

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 9TH February 2011
In Bishopswood Village Hall

Present: Philip Heath – Vice Chairman (Acting Chairman). Ward Councillor - John Jarvis.

Marc Thomas, Heather Evans, Alan Whitlock, Geoffrey Symonds, Michael Downey, Bridget Vine, Simeon Cole, Derek Allen.

In attendance: Clerk – Catherine Murray. 6 members of the public.

1. To accept apologies for absence. Frank Myers, Eric Drummond, Sandra Cole, Luke Freeman.

2. To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial interest.

3. Open Session - reports

3.1 To receive a verbal report from West Mercia Police and to consider any issues raised which relate to crime, disorder and community safety. No representative was able to attend, due to operational duties, but the following report was delivered verbally by the Clerk: Continuing theft of heating / farm / diesel oil. Any suspicions, please call the police. Theft of scrap and valuable metals, please do the same.

3.2 To receive a verbal report from Ward Councillor John Jarvis. And to discuss any issues raised therein. **1) Village Warden scheme:** The previously postponed meeting has been re-scheduled for 16th March. **2) Kerne Bridge Traffic safety:** A successful meeting had been held with Andrew Lee-Jones and Mr and Mrs Charlton to discuss making the junction at Kerne Bridge being made safer to use. Signage will be installed for pedestrians to make it safer, and it is proposed that a scheme will be drawn up and costed regarding the slip way. Following their meeting last week, Goodrich parish council expressed that they were robustly opposed to removal of the slip way. There was a discussion about this and a straw poll of Cllrs resulted in 7 being in favour of leaving it as it is. **3)**

Budget: Ward Cllr Jarvis presented a lengthy written report of the Leaders speech to Council on 4th February - containing details of the Herefordshire Council Budget for 2011/ which was handed out to Councillors. (A copy of the report can be obtained from the Clerk.) **4) Broadband:** Rutland Telecom is sending a report on the Broadband proposals to Cllr Jarvis, also there will be a Broadband Conference at which Cllr Freeman will be speaking and Cllr Jarvis will be attending. Cllr Freeman has offered to pay for every household in the Parish to receive a circular about the proposals for Broadband.

5) Any Questions: Cllr Jarvis invited any questions from the council – Cllr Symonds asked if it was viable to put a solar panel on the new roof of Walford Village School. Cllr Jarvis replied that he had made enquiries and it might be a good idea. He also mentioned that local refuse lorries will have posters designed by primary and secondary school children on the side. Cllr Symonds asked if the refuse tip would be opening more regularly, Cllr Jarvis said planning consent is needed to extend the opening hours, so far his 3 attempts to go back to planning have been blocked. He asked the Clerk to write to him concerning the opening hours of the tip – expressing that local people want to do more recycling, to give him more leverage to appeal. <<Action Clerk>>.

4 To adopt minutes of previous Parish Council meeting – 12.01.11. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes as a true record.

5 Finance: See Appendix A – Finance statement. The Finance statement was noted by council.

5.1 To receive an update from the Finance Chairman: Cllr Thomas gave an update to the council and explained that as the Lengthsman's and Rights of Way grants would not be subject to cuts in 2011/12, the precept figure would remain the same as decided upon by council at the November meeting. He explained however, that next year would be different.

5.2 To discuss any information received and to decide upon any issues raised in the Finance committee meeting – which require the attention of approval of Full council: There was nothing further to report and therefore nothing needing discussion or decision.

6 Roads:

6.1 To discuss any items to be brought to the attention of Amey. Cllr Vine reported that the road outside Purleu Cottage, Star Beech was bad, as the repair previously done has been undermined. There are pot holes before reaching Freemans and back towards the houses. The Clerk will report this as usual to Amey. <<**Action Clerk**>>.

7 Planning (See Planning document: Appendix B) The planning Appendix was noted by council.

To call an extraordinary Parish Council meeting to consider the following planning applications:

7.1 DMS/102832/F – Site B, Land North West of Coleraine Buildings Farmstead, Cobrey Farms, Coughton. Description: *Erection of permanent (non-rotating) polythene covered polytunnels over crops. Balancing pond.*

7.2 DMS/102835/F - Site C, Land East of Coleraine Buildings Farmstead, Cobrey Farms, Coughton. Description: *Erection of permanent (non-rotating) polythene covered polytunnels over crops & erection of biomass (woodchip) boiler house for heating of ground in tunnels. Balancing pond.*

It was **RESOLVED:** To call an extraordinary Parish council meeting to take place on Monday 28th February 2011 at 8pm in Walford Village Hall.

7.3 To note any Planning consents given: DMS/103266/L – Barn House, Coughton. Consents were noted by council.

7.4 To note any Planning Refusals: None received.

7.5 To note any Planning enforcement notices. None received.

7.6 To note any Withdrawn Planning Applications: DMS/103041/F – 2 Crossways, Howle Hill. The Withdrawn application was noted by council.

8 To receive an update on the Parish Plan: Cllr Thomas reported that the Parish plan was not formally adopted by H.C. 1) The Parish Plan: It was done 4 years ago and is due for an update, which will not be onerous, but WPC should engage the community. He explained that the Clerk is producing a newsletter, to go out in late March, so the public can be advised on the detail of the Parish Plan and asked what they think. 2) The mission statement: The wording of this was a bit vague, so Cllr Thomas has rewritten the mission statements so that they are clearer – giving an example. Cllr Downey asked when it would be done and Cllr Thomas said he had already broken it down into 5 goals so that it is simpler. 3 of the goals relate to the council creating a list of 'Action Points' which can be added to every year, things can be voted onto or off the list and the list can be used to encourage the authorities to get things done. All Cllrs should consider the document circulated before the meeting and decide what they want done. Cllr Heath commented that this would bring tangible meaning to the Plan and asked for a proposer to adopt Cllr Thomas's suggestion. Cllr Jarvis reminded the council that they would have to consider the Localism bill and might need to think about how to raise money; he also mentioned the need to consider sites for Housing. Cllr Allen proposed and Cllr Downey Seconded – it was **RESOLVED:** To adopt the suggestion made by Cllr Thomas. Cllr Heath drew attention to Paragraph 15 and asked how the council should go about paying someone to pick up litter; Cllr Symonds mentioned that Whitchurch and Much Dewchurch have a bi-yearly event to collect litter. Cllr Jarvis said that H.C. can provide a pack and Cllr Symonds said that he would look into it and proposed a Council led litter pick which he then agreed to organise. <<**Action Cllr Symonds**>> Cllr Thomas said that the responses from the Newsletter survey would go back into the Parish Plan, he also said that a Village Design statement would form a part of it. Cllr Jarvis suggested adding in a question to the Survey on Housing provision.

- 9 To receive an update from the Lengthsman co-ordinator:** Cllr Freeman was not present and so made no report.
- 10 To receive an update from the Rights of Way officer:** Cllr Downey read out a letter from H.C. about allocating resources next year. Once they have heard back from WPC they will allocate funds. He reported that the Footpaths would be strimmed soon as there are some funds left in the budget. There was a query from Cllr Vine about WA50 asking if it was going to be closed for the long term, Cllr Jarvis hoped not and said that he would try to get more information. <<**Action Cllr Jarvis**>> Cllr Heath enquired what was holding it up; Cllr Jarvis said it is because the land is in the hands of the receiver. Councillor Heath asked about invoking an insurance claim against the developer's insurance. Councillor Jarvis agreed to investigate the proposal. <<**Action Cllr Jarvis**>>
- 11 To receive an update on progress regarding the Kerne Bridge Canoe launch site:** The Clerk read out the details of the proposed working group meeting on site, on Wednesday 23rd February at 3.30pm at BVH. The working group will attend along with Guy Smith from Wye Pursuits, Monica from BVS, Christine Puzey from BVH and Spencer Grogan and Rob Hemblade from H.C. It was **RESOLVED:** That the Clerk should act to co-ordinate the working group activities, take notes of meetings and report back to council. Cllr Jarvis asked the Clerk to report back to him with details. <<**Action Clerk**>>
- 12 To discuss the production of a Parish Newsletter in March.** The Clerk explained the purpose of the Newsletter – to circulate information to Parishioners on: The Parish Plan – including a survey / questionnaire form, Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch site proposals, the Walford Links Walk/bridle/Cycle Way project and the Village Warden scheme. Cllr Thomas will provide information on the Parish Plan, Cllr Heath on the Cycle Way, Cllr Myers on Kerne Bridge and Paul Baker / Cllr Jarvis on the Village Warden scheme. Other councillors were invited to make contributions to the newsletter – the closing date for submissions will be Friday 18th March. The Clerk hopes to get the Newsletter circulated towards the end of March. <<**Action: Cllrs Myers, Thomas, Heath, Jarvis, Paul Baker. And any other Cllrs who wish to contribute on local matters of Parish interest.**>>
- 13 To receive Councillors reports on local matters:** Cllr Cole said that the bus shelters should be cleaned regularly. The Clerk should ask the Lengthsman co-ordinator to organise this. <<**Action Clerk / Cllr Freeman**>> Cllr Allen said that the Dog Fouling signs still had not been moved, only one sign on Arbour Hill had been done, Amey have done the work but have not done it correctly. He offered to sponsor a proper metal sign. Cllr Jarvis said that Amey were happy to hear about any problems, Cllr Allen said that he was happy to attend when the work was being done, to make sure it was done correctly. <<**Action Clerk / Cllr Allen**>>
- 14 To note correspondence received: See Appendix C.** Correspondence received was noted by council.
- 15 To receive the Clerk's reports. See Appendix D.** The report was noted by council. Councillor Jarvis asked where the speed limit 'end' sign was outside the school, the Clerk was asked to make enquiries with Amey. <<**Action Clerk**>> Cllr Symonds suggested the use of speed indicator strips. Cllr Heath said that the Clerks and Chairs evening was a good one and it brought up some interesting things: The Localism bill: It has not been thought through properly – what are the legal niceties if there is a legal challenge to a decision made by P.Cs, who will pay? Participatory budgeting: Devolving responsibility to Parishes – H.C. said they would come and talk to P.Cs. Cllr Heath asked for confirmation that they would do this. Cllr Vine said the same comments were made at the HALC meeting, emphasising that P.Cs have no infrastructure to take on such powers.
- 16 To raise matters for the next Agenda: The Recreation Ground, The Royal Wedding.**
- 17 Open Session for views and queries from local residents:** Mr Perkins from Deepdean Cottage reported that the ditch outside his gate is 5' deep and the difference between the road surface and the edge is only 6". Someone is going to go into the ditch, will Cllr Jarvis go to the Highways department about this. Mr Perkins has been onto them and nothing has been done. Cllr Jarvis took Mr Perkins' post code and said that he would make an appointment within 48 hours to look at the problem with Mr Perkins

and would report back to Highways. <<**Action Cllr Jarvis**>> Sheila Walshaw said that anything she reported had been dealt with in 3 weeks. She suggested that Flanesford Priory issue high visibility jackets to people walking to the pub as a safety measure. Cllr Jarvis said that they are not obliged to, but that someone from Highways is going to the next Goodrich PC meeting to speak about safety there. Vanessa Perkins said that the meeting was very interesting but it would be much better if the Public could hear the Councillors – it is very difficult to hear what they are saying. Cllr Heath suggested that the Public ask Councillors to speak up and said there used to be an acoustic loop, Cllr Vine confirmed that there was one at both Village Halls. Sue Exton asked if the Parish was going to do anything for the Royal Wedding, Cllr Heath proposed asking for suggestions in the Newsletter, he asked if the school was doing anything. Cllr Cole said that he would find out. <<**Action Cllr Cole**>>

18 To note date of next meeting:

Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 28/02/11 at 8pm at Walford village Hall.

Finance committee meeting @ 7pm and Full Council meeting @ 7.30pm on 09/03/11 at Walford Village Hall. The dates were noted.

Signed:----- Date: -----

Catherine Murray - Clerk to the Parish Council

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS:

WPC = Walford Parish Council

HC = Herefordshire Council

PC = Parish Council

BVH = Bishopswood Village Hall

WVH = Walford Village Hall

BVS = Bishopswood Village Stores.