

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm on
Wednesday 12th May 2010 in Walford Village Hall

Present

Frank Myers – Chairman

Derek Allen, Sandra Cole, Simeon Cole, Michael Downey, Eric Drummond, Heather Evans, Luke Freeman, Philip Heath, Geoffrey Symonds, Marc Thomas, Bridget Vine, Alan Whitlock.

In attendance: Acting Clerk – Lynda Wilcox. 8 local residents.

1. Election of Chairman

Two nominations were received for the office of Chairman:

- 1.1 Simeon Cole ... nominated by Geoff Symonds and seconded by Sandra Cole.
- 1.2 Frank Myers ... nominated by Michael Downey and seconded by Eric Drummond.
- 1.3 Following a paper ballot, Frank Myers was re-elected by seven votes to six.

2. Declaration of acceptance of office

Councillor Myers signed his declaration of acceptance of office and continued in the chair.

3. Apologies for absence – None - all councillors were present.

4. Election of Vice Chairman

There were two nominations for the office of Vice Chairman:

- 4.1 Bridget Vine ... nominated by Heather Evans and seconded by Marc Thomas. Mrs Vine declined to stand.
- 4.2 Philip Heath ... nominated by Frank Myers, seconded by Michael Downey and duly elected unopposed.

5. Membership of Committees/working groups & representatives

RESOLVED: To appoint the following members:

- 5.1 Finance – The following councillors to continue:
Simeon Cole, Eric Drummond, Heather Evans, Marc Thomas.
- 5.2 HALC Representative – Bridget Vine.
- 5.3 Lengthsman Supervisor – Luke Freeman
- 5.4 Rights of Way Officer – Michael Downey:
- 5.5 Walford Village Hall representative – Simeon Cole.
- 5.6 AONB – Philip Heath.
- 5.7 Police Group representative – Frank Myers.
- 5.8 Parish Website – new Clerk.

6. Confirmation of bankers and cheque signatories

- 6.1 Chairman of Finance, Marc Thomas was hoping to finalise the paperwork for bank signatories in the near future.
- 6.2 The first half of the annual precept for 2010/11 had been received.
- 6.3 The public rights of way grant monies had been allocated for 2010/11.

7. Declarations of interest

Eric Drummond declared a personal interest in the anticipated discussion on re-routing a footpath under item 10.

8. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting – 14.4.10.

RESOLVED: To accept as a true record, with the following clarification:

- 8.1 Page 10/10 – agenda item 7.1 ... Mr Heath commented that significant progress had been made.
- 8.2 An amendment was also made and signed by the Chairman: Page 11/10 – agenda item 11.7 ... delete 'Howle Hill' and replace with 'Arbour Hill'.

9. Chairman's Report

- 9.1 It was hoped that a new clerk would be appointed that evening.

10. Police Matters

- 10.1 West Mercia Police were unable to be represented.
- 10.2 Issues related to crime, disorder & community safety:
 - 10.2.1 Request from local resident to divert a footpath away from his home, following a recent burglary and security recommendations from the Police.
Mr Downey expressed his concern about diverting any public right of way and Heather Evans shared his view. However, the majority of other councillors, including landowner, Eric Drummond, supported the proposal (9 in favour and 4 against). The matter would be placed on the next agenda for formal ratification.
 - 10.2.2 A burglary had occurred in a property opposite the school.

11. Finance

- 11.1 Payments
 - 11.1.1 Gerald Green (Lengthsman) invoice - £395.
Agreed for payment.
- 11.2 Internal Auditor
After seeing the terms of reference, Mr Hoddinott had declined to take on the role.
Mr Cole would enquire as to whether the internal auditor for Whitchurch & Ganarew PC would be interested.

- 11.2.1 The Acting Clerk commented that the annual insurance premium would need to be agreed at the next meeting, once the paperwork had been obtained from the insurers.

12. Planning Applications for comment

- 12.1 DMSE/100740/F – Oxlet Cottage ... small housing for micro generator. RESOLVED: to support the application in principle but suggest that stone cladding would be more in keeping with the surrounding area. [My recollection is that we insisted on this as a condition of our support]
- 12.2 DMNW/100557/FH – sent to Walford in error, as it related to Walford in north of the county.
- 12.3 DMSE/100445/CD – Walford School.
RESOLVED: The application did not need further discussion as permission had already been granted
- 12.4 Letter from planning enforcement officer noted

The Chairman read a letter concerning an alleged material change of use – siting of mobile home and garage to residential use and subdivision of dwellinghouse at Bryn Heulog, Howle Hill. Further investigations were being undertaken.

13. Correspondence

- 13.1 Further to correspondence received by the Chairman from Cobrey Farms, it was RESOLVED: to appoint a representative to their Community Liaison Committee. The Chairman volunteered to be the parish council's representative and this was agreed.

14. Councillors' reports

- 14.1 Derek Allen ... the ditches were being cleared.
- 14.2 Michael Downey ... a new tranche of funding had been allocated for problem areas on footpaths.
- 14.3 Eric Drummond ... George Smith was happy to repair the damaged notice-board, thereby negating the need for a new one.
- 14.4 Luke Freeman ... A report would be available for the next meeting, hopefully to include the items mentioned at the previous meeting.
- 14.5 Simeon Cole
- 14.5.1 There would be a walk to school incentive the following week and it was therefore hoped that the Lengthsman might trim the verges.
- 14.5.2 The flashing sign at the Walford hall end of the school had stopped working the previous day – Mr Cole had reported the fault.

- 14.6 Marc Thomas ... As traffic was still speeding through the area, the Police should be asked to undertake speed checks between 7.30 and 8.30 am, subject to discussion on times with Geoffrey Symonds.
- 14.7 Philip Heath ... Herefordshire Council were undertaking land registry checks at the present time.

17/10

- 14.8 Geoffrey Symonds ... £10 [this needs to be verified with Geoff, it certainly wasn't £10!!!] had been earmarked for the footpath from the school to the church.

15. Matters raised by local residents

- 15.1 A resident reported that there were still two outstanding areas of poor drainage at Old Hill Court, but other works in that area had been carried out. A further area for attention was outside the Rehau gate.
- 15.2 There was a request for details of the new parish clerk to be circulated in the Walford Flyer.
- 15.3 In response to a query on the rejuvenation of the website, the Chairman explained that this would be one of the duties of the new clerk.
- 15.4 The Chairman explained that previously collected evidence on Forest Green was still being sought.

16. Items raised for June agenda

- 16.1 Adoption of accounts.
- 16.2 Footpath diversion.
- 16.3 Appointment of Emergency Co-ordinator.
- 16.4 Payment of annual insurance premium.

17. Date of next meeting – 9.6.10. at Bishopswood Village Hall.

- 17.1 Finance Committee Meeting 9.6.10.
- 17.2

18. Candidate for position of parish clerk

Marc Thomas reported that members of the Finance Committee had interviewed four possible candidates for the position of Clerk, on the previous Friday. A local resident, Catherine Murray had been selected as the most suitable candidate. Ms Murray gave a presentation to the meeting, outlining her career to date and why she felt she was suitable for the role. She indicated that, if successful, she would undertake the local CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) training programme. The Chairman thanked Ms Murray for her comprehensive presentation.

A resolution was passed to exclude the public from the following employment item.

- 19.** Mrs Cole left the meeting, due to personal commitments, but indicated her support for Ms Murray.

Following discussion, it was unanimously RESOLVED: To offer Ms Murray the post of parish clerk on a three month probation period at scale point 26.

SIGNED **DATE**