

Humber Parish

Ford & Stoke Prior Parish

DRAFT – subject to confirmation

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held on Wednesday 17 April 2019 at 6.30pm in Risbury Village Hall

Present: 5 electors of Humber Parish.

4 electors of Ford & Stoke Prior Parish.

and: Paul Crumpton, Rural Business and Cybercrime Reduction Co-ordinator, Herefordshire.

01/19 The Vice-chairman of the Group Parish Council, Cllr Hugh Fowler-Wright, took the chair.

02/19 Apologies for absence were received from four electors.

03/19 Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded people that as well as receiving reports from the Parish Council and other groups, this was an opportunity for all electors and other residents of the two parishes to have their say on local issues, which could then be considered by the Parish Council.

04/19 Minutes of Annual Parish Meetings May 2018

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings of 9 May 2018.

05/19 Matters arising from the minutes

- (a) The Clerk to the Parish Council, Phliip Brown, reported that the Yoga/Pilates/Stretch classes suggested at the 2018 meeting had been organised, with an initial subsidy from the Parish Council. The classes, held on Wednesdays in Risbury, had at first been oversubscribed but recently numbers had fallen to the point of the classes having to stop. However, several new potential participants had come forward, and it was hoped the classes would re-commence soon.
- (b) The Clerk also reported on the appeal by the owners of the The Lamb against refusal of planning permission for change of use to a residential dwelling. After a public hearing in January attended by many residents, the appeal had been dismissed. The Parish Council had written again to the owners of The Lamb reminding them of the Council's interest in purchasing the pub on behalf of the community.

06/19 Stay safe at work, at home and online – presentation from West Mercia Police

- (a) Paul Crumpton, West Mercia Police Rural Business and Cybercrime Reduction Co-ordinator for Herefordshire, gave a presentation on how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.
- (b) [A summary of his presentation with some of the practical advice given, will be published in the June 2019 edition of the Parish Pump.]
- (c) It was noted that both overt property markers and covert markers (Smartwater) were available from the Police, cheaper than elsewhere. Under a police scheme, a greater discount could be obtained if 80% of residents signed up to having markers and then free signage advertising this could be supplied. Other communities which had signed up to this scheme had seen a massive reduction in thefts.

07/19 Reports

(a) Group Parish Council

In the absence of the Council Chairman, this item was deferred. A report would be made to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 15 May.

(b) Parish Clerk

An annual report from the Clerk would be made to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 15 May.

(c) Public rights of way Officer

A written report was circulated from the Clerk, Philip Brown: in the absence of anyone else volunteering for this role, he was covering it, with assistance from Iain Cholerton, Margaret Brown and Tim Yair who reported defects. Iain had provided a 3rd annual report on the parishes' bridleways. Philip had now surveyed nearly all the PROWs on foot, to map all gates, stiles and bridges and note any defects or improvements required. Detailed maps of the PROWs were available to anyone interested, and Philip hoped that one day a booklet of all PROWs could be produced for residents. The report listed all of the repairs and maintenance undertaken in the past year, and all remaining significant defects. Several stiles had been repaired, and new gates and waymarker posts installed. Numerous new waymarker discs had been placed. Many landowners had been contacted about improving latches and handles on gates, with limited success. Several routes south of Stoke Prior were still being overcropped, and this matter had been referred to

Herefordshire Council who would be issuing legal enforcement notices. There were several points where poor drainage made paths impassable, and this was a difficult problem to solve. Philip suggested that a volunteer working group could be formed to meet every quarter to undertake maintenance, possibly including on problem drainage sites.

Philip also reported that the two applications for modifications to the definitive map of rights-of-way had been submitted in January (to designate Normans Lane as a bridleway and two short sections of track/path near the Old Rectory as footpaths). Philip answered questions about this.

(d) *Risbury Village Hall*

A report from Cllr Stephanie Wilson, Vice-Chair of the Village Hall Committee, was read out. In summary: The Hall continued to have good support throughout the year. There was the usual mix of events including pub nights, barbecue, kids craft morning, Oktoberfest, Burns Night, Halloween and Christmas carol singing around the village. There were a good number of private bookings for the hall. It was disappointing for the new Yoga/Pilates classes to have ceased, but it was hoped these could start again. The Committee was trying to obtain a grant to put in a fully-working kitchen. The Committee was enthusiastic and committed, but were always on the lookout for new members and new ideas, and asked all local residents to keep this fantastic community facility viable.

(e) *Stoke Prior Village Hall*

A report from Cllr Mike Hubbard, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, was read out. In summary: The Hall AGM would be on 7 May and all were welcome. Village hall activities had continued in much the same way as 2018 except for a major fundraising event at The Old Rectory in June 2018, which raised funds for St Michael's Hospice and £11006 for the Village Hall. All those who organised this very successful event were thanked, especially Gill & Peter Stovold. The annual Great British Quiz and a Music Quiz had been well-attended, and attendances at Flicks in the Sticks had risen slightly despite a rise in the entrance charge to £5, which just covered the costs of showing the films. The Hall's income and expenditure continued to be roughly in balance, but any surpluses were put towards the development fund. As a new site for the hall still appeared a long way off, the internal paintwork had been refreshed. The Committee was grateful for all the work which local residents did for the Hall, but there was an urgent need for new active Committee members. The Secretary, Alex Arnold, would resign from this role at the AGM, and a replacement was needed, as were at least two new committee members. Mike thanked all committee members and spouses for their work and dedication over the past year, singling out on this occasion Alex Arnold for her many contributions, especially as Secretary.

(f) *Community Week Committee*

Margaret Brown, Secretary of the Committee, reported that after another successful week in 2018, several new members had been recruited to the organising committee, and a similar schedule of events was being organised for the 2019 Community Week, which would be from 22-29 July. Full details would be in the next edition of The Parish Pump. More helpers were always welcome.

08/19 No other matters were raised by residents. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and thanked all those who contributed to our community's life. The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

PJB

Signed Dated