

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 at Walford Village Hall on Wednesday 13th March 2013

Present: Frank Myers

Councillors: Dave Berry, Cheryl Carpenter, Simeon Cole, John Daniels, Heather Evans, Eric Drummond, Simon Kinder, Terry Snow, Marc Thomas.

In attendance: Clerk Catherine Murray, Ward Councillor John Jarvis and 5 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Sandra Cole – Illness, Luke Freeman – work commitments, Philip Heath – work commitments.
2. **Declarations of Interest / Dispensations:** Simeon Cole declared a pecuniary interest in Rights of Way Footpath WA50 Thorny Orchard, Eric Drummond declared a pecuniary Interest in Planning – Church Cottage.
3. **Brief verbal reports from:**
 - a) **Police:** No Police representative was available due to operational commitments.
 - b) **Ward Councillor Jarvis:** Gave his report, summary below:
Of particular note: Hereford Council will raise council tax by 1.9%, to meet their budget obligations. Work on the Hereford City centre development is on schedule, it is anticipated that part of the development will be open by Easter 2014. Cllr Jarvis urged parishioners to comment on the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2031, which can be found online at: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf
4. **Minutes:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13/02/13.
5. **Public Participation Session:** Parishioners reported the following:
 - There are dangerous pot holes at the bottom of Bulls Hill and near to the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch site, pressure should be put on the County Council to get serious defects repaired immediately. Ward Councillor Jarvis explained the process for dealing with road repairs and said that funds will be available to bring the roads up to a good standard when the contract to manage highways is awarded to the successful bidder at the end of September 2013. It was suggested that there should be quality monitoring of road repairs with a view to putting in place a future system of reinstatement and prevention.
 - A member of the public asked whether the rate of local parish council tax would increase, the Chairman said that the precept will not be increased this year.
6. **Finance:**
 - a) **Bank Reconciliation and Finance Appendix A:** Were noted and approved.
 - b) The Finance Chairman gave his report and recommendations from the Finance Committee:
 - Registration for electronic banking will proceed, in line with legislation, with a payment management control of 2 signatories to authorise payments, to be set up by the clerk.
 - £1,000 will be reserved for use by the Resilience Co-ordinator or deputy, in the case of an emergency.
 - The amount paid towards office running costs will be increased.
 - The Parish Council will make a £250 donation towards the Wye Valley River Festival 2014.
 - Help will be given to Age Concern and Citizens Advice Bureaux, by publicising their work and appealing for donations, in the next parish newsletter, rather than giving direct financial support.
7. **Planning:**
 - a) Planning Appendix D was noted – The following applications were considered:
 - **Site:** Holcombe Lodge, Bulls Hill, HR9 5SD **Application Number:** 123491/FH – *No objections*
 - **Site:** 1 Sharman Cottages, Howle Hill, HR9 5SH **Application Number:** 130342/FH – *No objections*
<<Cllr Drummond left the room whilst Church Cottage was discussed>>
 - **Site:** Church Cottage, Hom Green, HR9 7TF. **Application Number:** 130256/FH – *No objections*
 - **Site:** Bruins Nest, Walford, HR9 5RF. **Application Numbers:** 130133/F & 130134/F – *No objections*
 - b) **Neighbourhood Planning:** The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee updated the council and urged people to engage with the Core Strategy Consultation. The clerk will write to Hereford Council requesting clarification on the status of the application for Thorny Orchard and when it will be considered by committee. <<**Action clerk**>>

c & d) Parish Council and Hereford Council approach to dealing with planning applications:

Parish Council: The Chairman confirmed that he and Ward Councillor Jarvis had been invited to and had given guidance to parish residents regarding Porters Lodge, prior to the application being submitted, but had no involvement after submission of the application to Herefordshire Council.

Hereford Council: Regarding the delay in reaching a decision regarding the application for Thorny Orchard, the clerk was asked to write to the planning department requesting clarification on the status of the Thorny Orchard application and when it will be considered by committee. <<**Action clerk**>>

8. Highways / Rights of Way / AONB: Reports on the clerk's Appendix D were noted

Item 8e) was brought up the agenda: <<Cllr Simeon Cole left the room whilst WA50 was discussed>>

Footpath WA50: The clerk was asked to write to the planning authorities, requesting that the original contours of the bank be restored, when footpath WA50 is re-instated. <<**Action clerk**>>

a) 1) Lengthsman Co-ordinator's Report: The Co-ordinator was not present. 6 new grit bins have been supplied by Cllr Simeon Cole, to be put in place by the Lengthsman.

2) Programme of work to be carried out by the Lengthsman: It was confirmed that a meeting to draw up a programme of work for the Lengthsman will be held before the next meeting. <<**Action Cllrs Freeman, Simeon Cole and Daniels**>>

b) Bishopswood Speed Limit Signage: Signage proposals were considered and a design was approved, Highways will be notified, with a request to avoid applying red paint to the road, where hazard markings are required, unless accident data provides a compelling reason. <<**Action clerk**>>

c) Safer Parish Footways: The clerk was asked to make further enquiries with Highways about providing a safer footway between Bishopswood Village Stores and Kerne Bridge. <<**Action clerk**>>

d) 1) Rights of Way Officers Report: Jobs have been identified to use the remaining funds.

2) P3 Annual Return Form: Was counter-signed and will be submitted by the Rights of Way Officer. <<**Action Rights of Way Officer**>>

3) Bollin Farm hay crop: Acknowledging that accidental damage had been done to the Hay Crop by the Rights of Way contractor, who had taken responsibility and credited the Parish Council for the damage, it was **RESOLVED** to pay a sum of £50 to the landowner, on behalf of the contractor.

f) Community Resilience Working Group: It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Dave Berry, Simon Kinder, Simeon Cole and Luke Freeman.

g) AONB Wye Valley River Festival in 2014: It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Finance Committee recommendation to support the River Festival with a sum of £250.

9. Parish Projects:

- **Village Agent Scheme and Land at Forest Green:** Reports will be in the next newsletter.
- **Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch site:** A report will be in the next newsletter. The Heads of Terms from Hereford Council were discussed and the Chairman proposed that the Business Plan could not progress until Hereford had confirmed that their answers to the questions originally submitted by the Parish Council, remained valid. The Chairman offered to pursue the matter and to enquire what steps would be taken to limit congestion in the meantime. <<**Action Chairman**>>

10. Information and Correspondence

a) Correspondence: Correspondence Appendix C & HALC Information corner were noted.

b) Annual Parish Meeting Speakers: It was agreed to invite speakers on Quality Council Status and Neighbourhood Planning. <<**Action clerk**>>

11. Public Response Session: A parishioner reported that a letter had been sent to Hereford Council Planning Authority, by the applicant for the development at Thorny Orchard, proposing 4 houses on the site instead of an MOT station. Another suggested that the Parish Council reconsider their decision not to give a financial donation to Age Concern, in light of their support for the Wye River Festival. The Chairman drew attention to the decision to help Age Concern, by including publicity in the Parish Newsletter. Another commended the electronic viewing of planning applications, noting that it was easier for the public to see applications that the Parish Council were considering

12. Items for next meeting agenda: Local Policing plans. Village Warden Scheme and Land at Forest Green.

13. Date of the next meeting: 03/04/13 Neighbourhood Planning Committee 6.30pm at Walford Village Hall.
10/04/13 Annual Parish Meeting 6.30pm, Full Council 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall.