.

142/19 Draft Budget and Precept for 2020-21

- (a) *Received:* a draft budget and precept for 2020-21 (Minutes Annexe 142/19).
- (b) *Agreed:* the hours and salary of the Clerk/RFO would be reviewed by the Chairman; the draft budget should be amended to keep the precept at the 2019-20 level, to start to build up an ear-marked reserve for significant highways/drainage works needed around the parishes. A final proposed budget would be considered at the January meeting.

143/19 Review of Neighbourhood Development Plan

- (a) *Noted:* a report from the Chairman on a seminar held on 6 Nov 2019, previously circulated.
- (b) **Resolved:** not to undertake a material or substantial revision of the NDP at this time, until the revised Core Strategy was completed, but for the Clerk and Chairman to review and propose any minor changes to the Plan, so it would be up-to-date and continue to carry weight.

144/19 Climate Emergency

- (a) *Noted:* a paper from Friends of the Earth: "20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency" (previously circulated).
- (b) *Noted:* as the Council had no premises, there were few direct actions it could take, and the NDP already encouraged energy-efficiency and sustainable transport. The Chairman would speak with concerned residents about any ideas for policies or initiatives which could be pursued locally.

145/19 We Don't Buy Crime Smartwater initiative

Noted: the Clerk's Report Section 1, and an oral update that to date 153 properties had been registered (over 53%), and the target of 70% was expected to be met by the end of November. The Clerk and all those who had helped with the initiative were thanked.

146/19 Road safety

- (a) *Noted:* the Clerk's Report Section 2.
- (b) *Noted:* Cllr Harrington would speak with Highways about the urgency to implement the proposed new speed limits, and also review safety at Steens Bridge generally. He also reported that HC was considering how a roundabout could replace the traffic lights at the A417 and A49 junction.

147/19 The Lamb Inn

- (a) *Noted:* the Clerk's Report section 3: Herefordshire Council had been notified of the Parish Council's intention to bid for the property, and the moratorium on a sale was therefore in place until 10 April 2020. The Chairman reported that the requested commercial valuation of The Lamb was awaited
- (b) *Agreed:* an offer for The Lamb should be made as soon as possible, subject to borrowing approval.
- (c) **Resolved:** to exclude the public and press from consideration of the following two matters, for reasons of commercial sensitivity.
- (d) *Received:* an oral report on the Working Group's draft Acquisition and Borrowing Proposal.

- (e) *Agreed following discussion:* to await the valuation, and then finalise the offer to be made at a further meeting of the Council.

148/19 Matters for information and future business

- (a) *Noted:* circulars sent to the Council, and circulated on date shown to councillors by email:

(i)	Locality Steward weekly briefings	Weekly
(ii)	Herefordshire road closures updates	Weekly
(iii)	Rural Services Network bulletins	Weekly
(iv)	Herefordshire Rural Hub monthly newsletters	Monthly
(v)	Rural Services Network monthly funding digest	Monthly
(vi)	Unveiling of new Herefordshire flag 2 Nov	26/10/19
(vii)	Position Statement on River Lugg (implications for approval of development)	26/10/19
(viii)	Adoption of Travellers' Sites Development Plan	26/10/19
(ix)	Results of Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations	26/10/19
(x)	Herefordshire Green Network Climate Change meetings Nov-Jan	26/10/19
(xi)	Decision on Review of Hereford and South Wye Transport Package	26/10/19
(xii)	PCC Rural Crime Strategy consultation (closing date 8 Nov)	26/10/19
(xiii)	Healthwatch Herefordshire e-bulletin	02/11/19
(xiv)	Notes from Parish Council Summit Oct 2019	02/11/19
(xv)	HC response to petition from Steens Bridge residents re road safety	02/11/19
(xvi)	CPRE circular re government moratorium on fracking	02/11/19
(xvii)	HALC AGM and Conference 23 November	02/11/19
(xviii)	Herefordshire Tree Week	02/11/19
(xix)	Herefordshire CPRE AGM notes	07/11/19
(xx)	HALC training courses Nov 2019-March 2020	07/11/19
(xxi)	Core Strategy and NDP Seminar notes, and discussion paper from Chairmen	07/11/19
(xxii)	CPRE Campaigns update	12/11/19
(xxiii)	Information on <i>What3Words</i>	12/11/19
(xxiv)	HALC AGM and Conference papers	13/11/19
(xxv)	Invitation to BBLP parish council briefings 5/6 December	18/11/19

149/19 Dates of future meetings

- (a) *Noted:* the remaining scheduled meetings in 2019-20 would be on Wednesday 15 January 2020 and Wednesday 11 March 2020, commencing at 7.30pm.
- (b) **Resolved:** to confirm the dates of meetings in 2020-21:
 Wednesday 20 May 2020 (Annual Meeting)
 Wednesday 8 July 2020
 Wednesday 16 September 2020
 Wednesday 18 November 2020
 Wednesday 20 January 2021
 Wednesday 17 March 2021.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date