

NOTES FROM WALFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (Meeting of the Electorate)

Meeting held at 7.30pm on 13th April 2011 at Bishopswood Village Hall

In attendance:

Frank Myers (Chairman), John Jarvis (KB Ward Cllr), Derek Allen, Simeon Cole, Michael Downey, Heather Evans, Phillip Heath, Geoffrey Symonds.

Present: Bridget Vine (Temp clerk), 8 members of the public plus speaker.

1. **Nomination of Temporary Clerk:** Introduced by the Chairman – Not required to formally Propose and Second; Agreed by the meeting that Bridget Vine will take notes.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Received from the Clerk, Sandra Cole, Luke Freeman, Eric Drummond.
3. **Parish Council Chairman's Report 2010/11:** The Chairman read from his script which was available at the meeting, copies are also available from the Clerk.
4. **Open Discussion:** Chairman invited questions / any points to be raised which were as follows :

Q: Why did it cost so much for the interim election of a Parish Cllr?

A: (Chairman) – An example of costs was illustrated by Polling cards which cost 40p each and are of course necessary for a By-election. WPC has declined them for this forthcoming parish election as they're sent for the Ward. Then of course there are admin costs, especially when there is a request from the community for an election.

Q: Can the WPC Chairman's report be put on the Village Hall Notice boards please?

A: It was agreed by the Chairman <<ACTION CLERK>>

Q: A Cllr reported that only 4 WP Cllrs and 3 members of the public turned up for the Litter Pick last Sunday which was a disappointing turn out. What happened as notices etc were put up?

The Cllr also stated, that reference to the Chairman's report, he had attended most meetings and only missed 2.

Q: The by-election was caused by a WP Cllr who resigned and who's now standing again – is this allowed?

A: (Chairman) This is democracy and the electorate decide what happens. Bodies such as the Standards Board are being disbanded so it really will be the electorate who decide.

Q: When will the potholes on the Walford Rd by Norland Place be made good as one Cllr nearly had an accident and it's very dangerous on the corner.

It was agreed that the Clerk should report to Amey ASAP <<ACTION CLERK>>

Q: Will HC accept claims for damages caused by potholes?

A: (Ward Cllr) Yes and that is a way to bring it to their notice!

The Chairman explained that in his view any Utility has a duty to reinstate the road surface to a suitable state.

The Ward Cllr explained that there is no S106 money outstanding for Walford parish. (He later added to Bridget Vine after the meeting that it was because there's been no development and added that the HC contact is Yvonne Coleman.)

Q: Could a Public meeting be held in respect of the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch site?

A: (Chairman) A fact finding / discussion process has already started and WPC minutes reported the progress so far. The matter will be brought back on the WPC agenda after the election <<ACTION CLERK>>.

Q: A member of the public said that he has written to the Clerk ref the usefulness of the car park to local residents during the bad weather which prevented them from getting their cars up Leys Hill. Would local people be able to park free / have permits?

A: (Chairman) WPC would intend to manage the site for tourism and listen to local wishes and the concept of Residents' Permits had already been introduced into discussions.

WP Cllr Heather Evans arrived at 7.55pm.

Q: A red marked slipway area has 'appeared' on the B4234 round the corner to Kerne Bridge. Why? and how much has this cost as it wasn't what WPC had commented was needed.

A: (Chairman) He recalled that WPC did not want the slipway area removed and this looks like a traffic calming measure. He asked who decides what's to be done as there's been no agreement / discussion with WPC.

The Ward Cllr said that following a site meeting, Highways had gone away and he thought the outcome would be to leave it and 'don't do anything' was the request. Lee Jones and Andy Middlecote are the Amey contacts.

Q: What is to happen about overhanging hedge vegetation being cut back as it has not been done?

It was suggested that people don't take any notice of the red paint on the road.

The Chairman said that Localism will give us control over such measures. WPC need to query it and understand what's happened and it was agreed that we would enquire into the chain of events which led to the decision to install it. <<ACTION CLERK>>

A: (Chairman) Suggested leave it for now but put it on the agenda for the next WPC meeting <<ACTION CLERK>>.

It was suggested that leaving these things to the next meeting, would not be soon enough.

Q: When is the Footpath from the church to the Walford VH to be cleared and maintained?

A: This item should be on the next WPC agenda. <<ACTION CLERK>>

5. Presentation on the Village Warden Scheme by Paul Baker, Chairman of Walford Parish Residents' Association. Kate Darch from Gloucester County Council could not attend the meeting tonight.

The Red Cross currently operate a scheme throughout Herefordshire but mainly in the North.

There's also a scheme in Gloucestershire operated by Gloucestershire County Council, where it's currently very successful. After the election there will probably be 7 areas in Herefordshire operated from Ross, mainly for Adult Social Care. It is hoped a pilot scheme will be set up in the Kerne Bridge ward.

The DVD presentation described the Gloucestershire scenario – around 15 minutes duration:

There are a lot of hard to reach people in the rural areas who are isolated and previously had a local / social network which no longer exists of school / shop / PO / vicar who all networked. In Gloucestershire in 2004 a survey was carried out and resulted in the Village Agent scheme evolving.

People will only consent to be helped by someone they know and trust such as the Village Agent.

The agents can network locally and link in as necessary to help as required. Typically they work for 10 hours per week at a rate of £10 ph.

Information is available at the website [www.Village Agents Online](http://www.VillageAgentsOnline).

Mentioned a range of areas of help e.g. public transport issues, fire protection visits, assisting independent living, people remaining at home, benefits advice.

There followed some questions and comments as follows:

Q: Is there duplication with the currently available services such as Step Across, provided by Age Concern?

A: (PB) - The Agent scheme is a more effective linking system across many service boundaries.

The Ward Cllr said that the aim is to have an Agent in Kerne Bridge ward. One of the main fears for the elderly and vulnerable is of going to hospital and not coming home so this may be a way of assisting people to stay at home and be helped there. In Herefordshire there is service integration between the HC and PCT authorities.

PB - the scheme needs to be seen to be sustainable

It was stated that farm workers in our parish have on-site medical and other facilities.

The Ward Cllr said that there is a levy on these workers to enable funding for any care requirements

PB - The scheme will be embedded in the community.

Q: Who will the Village Agent report to and how will they be funded?

A: (PB) - In Gloucester it's the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council and funding is from Gloucestershire County Council and the PCT. (NHS Gloucestershire)

Q: Schemes have had variable success in Herefordshire, is Herefordshire talking to Gloucestershire?

A: (Ward Cllr) This is an opportunity for the community. The Red Cross are currently advertising for someone for the Ross area.

The Chairman suggested that after the election WPC should go forward with this.

At 8.50pm the Chairman closed the meeting by thanking the 4 WP Cllrs (Downey, Symonds, Vine and Whitlock) who weren't standing again for all their hard work and effort and wishing Good Luck to those standing for election.

((After the meeting, the Chairman asked those WP Cllrs present to look at 3 planning applications: From the National Grid opposite Warryfield Barn, a Footpath diversion of WA55B at Yew Tree Cottage Howle Hill and tree maintenance works at a property in Priory Lea Walford.

Parish Cllrs had no comments against any of these matters. To be dealt with by S101 delegated powers, where applicable, by the Clerk – as is usual practice between PC meetings.))

Signed: Frank Myers (Chairman)

Date: 18/05/11

Notes taken by Bridget Vine - 14th April 2011 (Transcribed by the Clerk)

Key to Abbreviations: Q: Question / A: Answer / WP Walford Parish / PB Paul Baker / PCT Primary Care Trust.