



WALFORD PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting

19/05/2022

Thursday 19 May 2022 at 6:00pm

Bishopswood Village Hall

Present: Councillor Joanne Akers

As members of the public: councillors van Lienden, Vine, Evans, Whelan and Drummond.

In attendance: Nick Richmond (Clerk), several members of the public and Charlie Baker representing Riversea Holdings.

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and made her opening remarks.
2. The minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting held on 19th May 2021 were accepted and signed by the then Chairman Monica van Lienden.
3. The Chair delivered the Annual Parish report which she read out in full. No questions were raised as a result of the report.

4. Open Forum Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch.

Sian Newbert opened the discussion saying that residents attending parish council meetings had only three minutes to make their points which was not long enough to adequately cover their concerns, and she suggested that a parish council working group be re-established to consider the operation of the canoe launch. It was pointed out that the original working group had been set up to oversee the establishment of the contract with Riversea Holdings and after that had been completed it was considered that the purpose of the working group had been achieved so it was no longer required. It was also advised that residents could ask for an item to be put on the agenda which would not then limit the time available for discussion. Several other speakers raised concerns over canoeists arriving at 7.10am making considerable noise with radios.

Charlie Baker of Riversea Holdings advised that there were 7 canoe companies that used the launch on a daily basis and a couple of others occasionally, and he would write to them to update them on the terms of use and the need to keep noise levels down particularly early in the morning. He said that so far this season bookings were down some 50% so last year may have been the exception rather than the rule. He encouraged any residents to come and see him with their concerns, as in fact he had said at the previous parish council meeting. He also advised the meeting that he has purchased lockable bollards that once installed will prevent vehicles accessing the launch outside the hours he allows. The poor condition of the pavement opposite the canoe launch was mentioned and residents were encouraged to report this on the Herefordshire Council website for Balfour Beatty to

take action.

Parish Council Chairman Joanne Akers summarised the following actions:

A) That parish council consider the re-establishment of a working group to enable greater discussion of the operation of the canoe launch and to form proposals to be put to the parish council.

B) That Riversea Holdings writes to the canoe companies updating them on the terms of use and request that they respect residents by keeping noise down.

C) That the clerk contact Councillor Cole to ask him to assist with the installation of the bollards as soon as possible.

5. Open Forum.

No members of the public raised any other issues.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.15pm following which cake and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____