

# WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Parish Clerk:** Catherine Murray. Rose Cottage, Coughton, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5SF.

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Walford Village Hall At 7.30pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**Present:** Acting Chairman – Philip Heath, who chaired the meeting until item 1 had been resolved.

**Councillors:** Dave Berry, Shane Carlson, Simeon Cole, Sandra Cole, John Daniels, Eric Drummond, Heather Evans, Frank Myers, Terry Snow, Marc Thomas.

**In attendance:** Clerk Catherine Murray and several members of the public.

1. **Election of Chairman:** John Daniels and Frank Myers were proposed and after a vote was taken, Cllr Frank Myers was elected as Chairman by a majority of 8 votes to 3; he then presided over the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Luke Freeman – away.
3. **Declarations and Dispensations:** Cllrs Cole declared a pecuniary interest in 9.1. Cllr Myers in 9.2.2.
4. **Parish Council Vacancy Co-option:** There was one candidate present, who put her name forward to be considered for co-option – Karen Chinn. As she had previously made a presentation to the Council, this formality was dispensed with and after being proposed, Karen Chinn was unanimously co-opted to serve as a Parish Councillor until the next 4 yearly election is held in 2015.
5. **Minutes:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13/11/13.
6. **To receive brief verbal reports from and address any questions to:**
  - 6.1 **Police representative:** There were no Police Representatives present.
  - 6.2 **Ward Councillor John Jarvis:** Gave his report, a copy is available from the Clerk:
    - A meeting will be held to discuss the proposed closure of the Fire Station at Whitchurch, on 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm at the Old Court; Parish Councillors were urged to attend. The Clerk was asked to send the Fire Services consultation information to all Cllrs. <<**Action Clerk**>>
    - Issues have arisen over planning application consultation deadlines and Cllr Jarvis will arrange a meeting that the 3 Ward Councils may attend, to discuss communication between Kerne Bridge Ward and the planning authority. Cllr Jarvis will confirm the meeting date. <<**Action Cllr Jarvis**>>
    - A meeting is being arranged to discuss the management of the WCs at Bishopswood Village Hall, Cllr Jarvis will send all information to the clerk and he will attend the meeting. <<**Action Cllr Jarvis**>>
    - The proposal to make an opening in the hedgerow opposite the Inn on the Wye was discussed and it was confirmed that the land belongs to Herefordshire Council; Cllr Jarvis was unaware of this and therefore proposed that he will go back to the County Council, as Will Steele will have to make the decision about whether the proposal can go forward. <<**Action Cllr Jarvis**>>
    - Cllr Jarvis will provide the Parish Council with a list of Herefordshire Council officials and their positions, once all have been confirmed. <<**Action Cllr Jarvis**>>

(Cllrs Simeon and Sandra Cole left the meeting at 8pm.)
7. **Public Participation Session:**
  - A parishioner raised the subject of the bus service being reduced up Bulls Hill, Thursday and Saturday buses will be lost; she urged those present to respond to the petition to save the service and to e mail Graham Powell at Herefordshire Council. The Clerk was asked to investigate the options and it will be on the next agenda. <<**Action Clerk**>>
  - Another explained that she had spoken to National Grid about repairing the damage that their vehicles may have done to the parish roads during the cable replacement works; she had been advised that National Grid would require a letter from the Parish Council, asking them to make the repairs. Cllr Jarvis said that he understood that National Grid had an obligation to make good any damage to the highway. Cllr Carlson suggested a consultative / collaborative approach and it was agreed that it would be on the next agenda.
  - Another asked about when the land slippage at Kerne Bridge would be repaired and Cllr Daniels responded that it is hoped, in January and that the road would be closed from 9am – 4pm each day whilst the repairs are carried out.
8. **Finance:** *The bank reconciliation, Finance Appendix A, A(2) and bank statements for November were noted.*
  - 8.1 The Finance Chairman gave an update and recommendations from the Finance Committee.
  - 8.2 Precept and Budget:
    - 8.2.1 The Finance Chairman gave a breakdown of the reasons for proposing a precept of £16,500

8.2.2 After considering Finance Committee recommendations, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the budget and set the precept at £16,500 for 2014-15.

## 9. Planning

9.1 **Planning Applications:** Planning Appendix B was noted and comments put forward on:

- **Site:** Land adjacent to Westways, Coughton, HR9 5RR. **Application No:** P133201/F  
**Comments:** *'The Parish Council are sympathetic to a development in this location, but did not support this application due to the scale of the proposed building and a lack of sympathy between its design and the surroundings.'*

9.2 **Neighbourhood Planning:**

- 9.2.1 Cllr Berry gave an update: He explained about copies of the questionnaire being sent out to every household and urged people to respond.
- 9.2.2 For the record, Cllr Berry stated that Cllr Myers had not been involved or consulted over the appointment of Hoople Ltd. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve Hoople Ltd, to evaluate the Neighbourhood Planning Questionnaire responses.

## 10. Highways / Rights of Way / AONB: (Appendix D was noted.)

- 10.1 **Lengthsman Co-ordinator report:** The Lengthsman fund has a good balance in it and he will go round the parish, to establish where jobs need to be done; he will clear the bus shelters every two weeks, whilst falling leaves are a problem. He asked about the Lengthsman contract and Cllr Berry advised that the proposed contract is being looked at by NALC, who have the appropriate legal people to consider it; he confirmed that he has been asked to attend meetings to discuss the contract with Balfour Beatty.
- 10.2 **Rights of Way Officer report:** There have been complaints about WA90 and WA6; WA90 is now passable and WA6 is going to be inspected soon; it has been confirmed that the bridleway at Deep Dean should not be blocked during the road closure. The continued closure of WA 50 should go on the next agenda and the Clerk was asked to investigate what rights the PC have and what sanctions there might be against Herefordshire Council for failing to carry out the work to re-open WA50. <<**Action Clerk**>>
- 10.3 **Road Defects:** Cllrs Carlson and Daniels will co-ordinate over Parish road defects and the Clerk was asked to forward dates for a proposed parish walk to them. <<**Action Clerk**>>
- 10.4 Creation of an entrance in the hedgerow opposite the Inn on the Wye - already discussed (item 6.2)
- 10.5 Cllr Daniels offered to look at the Parish noticeboards, to establish what action is required. <<**Action Cllr Daniels**>>

## 11. Parish Projects:

- 11.1 **Walford Links:** Cllr Heath gave an update, explaining that a meeting had been held and that further negotiations will take place with the landowners and funders. Cllr Carlson said that it had been a productive meeting and Cllr Myers confirmed that a way to progress the project had been identified. Cllr Drummond confirmed that he was happy to discuss a way forward.

## 12. Information and correspondence:

- 12.1 Local feedback / ideas on Parish participation in the AONB Wye River Festival will be on the next agenda. <<**Action Cllr Daniels**>>
- 12.2 Appendix C, Clerks Report Appendix D and HALC Information corner were noted.
- 12.3 **Herefordshire Council Budget Consultation Response:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Finance Chairman would respond. <<**Action Cllr Thomas**>>
- 12.4 Public WCs at Bishopswood Village Hall had already been discussed. (Item 6.2)
- 12.5 Correspondence had been received from a parishioner and from Cllr Daniels, who were concerned about the congestion and activity at the Garden Centre at Howle Hill. The Chairman was asked to make an informal approach to the owners, to see if the problem could be resolved. <<**Action Cllr Myers**>>

## 13. Brief public response session:

A member of the public asked whether the appointment of Hoople Ltd to process data from the Questionnaire had already been decided, prior to the meeting; it was explained that the Parish Council had been asked to approve the appointment and if they had not done so, then an alternative would have been considered. She also asked if it would be useful for her to invite the Chairman of the Ramblers Association to the next PC meeting, to discuss WA50.

Another said that 2 residents of Bulls Hill had written to Cllr Powell regarding the bus service.

## 14. Items for next meeting agenda: Those above, Additional Lengthsman duties (pot holes) & unofficial signage.

## 15. Next meeting: 08/01/14 – Full Council @ 7.30pm, Bishopswood Village Hall.