

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the Full Council meeting held in Walford Village Hall At 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th October 2015

Present: Frank Myers - Chairman

Councillors: Murray Alston, Dave Berry, Shane Carlson, Karen Chinn, Simeon Cole, Eric Drummond, Heather Evans, Nesta Hirst, Sophie Hurley, Martyn Jenkins, Angus McIntosh.

In attendance: Clerk Catherine Murray. Ward Councillor Paul Newman.

1. **Apologies:** Luke Freeman
2. **Declarations:** Cllr Angus McIntosh was given a dispensation to share information on Daycroft Lane.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd September 2015 were approved.
4. **To receive brief verbal reports from and address any questions to:**
 - 4.1 **Police representative:** Not present.
 - 4.2 **Ward Councillor:** A copy is available from the Clerk. Of note: The Core Strategy is to be adopted this week. Herefordshire Council was not enthusiastic when asked by Cllr Newman to publish a position statement on Fracking. Budget consultation: The closure of libraries came top of the list of unpopular measures to save money. Lengthsman and P3 grants are likely to be withdrawn in 2017/18; it is unlikely that they will be withdrawn in 2016/17, but not definite.
 - 4.3 **Localities Steward:** Not present.
5. **Age Concern:** Sam Smith gave a short presentation on the befriending service they have set up locally. Information is available from the Clerk.
6. **Public Participation Session:** A resident, involved in the restoration of Bishopswood Memorial, said that the exposed fencing surrounding the memorial is dilapidated; he supplied some prices for replacement. Another said that he had a visit from Christian Aid, covering similar areas to the Village Warden - he will pass the information on. Another asked about motorists speeding through the village 30mph zone – the Chairman explained that the Police had said that they would monitor the traffic; the clerk will ask the Police for an update. <<**Action Clerk**>>
7. **Finance:** *Appendix A, bank reconciliation & bank statements September were approved and signed.*
 - 7.1 **Payments:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:
Grant Thornton for external audit. HALC for Parish Councillors briefing session. Lengthsman. Enviroability - Rights of Way. Viking Office Depot – office supplies. HMRC – for 2nd Quarter.
 - 7.2 The following payments, made since the previous meeting, were noted:
a) Clerk Salary and expenses for September
 - 7.3 **Additional member and signatory for the Finance Committee:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Shane Carlson.
 - 7.4 **Precept:** Outline proposals for the precept were discussed, including the impact of the withdrawal of Lengthsman & Rights of Way Grants; the autumn newsletter will be used to invite views on raising the precept to maintain these important local services.
8. **Planning:** Applicants and the public were invited to comment before applications were considered.
 - 8.1 **Planning Applications:** Planning Appendix B was noted and it was **RESOLVED** to put forward the following comments on:
 - a) **Site:** Lower Wythall, Walford, HR9 5SD. **Application No:** 152590
Comments: *There were no objections.*
 - b) **Site:** Lower Wythall, Walford, HR9 5SD. **Application No:** 152591
Comments: *There were no objections.*
 - c) **Site:** Hazelhurst Nursing Home, Bishopswood, HR9 5QX. **Application No:** 150509
Comments: *The Parish Council has made an assumption of need and would expect Herefordshire Council to confirm this if granting planning permission.
Use of sympathetic materials in construction.
Completion of a proper traffic survey.
Care given to the level of light pollution at night, in consideration of those living in close proximity.*

8.2 **Neighbourhood Planning:** The steering group has met and members will be attending an information session, to improve their knowledge base. An appeal was made to members of the public who are interested and might have relevant experience, to contact the clerk with a view to joining the steering group; particularly those from Bishopswood, which is under-represented.

8.3 **Fracking:** The Parish Council will make efforts to become better informed, in preparation for further developments in this area. Ward Cllr Newman will lobby for a professional approach from Herefordshire Council. <<**Action Parish Councillors and Ward Cllr Newman**>>

9. **Highways / Rights of Way / AONB - (Appendix D contains Councillors Highways & Rights of Way Reports)**

9.1 **Lengthsman and Rights of Way Reports:** Routine work has been carried out and everything is under control.

9.2 **Work Orders Lengthsman and Rights of Way:** The footway between the School and the Church will be done next.

9.3 **Lengthsman contracts / pot-hole scheme paperwork:** No further information received.

9.4 **Forest Green maintenance:** Richard Freeman and his team had kindly cleared the required areas of Forest Green. A formal thank you was extended to them. There has been very positive feedback from the public.

9.5 **Daycroft Lane Flood Alleviation:** Proposals for flood alleviation were submitted to Herefordshire Council, but there were delays to budgeting for the feasibility study. The Clerk will ask for the scope of the study, anticipated outcome & time schedule. <<**Action Clerk**>>

9.6 **Dog waste bins:** More dog waste and litter bins are required generally, the permissive railway line footpath is a particular concern; the clerk will contact Whitchurch PC, which has an arrangement with their Lengthsman regarding the emptying of dog waste bins; a Cllr offered to send information on prices for bins to the clerk. <<**Action Cllr Jenkins & Clerk**>>

10. **Parish Projects:**

a) **Village Warden:** An application for grant funding has been submitted to the Wellbeing and Innovation fund and received a positive response, pending clarification of some queries from the grant awarding body; when the grant is finally received, the PC should have a total of £16k to put towards the scheme.; this total being a combined total of a grant from the Wellbeing and Innovation fund and match funding from the Parish Council, some of which is already held in reserves.

b) **Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch:** Herefordshire Council said that it would send a final contract for the community asset transfer, but nothing has been received.

c) **Bishopswood WCs:** Cllr Drummond was thanked for continuing to organise the cleaning of the WCs; he has asked a contractor to look into some electrical issues.

d) **War Memorials / Fencing at Bishopswood:** Ursells of Ross will start restoration work on Walford and Howle Hill Memorials very soon; a pre-grant application for Bishopswood has been accepted and a full grant application will be submitted. <<**Action Clerk**>>. Cllr Cole was thanked for removing the conifers surrounding this memorial and the council discussed the dilapidated fencing. The landowners will be asked about the fencing. <<**Action Clerk**>>

e) **Walford Links:** No further developments.

11. **Defibrillator Provision:** Cllr Freeman has offered to supply a defibrillator, to be fixed to the outside of the Mill Race Pub and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to purchase the external box required to house the equipment.

12. **Information and correspondence:** Appendix C, Appendix D and HALC Information corner were noted.

12.1 **Councillor's reports on local matters:** None received.

12.2 **Parish Newsletter:** Will be published at the end of October; submission deadline - Monday 19th October.

12.3 **Responses to Correspondence:** The clerk will respond to Citizens Advice - the PC will not be making a donation. <<**Action Clerk**>> Correspondence regarding difficulties experienced passing HGVs on Howle Hill was noted, as were responses from the businesses concerned which kindly agreed to make efforts to alleviate the problem.

13. **Brief public response session.** A member of the public offered to assist with Neighbourhood Planning and will contact the clerk; he asked what the timescale is for adoption of the Core Strategy – the Ward Cllr said it will be decided this week and he will provide a timetable; the same resident said some counties now use mass dog waste bins, rather than individual ones. Another thanked Cllr Cole for removing the conifers at Bishopswood Memorial.

14. **Items for next meeting agenda:** BT Phone Box. Dilapidated fencing at Bishopswood Memorial.

15. **Next meeting:** 25/11/15 Finance Committee @ 6.30pm, Full Council at 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall.
