

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council

Held Wednesday 16th March 2022, 7:30pm
At Bishopswood Village Hall

Present: Councillors Akers - Chair, Cole, Dolman, Evans, Petersen, Chinn, Vine, Whelan, O'Brien, van Lienden and Drummond.

In attendance: N Richmond(Clerk), and members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Councillor Francis - reason for absence was accepted
Ward Councillor Watson - reason for absence was accepted
Councillor Curtis – reason for absence was accepted.
2. **Declarations of interests:** No dispensations were requested. The following declarations of interest were made:
Cllr Drummond – agenda item 7.4.2 Freemans Farming – non-pecuniary.
Cllr Whelan – agenda item 11 Planning application 221627 – non-pecuniary.
Cllr Cole – agenda item 11 Planning Application 220392 – pecuniary.
3. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 16th February 2022.**
The minutes of the meeting of 16th February 2022 were **APPROVED** and signed by the chairman.
4. **Public Participation Session:**
 - 4.1. No West Mercia Police attended the meeting.
 - 4.2. A written report had been provided by Ward Councillor Watson who was unable to attend the meeting. No questions arose. The clerk reported that Cllr Watson had advised that the report from the Herefordshire Council Environmental Health officer regarding the noise issue at Freemans Farming was imminent.
 - 4.3. It was noted that the reports from the Locality Steward were brief and lacking detail. The clerk will invite him to the next meeting and suggest that his reports are more detailed.
 - 4.4. Members of the public were asked if they wished to speak. The first to speak was Simon Musgrove-Wethey who raised objections to the planning application 213836 Land at Warmhill and Hengrove both in terms of the noise of additional forestry work and the increased number of people accessing the site. John Hamilton the applicant for the planning application then spoke in support of his application disagreeing with the comments made by Simon Musgrove-Wethey and making his point that the changes in use were minor and actually did not amount to 'light industrial' use. Sian Newbert spoke who was pleased WPC supported rewilding of Phoenix Meadow and commented on how good the new tarmac is and the improved road markings at the Leys Hill junction. She also asked if WPC had any update on road closure from Kerne Bridge. Phil Johnson then spoke about the noise issue at Freemans Farming and the negative effect it has on nearby residents. Richard Crier also spoke on the noise issue that it was intrusive.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments on Appendix B, with the exception of the Metric payment to be discussed later in the agenda.
 - 5.2. The year to date expenditure was noted.
 - 5.3. The updated LGS salary scales were noted and it was **AGREED** that the backdated pay scales would be applied to WPC employees.
 - 5.4. The reporting basis for the annual accounts was deferred to the finance committee.
 - 5.5. It was agreed to employ Richard Abolins in the completion of the AGAR with a budget of £200.00
6. **Personnel:**

The successful completion of the clerk's probationary period was reported. It was **AGREED** that Cllr O'Brien would set up an annual appraisal meeting with the clerk for WCSS Co-ordinator Be Mackintosh
7. **Projects: -**
 - 7.1. **Community Support Scheme** – No written report had been received. Cllr Chinn reported that 14 people had attended the latest Fish and Chip lunch at The Hub, that the grants that Dave

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Berry and Be Mackintosh had worked hard to obtain were now delivering new resources, and that efforts would be made through the scheme to raise support for the people of Ukraine.

7.2. **KBCL Maintenance Co-ordinator –**

7.2.1 Cllr Petersen continues to work on the riverbank erosion quotations. One of the contractors Salix will provide a further quotation after they have visited the site. He advised that unfortunately a willow planting solution is probably too late now for this year an alternative may be found.

7.2.2 It was **AGREED** to cut down the ash tree to a height that would allow a carving of the trunk as a piece of attractive sculpture.

7.2.3 Following a discussion it was **AGREED** to increase the one hour car parking charge at KBCL to £ 1.50. It was also **AGREED** that, as parish council had purchased and installed the car park charging machine, parish council will pay for the software upgrade. The question of residents car park permits was raised and the 'draconian' parking signage, so it was **AGREED** to invite Charlie of Riversea Holdings to the April WPC meeting to answer any questions. Cllr Cole reported that a signboard at the KBCL site had been blown over and damaged and enquired if it was covered by the council's insurance policy. He agreed to obtain a quotation for it's replacement.

At this point Cllr Chinn left the meeting due to childcare issues.

7.3. **Police Liaison** – Cllr Whelan had provided a written report which was noted with thanks. He mentioned the 'Coffee with a Coppa' scheme but did not know if any parishioners had attended. Cllr Whelan highlighted the latest scams romance scams and courier scams being particularly prevalent at the moment. Changes to the Highway Code were also to be noted.

7.4. **Safety & Environmental Working Group.**

7.4.1 **Drainage Grant.** The application in respect of Daycroft Lane has been submitted. It was **AGREED** that a quotation in respect of Deepdean would be obtained from Terry Griffiths and submitted as a priority.

7.4.2 **Noise pollution at Freemans Farming.** It was **AGREED** to defer this to the next meeting when the report of the Environmental Health officer would be available.

7.4.3 **Wild Swimming Status.** There was nothing to report on this matter.

7.4.4 **Speed Indicator Devices.** The clerk had approached Ross Town Council to ascertain if they had any monitoring equipment parish council could borrow. He was advised they had not and to contact Balfour Beatty so this will be carried forward to the next agenda.

7.4.5 **The Green Footprints initiative.** It was **AGREED** to adopt the initiative which Cllr Whelan explained is to provide information on how individuals can take action to become 'greener' in combating the climate emergency. Parishioners are invited to sign up to the Greener Footprints Pledge and highlight what changes they intend making to either reduce their Carbon Footprint or increase bio-diversity.

7.5. **Community Engagement.**

Cllr Akers advised that a new newsletter would be produced and invited councillors to submit items for it. The rollout of Smartwater kits will be included.

8. **Highways and public rights of way: -**

8.1. **PROW** – Cllr Evans advised that she had provided a list of jobs to the lengthsman. Cllr Cole reported that a stile had been removed on footpath WA16 which Cllr Evans will investigate.

8.2. **Lengthsman Coordinator** – Cllr Cole will arrange a meeting with the lengthsman at Deepdean to enable a quotation to be submitted for a drainage grant.

8.3. **Pavements from Walford Village Hall to Walford School.** Cllr O'Brien advised that Walford School have sent a letter outlining their concerns that can be used to put pressure on Herefordshire Council to take action. Cllr Cole reported that the lengthsman has cleared foliage and soil along this section very recently that improves the width of the pavement.

8.4. **B4234 Resurfacing.**

8.4.1 It was generally considered that Balfour Beatty had done a good job. There continue to be concerns over the removal of the centre line particularly at the Leys Hill junction. The clerk advised that Balfour Beatty will replace the centre line at no cost to the Parish Council should concerns persist, but that they would not expect such a request so soon after completion. It was therefore **AGREED** to revisit this in six month's time when there will be a greater understanding of the impact of the new layout.

8.4.2 The road closure at Kerne Bridge was noted. The somewhat confusing signage is proving an issue. Dave Berry advised that he had received a letter stating that concrete blocks have been ordered for Kerne Bridge to prevent access in replacement of the ineffective cones.

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9. NDP:-

- 9.1 The report of the NDP steering group was noted. Cllr Dolman advised that no decisions of Parish Council were required.
- 9.2 It was decided to set a date for an extraordinary meeting of Parish Council concerning the Regulation 14 responses during the week commencing 4th April.

10. HALC Executive Committee Meeting

Cllr Vine's report was received with thanks. No questions resulted.

11. Planning:

11.1 To comment on planning applications in Appendix A:

220627 Hom Farm Hom Green – Prior approval having already been granted no comments are required.

213836 Land at Warmhill and Hengrove – Cllr Petersen reported that a site visit had been made by himself and Cllr's Chinn, Vine and Evans together with the clerk. It appeared to him that the change in use was not a material one, and Cllr Vine commented that the applicant had mistakenly described the change as one of light industrial when actually it was a forestry use. Cllr Evans expressed some concerns over the objections that had already been made. Further objections were made by Simon Musgrove-Wethey, however Lucian Quatermast of Kingston Oak, a small operator with 1 employee making house frames who is wanting to relocate and interested in taking on the site claimed to have a sustainable working ethic and used low noise electric chainsaws. In order to include these concerns it was proposed to support the application but comment that activities be limited to a working day of 8am to 6pm and that noise particularly chain saw and lighting be kept to a minimum. A vote was taken and there were 11 in favour and none against so the proposal was **AGREED**.

220392 Springherne Cottage – single storey rear extension. Cllr Cole left the meeting at this point. Several councillors pointed out the bright external lighting present at the property. It was **AGREED** to support the application on the proviso that no more external lighting be allowed.

220431 2 Coughton Place alterations and extensions – Following a discussion a vote was taken on a proposal that the application be supported. There were 5 in favour of supporting the application and 5 abstained so the proposal was carried and council will support the application.

12. Website and email.

Cllr O'Brien advised that the website domain had been secured and Mark Millmore is working on the update and .gov.uk email addresses.

13. Community Resilience Plan.

Cllr Petersen reported that the Herefordshire Council resilience officer is looking at our template and will give us advice.

14. Leys Hill junction.

Parish council had agreed to pay the assessment invoice for Balfour Beatty to design the traffic calming signage at Leys Hill before it was known that the resurfacing was to be extended to cover the Leys Hill junction. On the basis that some of what was being paid for has already been achieved the clerk is to seek a partial refund

15. Consultation on the Government response to the Landscapes Review.

Cllr Dolman having provided responses where she felt able, councillors were asked if they had anything to add. No other responses were made, so it was proposed by Cllr Akers and seconded by Cllr O'Brien that these responses be submitted. A vote was taken with 8 in favour and two against so was carried.

At this point it was agreed to suspend standing orders and extend the meeting until 10.00pm.

16. Phoenix Meadow.

Cllr Akers advised that Luke Freeman is working on a risk assessment for the KBCL access point. Cllr Vine said that she still had concerns over the risk to council and had spoken to Lynda Wilcox at HALC who had then expressed these concerns to the clerk. It was **AGREED** that an independent risk assessment would be sought to ensure that the council was not put at risk.



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17. The Dam.

It was **AGREED** to approve the expenditure of £ 300.00 plus vat for the surveyor Will Probert to mark out the border of the council land.

18. Verge Cutting Programme 2022.

It was **AGREED** that council should request one cut in order to encourage the growth of wild flowers.

19. Smartwater.

Cllr Van Lienden outlined the rollout procedures being adopted using the electoral roll. Dave Berry suggested that we check to confirm that individual names can be used from the electoral roll.

20. To consider a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Cllr Akers advised that the 'Plant a tree for Jubilee' idea would be promoted in the next newsletter.

21. Correspondence Received.

Most of the items in the correspondence file were covered by items on the agenda. Cllr Dolman asked whether replies would be made. The clerk advised that acknowledgement e-mails had been sent and that appropriate responses would also be sent.

22. Items for the next meeting agenda: -

- a. Website and e-mail.
- b. Resilience Plan.
- c. Noise pollution at Freemans Farm, Leys Hill.
- d. Wild Swimming status
- e. NDP
- f. Pavements from Walford Village Hall to Walford School
- g. Phoenix Meadow
- h. SmartWater
- i. KBCL – Riverbank erosion quotations
- j. The ash tree at KBCL.
- k. Leys Hill Junction.
- l. The Dam

23. Next meeting: - Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 7:30pm – Bishopswood Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 22.00

SIGNED

Joanne Akers

DATE

20/4/22