

Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council

DRAFT – subject to
confirmation

Minutes of the meeting of the Group Parish Council held on Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 7.30pm in Risbury Village Hall

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

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

23/20 Apologies for absence

- (a) *Received:* apologies for absence from Cllr Zoe Burge.
- (b) No applications were made under Standing Order 10.

24/20 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.

25/20 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of 4 March 2020.

26/20 Matters for report arising from the minutes, not covered elsewhere on the agenda

None.

27/20 Chairman's announcements

Noted: the Chairman had attended a meeting of the National Association of Local Councils in London, at which the impact of Coronavirus on local councils and communities had been discussed. The Clerk had sufficient delegated authority to ensure that any immediate urgent matters could be dealt with should the Council be unable to meet, but further government advice would be monitored.

28/20 Public participation

No matters were raised.

29/20 Clerk's report

- (a) *Received:* a report from the Clerk (Minutes Annexe 29/20).
- (b) *Noted:* Herefordshire Council had published the proposed addition of a public footpath from the public road to the current start of footpaths SP2 and SP4 in Stoke Prior, following the Parish Council's application for a Definitive Map Modification Order.

30/20 District Councillor's report

- (a) *Noted:* an oral report from Cllr Harrington:
 - 1 case of coronavirus had been confirmed in the county; public health information was being circulated to parish councils.
 - Following recent serious flooding there were still 30 road closures in the county; The Council was asking the government for more flexibility in the emergency funding available.
 - The county's budget for 2020-21 had been passed, including £2.5m for resurfacing of C and U roads. The Council was looking to borrow more to address the £97m backlog in road maintenance.
 - Grants to parishes for them to undertake some drainage works would be available.
 - The Hereford Transport Package review was underway and would be completed by July.
 - There was agreement in principle for land to be made available to put in a roundabout at the A417/A49 junction.
- (b) *Noted:* responses from Cllr Harrington to councillors' questions:
 - Traffic damage to verges and ditches following flooding should be reported by parish councils to BBLP.
 - He would speak to the Environment Agency about clearing debris in rivers to mitigate localised flooding.
 - A new River Wye crossing was needed urgently and would be built earlier than under previous plans.
 - Proposals had been made to Natural England to resolve the delays to development from high river phosphate-levels.
 - Proposals for 20mph zones to replace 30mph zones were at a very early stage.

- The replacement of hedge with a fence at the Fairmile junction had not occurred because it was associated with a development in Pudleston which was not currently proceeding.
- The extension of the A44 50mph zone in Steens Bridge would be implemented shortly.
- Concerns over planning officers' apparent disregard for Neighbourhood Plans was noted and shared.

31/20 Planning Committee and planning applications update

- (a) *Received:* minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10 February 2020.
- (b) *Noted:* Application 200262/AM for a non-material amendment to permission DCNC2008/1938/RM (Construction of two dwellings, Stoke Prior) had been refused on 25 February 2020.

32/20 Planning Application 194085: The Causeway, Stoke Prior - Proposed extension to and conversion of existing ancillary building to annex accommodation to remain ancillary to main planning unit

- (a) *Received:* the application (circulated 4 March 2020).
- (b) *Noted:* there had been no comments submitted in advance by councillors, the applicant or the public.
- (c) *Noted:* responses from the applicant to questions concerning the height of the proposed building, consultations with neighbouring properties, proposed foul-water disposal, materials for windows, and that the annexe would be ancillary to the main dwelling as an extension for the use of family members.
- (d) **Resolved:** to submit the following comments to Herefordshire Council: *The Council supports the application, as an extension to the existing accommodation for the use of family members through conversion of an existing outbuilding, which will remain part of the main dwelling. This is in accordance with Policy HFSP1 of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which seeks to provide housing appropriate to the needs of the local community, particularly those of young families.*

33/20 General Financial Matters

- (a) *Received:* a report from the RFO (Minutes Annexe 33/20).
- (b) **Resolved:** to authorise payments as detailed in the RFO report section 3.
- (c) **Resolved:** to appoint HALC as Internal Auditors for 2019-20.

34/20 Recruitment of Clerk/RFO: Appointment Panel

- (a) *Received:* a report on recruitment of a new Clerk/RFO from 1 October 2020 and proposal for an Appointment Panel (see Clerk's Report section 1).
- (b) **Resolved:** to appoint an Appointment Panel as an Advisory Group, consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr Bathurst, with the remit to consider applications for the post, shortlist and interview candidates, and make any recommendations on an appointment to Council.

35/20 Lengthsman scheme and appointment of Lengthsman for 2020-21

- (a) **Resolved:** to renew membership of the Lengthsman and Parish Paths Partnership scheme in 2020-21.
- (b) **Resolved:** to re-appoint DC Gardening Services as Lengthsman contractor 2020-21, and to re-tender the contract for 2021-22 onwards.

36/20 The Lamb Inn

- (a) *Noted:* Following the Extraordinary Meeting of 4 March 2020, the agreed offer of £315,000 to purchase The Lamb Inn had been made through agents, but was immediately rejected by the owners, who indicated that they are looking for a sum far in excess of the valuation as a pub. The offer was non-negotiable but would remain open for three months. A letter from the agents confirming this would be obtained and copied to Herefordshire Council's Community Assets and Planning departments. Cllr Harrington was asked to look into any further steps which Herefordshire Council could take.
- (b) **Resolved:** that the Valuation Report and offer made by the Parish Council should now be made public, the Working Group thanked for their work, and the public thanked for their support.

37/20 Flooding

- (a) *Received:* the Clerk's Report section 3 concerning recent flooding, and a schedule of flooding/drainage problems in Stoke Prior collated by Cllr Fullwood.
- (b) *Noted:* the Lengthsman would be asked to undertake what debris/drain/ditch clearance he could undertake, and Balfour Beatty sent a list of serious drainage problems. The parishes had been waiting for a long time for several locations to be properly investigated, and it was possible the Parish Council might commission its own drain-jetting and camera-inspection work; Cllr Harrington advised waiting on

this until the extent of new capital funding for parishes to do drainage work was known, but it was agreed to obtain quotes for such work now.

- (c) **Resolved:** that a stock of about 150 sandbags be purchased using the underspend on Lengthsman budget this year, to replenish supplies at strategic locations around the parishes.

38/20 Consultations

- (a) Police and Crime Commissioner Road Safety Strategy

No response to the consultation was proposed.

- (b) Accessibility of public rights-of-way

Noted: the Clerk would respond with details of local accessible PROWs.

39/20 Matters for information and future business

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)	Updated position statement on Rivers Wye and Lugg catchment areas	11/03/20
(vii)	Calor Rural Community Fund 2020	11/03/20
(viii)	Covid-19 virus public health information	11/03/20

40/20 Dates of future meetings

- (a) *Noted:* the next meeting will be the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday 20 May 2020, commencing at 7.30pm, in Stoke Prior Village Hall.
- (b) *Noted:* the agreed dates of ordinary meetings in 2020-21: 8 July 2020, 16 September 2020, [18 November 2020], 20 January 2021 and 17 March 2021.
- (c) *Noted:* the date of the November 2020 meeting would have to be changed because of the Clerk's work.

The meeting closed at 9.28pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date