

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

E Mail: clerk@walford-pc.org.uk **Website:** www.walford-pc.org.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting at Bishopswood Village Hall on Wednesday 13th February 2013

Present: Vice Chairman Philip Heath (Acting Chairman)

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

In attendance: Clerk Catherine Murray, Ward Councillor John Jarvis and 11 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Frank Myers and Eric Drummond – Leave, Marc Thomas – Work, Heather Evans – Illness, Sandra Cole childcare.
2. **Declarations of Interest / dispensations:** Simeon Cole declared a pecuniary interest in Rights of Way Footpath WA50 Thorny Orchard.
3. **Brief verbal reports from:**
 - a) **Police:** No Police representative was available due to operational commitments.
 - b) **Ward Councillor Jarvis:** Was unable to attend, a report was read out, summary below:
 - Amey have confirmed the following road numbers in the Bull's Hill area of Walford, suffering from significant defects - UC70408, UC70409, UC70416, and UC70417. These routes cross the area east of Walford & north of Kerne Bridge, towards Hope Mansell & will attract a higher priority for works to be carried out due to a combination of level of defects, population, usage & potential for through traffic.
 - March / April, discussions will be held with Parish Councils regarding the Lengthmans Scheme and the Council Contractor to make a concerted effort to clear ditches and drains.
 - Due to continued flooding £2.3M has been received under the Belvin Scheme, which must be spent in County before end of February, with a further £1.6M after the 1st March. The Council will be publishing a list of U and C roads which have been inspected and to be repaired by end of August.
 - Stage 3 - 'Invest To Save' program entails a new contract to replace existing Amey contract, £20M to spend bringing roads up to a good standard.
 - A list of questions was drawn up, to be submitted to Cllr Jarvis by the clerk. <<Action clerk>>
4. **Minutes:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on 09/01/13.
5. **Public Participation Session:** Parishioners reported the following: A infestation of Japanese Knotweed behind Gordon Villas, poor quality Highways repairs and a spring which has been eroding the road opposite Orchard House on Leys Hill, the depletion of Salt and Grit supplies at Bishopswood Village Hall car park, debris falling onto the road from a dead ash tree between Bishopswood Village Hall and Kerne Bridge and concern about the national speed limit up Leys Hill, suggesting that it should be restricted. A parishioner reported that the repair requested to the roadside verge at Bulls Hill has still not been carried out and a new salt/grit bin with a lid was requested for Leys Hill. <<Action Clerk>>
6. **Finance:**
 - a) **Bank reconciliation and Finance Appendix A:** Were noted and approved.
 - b) **Payments:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve all payments listed on the agenda / Finance Appendix A.
7. **Planning:**
 - a) **Planning Appendix D** was noted – There were no new applications to consider.

It was agreed to include the Parish Council policy for dealing with planning applications on the next agenda. It was also decided to seek clarification as to why the Planning Committee did not concur with the Parish Council support for the conversion of a garage to a holiday let and to understand the logic of their decisions in these instances, as there was concern that not all relevant information and communications regarding planning matters were being duly exposed to the Parish council by the County Council. <<Action Clerk>>

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

- a) **Snow and Ice Clearance:** Thanks were expressed to those who co-ordinated and participated in the distribution of grit / salt throughout the parish, during the bad weather in January.
- b) **Lengthsmans programme of work:** The Lengthsman Co-ordinator gave his report and confirmed that a meeting is planned between relevant parties, in order to draw up a programme of work for the Lengthsman, to be included on the next agenda. <<**Action Lengthsman Co-ordinator and relevant parties**>>
- c) **Minor Road Maintenance:** There was a consensus that the roads are not being repaired to a high enough standard, Cllr Kinder offered to liaise with Senior Officer Powell at Highways to determine what measures will be written into the new contract for road maintenance. <<**Action Cllr Kinder**>>
- d) **Rights of Way:** The Rights of Way Officer was unable to attend, so there was no report and it was agreed to complete and sign the P3 Annual Return at the next meeting (deadline 22nd March). <<**Action Rights Of Way Officer**>>
- e) **WA50 Footpath:** A letter was read out from Will Steel at Public Rights of Way, confirming that action is being taken by Hereford Council to get footpath WA50 reinstated, within a timeframe of 6 months. The clerk is to register concern regarding the design / location of the proposed retaining wall with Public Rights of Way. It was further resolved to draft a reply to stipulate that any repair to the footpath should be in accordance with its original position and not allow any works to compound the erroneous extension of the site.<<**Action Clerk, Cllrs Kinder & Heath**>>
- f) **Parish Resilience Plan:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the Plan at Issue 1 and to use the title of 'Emergency Co-ordinator'. The Plan will be published and sent to the Herefordshire Resilience Team. <<**Action Cllr Berry**>> and the council was told that in future the parish grit/salt bins will be numbered in relation to a map, showing their locations, which will be published. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Kinder as Deputy Resilience Co-ordinator.
- g) It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr Kinder would complete the Amey Parish Councils satisfaction survey form. <<**Action Cllr Kinder**>>

9. Information and Correspondence

- a) **Correspondence:** Correspondence Appendix C & HALC Information corner were noted.
- b) **Community Officers Report:** Cllr Daniels reported on matters of concern to some Bishopswood residents and it was agreed to put the following items on the next agenda: Congestion at Kerne Bridge canoe launch site. Speed limit through Bishopswood. Making footways safer for walkers. Flooding, which occurred on the B4234 through Bishopswood and drainage on Bishopswood Hill will be considered at the meeting to discuss the Lengthsman programme.<<**Action Lengthsman Co-ordinator and relevant parties**>>
- c) **AONB Donation Request:** The request for a donation towards the Wye Valley River Festival 2014 was postponed to the next meeting for consideration, as the AONB Representative was not able to attend and further information was required. <<**Action WPC AONB Representative**>>

10. Public response session: A parishioner reported that a yew tree had fallen down on the Wye Valley Walk at Bulls Hill. <<**Action Rights of Way Officer**>>**11. Items for next meeting agenda:** Those items already raised. Land at Forest Green. Age Concern cold weather packs.**12. Date of the next meeting:** 13/03/13 Finance Committee 6.30pm, Full Council 7.30pm at Walford Village Hall.
