

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
Held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 13th June at Walford Village Hall

Present: Frank Myers – Chairman.

Dave Berry, Cheryl Carpenter, Simeon Cole, John Daniels, Heather Evans, Luke Freeman, Simon Kinder, Terry Snow.

In attendance: Clerk – Catherine Murray and approximately 42 members of the public.

1. **To accept apologies for absence:** Sandra Cole, Eric Drummond, Philip Heath and Marc Thomas
New Councillor, Simon Kinder was welcomed to the Parish Council and congratulated on achieving an overall majority in a ballot of three candidates.
2. **To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial interest:** Luke Freeman – prejudicial interest on the Recreational Field, Simeon Cole - prejudicial interest on planning application N0: S120480/F. **Site:** Thorny Orchard.
3. **To accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th May 2012:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.
4. **Appointments:** Councillor Simeon Cole was confirmed as the Resilience (Emergency) Co-ordinator and Councillor Snow as Walford Village Hall representative. Councillors Carpenter and Kinder were nominated for the HALC Executive Committee. A paper ballot was taken and Councillor Kinder won the nomination by 6 votes to 3. It was **RESOLVED** to fill out the nomination form after the meeting.
5. **Open Session – Brief verbal reports:**
 - 5.1 **West Mercia Police:** The Police representative was not present due to operational commitments. A Police report is available from the Clerk.
 - 5.2 **Ward Councillor John Jarvis:** Ward Cllr Jarvis gave his report; a copy is available from the Clerk.
6. **Planning** See Planning Appendix B
 - 6.2 **Item 6.2 was brought forward:** *(Councillor Simeon Cole left the meeting)* **Application No:** S120480/F. **Site:** Thorny Orchard, Part O S Plot, 8691, Coughton, Herefordshire. After a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to call an extraordinary Parish Council and Public Participation Planning Meeting to consider this application. *(Councillor Simeon Cole returned to the meeting)*
 - 6.1 **Planning Applications** To comment on the following applications:
 - 6.1.1 **Application N0:** S110840/L. **Site:** 6 Walford Court Barns, HR9 5QP. There were no objections.
 - 6.1.2 **Application N0:** S121297/F. **Site:** Land adjacent 6 Coughton Place, HR9 5RX. There were no objections.
 - 6.3 **Planning consents** Are available to view at: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing/planning/planapps.asp
 - 6.4 **Planning refusals / Enforcement notices / Withdrawn applications** None received
 - 6.5 **Neighbourhood Planning** It was **RESOLVED** to set up a Neighbourhood Planning Committee. The following Councillors were appointed to the Committee: Simon Kinder, Simeon Cole & Terry Snow. The Chairman, Frank Myers is an ex-officio member of the committee, as is his right as Chairman of the Parish Council.
7. **Finance** See Finance Statement Appendix A
 - 7.1 The Finance Chairman was not present, the Chairman gave an update. The finances are in order and the Finance Committee recommended that the end of year accounting statements be signed, for return to the external auditor.
 - 7.2 It was reported that the accounting statements for year ending 31/03/12, had been approved by the Finance Committee and after confirming that all questions had been answered correctly, it was **RESOLVED** to accept and to sign the statements.
8. **Highways and Rights of Way**
 - 8.1 The Chairman appealed to the public to report any Highways defects to the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to obtain the results of the latest Amey Highways Survey and Condition Report for the roads in Walford Parish. <<**Action Clerk**>> There was a report of congestion at the entrance to the Kerne Bridge canoe launch car park, resulting in a backlog of vehicles out on the main road, the Clerk was asked to write to Amey about the incident, highlighting the danger posed by such congestion. Councillor Daniels to send details of the incident to the Clerk. <<**Action Clerk**>>
 - 8.2 **Bishopswood speed limit consultation:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should respond to the 40mph Bishopswood speed limit reduction consultation and enquire whether the extent of the limit could be increased to encompass more of the route. <<**Action Clerk**>>
 - 8.3 **Roadside advertising signs:** After a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that The Community Officer should do a survey of the locations of advertising signs in the Parish, the information will be used to ascertain whether the signs are authorised. <<**Action Community Officer**>> The Clerk is to check with the authorities if the signs can be taken down by the Parish Council, if they are found not to be authorised. <<**Action Clerk**>>

8.4 Lengthsman: The Lengthsman is working his way through a list of jobs; a report has been received about the overgrown footpath by Bishopswood Village Hall – which the Lengthsman will clear, and a blocked gulley near Mrs Exton's.

8.5 Rights of Way: Work has been completed on WA40 and various reports have been received regarding overgrown footpaths, which are being attended to by the Can Do Crew.

8.6 Salt storage for the Winter Maintenance Self Help Scheme: The location for the storage of salt at the site behind Orchard House was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should find out the criteria for safe storage and check that these conditions are being met. <<**Action Clerk**>>

9. Parish Projects

9.1 Recreational Field: *(Councillor Luke Freeman left the room)* After considering the responses to the Questionnaire and in light of the overriding public opinion against the scheme, it was **RESOLVED** to abandon the proposals for the Recreational Field, a nearly unanimous resolution, there being one abstention. It was also **RESOLVED** to put the future of the committee on the next Agenda for discussion. <<**Action Clerk**>> *(Councillor Freeman returned to the meeting)*

9.2 Parish Plan project brief: Councillor Freeman explained the cost of a consultant finishing off the Parish Plan. It was **RESOLVED** that the Neighbourhood Planning Committee should take over the Parish Plan brief and that the two should be combined to be brought to completion. <<**Action Neighbourhood Planning Committee**>>

To receive brief verbal reports on the following

9.3 Village Agent Scheme: Councillor Carpenter confirmed that following progress made with Hereford Council, a scheme can now be started in Walford, as stated by Ward Councillor Jarvis, in his report. **Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Management:** A meeting is due to take place soon with Hereford Council representatives, the PC will be kept informed. **Forest Green:** Hereford Council have responded to the application to register the land and the information has been passed on to Ward Councillor Jarvis. A councillor highlighted local concerns that the wildlife and natural state of the land might be affected by future activity; however the Chairman responded that the intention is only to register the land and that any further plans would be fully considered by the Parish Council, in consultation with the public. **Walford Links:** Letters have been sent out to the stakeholders and replies are being received. A meeting has taken place with one of the landowners, who originally expressed an objection and a mutually acceptable compromise may be possible.

10. Communication with the public

10.1 Meet Your Councillors: It was acknowledged that these sessions had not been a great success; in a show of hands, few were in favour of continuing, others abstained. It was concluded that perhaps it is not such a good idea.

11. Information and Correspondence

11.1 Councillor's reports on local matters: One Councillor queried the method by which the value of land assets was recorded; the Chairman explained that this had been discussed in the Finance Committee.

11.2 Correspondence: Was noted, particularly a letter from ex-councillor Vine, regarding the importance of voluntary help and assistance offered to the council from non-council members; the Chairman expressed sympathy with these sentiments.

11.3 Clerk's Report: Was noted.

11 Public participation session: A member of the public suggested that the Parish Resilience Co-ordinator should speak to the person who owns the land on which he is storing the winter salt. Another asked how the meeting to discuss the Thorny Orchard planning application would be publicised. The Clerk explained that notices would go on all the Parish Notice Boards, it would be posted on the website and might also be promoted in the Ross Gazette. Parishioners were asked to register their interest in being informed by e mail with the Clerk, so that they might disseminate the information to others, by the same method. Another asked how much the Parish by-election had cost and was told that the estimated cost was approximately £1,400 including the issue of polling cards. Another expressed thanks to those who organised the Beacon on Howle Hill.

12 Matters for the next Agenda (No discussion) Lengthsman Co-ordinator, Rights of Way Officer, Village Agent Scheme, Kerne Bridge red road junction, future of the Recreational Field Committee.

13 To note date of next meetings: 7.30pm Full Council, at Bishopswood Village Hall on 11/07/12