WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Walford Parish Council

Held on Monday 24th April 2023, 7:30pm
At Walford Village Hall

Present: Councillors Akers - Chair, Evans, Vine, Petersen, Cole, van Lienden, Francis, Cole, Dolman and Whelan.

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Councillors Chinn and Curtis - reasons for absence were accepted.

2. **Written requests for dispensation and Declarations of interests:**
Declarations of interest were made as follows:
Cllr Cole Agenda item 5.1 Walford Primary School non-pecuniary
Cllr Cole Agenda item 6.1 pecuniary.
Cllr Francis Agenda item 5.1 Walford Primary School non-pecuniary
No requests for dispensation were received.

3. **Public participation session:**
Dave Berry spoke first stating that comments made about him in the letter referred to in item 9 were completely untrue and that all information relating to the NDP had been published on the council website. Ward Councillor Watson spoke to advise that council would receive a report from Herefordshire Council regarding issues on footpath WA50, and that in relation to the drainage survey Herefordshire Council were working on a training initiative which she expressed a willingness to participate in. Bob Puzey spoke to express thanks for the work carried out by the council and clerk. Janine from Priory Lea spoke to ask who owned the land and therefore the wall that backs on to Cheltenham Lane as the wall has no foundations and is in a dangerous condition. Cllr Drummond advised that he owns the land and would arrange to visit the site to check on the condition of the wall. Cllr Akers then spoke to read out a letter from a parishioner who wished to remain anonymous which expressed concern over the damaging effect of the letter of opposition to the NDP which has been circulating.

4. **Finance:**
4.1 To consider and approve the payments on Appendix A.
Cllr Akers advised the meeting that council has not been prepared to authorise payment of the PKF Littlejohn invoice balances as council considers the fees out of proportion and without a proper breakdown of how they are calculated. She proposed that these not be paid. This was seconded by Cllr Whelan and all voted in favour of their non payment. Cllr Cole proposed that the other payments be approved en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Akers and all voted in favour.
4.2 To consider the quotations for a replacement bus shelter at Kerne Bridge.
Council considered the various quotations for a replacement bus shelter at Kerne Bridge. The metal and glass constructions were agreed to be inappropriate for the location. Cllr Cole proposed that the Walford Timber quotation with the brick foundation be chosen as the replacement. This was seconded by Cllr Akers and all voted in favour. The clerk is to pursue the insurance claim prior to giving instructions to Walford Timber to proceed.
4.3 To approve the year end accounts for submission to the internal auditor.
Cllr Cole proposed that the accounts were accepted. Cllr Drummond seconded and all voted in favour.

Cllr's Cole and Francis left the room.

5. **Planning**
5.1. To comment on applications for determination by Herefordshire Council:
P230978 – Walford Primary School. Proposed single-storey extension to create new classroom.
Cllr's agreed that Walford School needed to provide sufficient classrooms for all it's pupils. Cllr Dolman proposed that council support the application. This was seconded by Cllr van Lienden and all voted in favour.

Cllrs Cole and Francis rejoined the meeting.

P230609 - 12 Coughton Place, Coughton Sun shade extension on patio area at rear of house.

JA

Cllr Vine noted that this was a retrospective application. Cllr Akers commented that the applicants may not have been aware that planning permission was required. Cllr Petersen proposed that the application be supported. This was seconded by Cllr Dolman and voted 8 in favour with two abstentions.

Cllr Cole left the room.

6. **KBCL**

6.1 To consider the disposal of the timber from the recently cut back Ash tree.
It was noted that a previous lot of timber had been offered for sale and Cllr Whelan proposed that this timber should also be offered for sale. This was seconded by Cllr Evans and all voted in favour. Cllr Akers asked Cllr Francis to provide some pictures of the timber which would be offered for sale on the website and possibly in a newsletter provided the new council agreed.

Cllr Cole rejoined the meeting.

6.2 To consider a proposal for a Coronation Day event at KBCL and if agreed to approve the operation of a mobile bar at the event.
Cllr Cole advised that several residents had suggested an event at KBCL to celebrate the coronation. He proposed that council approve the event over the three days Saturday 6th to Monday 8th May and approve the use of the mobile bar at KBCL between the hours of 2pm and 7pm on those days.
Cllr Vine expressed some concerns over this and asked if Charlie had obtained the appropriate permission to sell alcohol at such an event. Cllr van Lienden said it was a great idea. Cllr Francis seconded the proposal and it was voted on 9 in favour with 1 abstention. The clerk is to advise Charlie Baker of Riversea Holdings of the council's decision and advise him that the event can proceed only if he provides the council with a copy of his licence to sell alcohol and confirm it covers use at KBCL, and provide a copy of a 'Temporary Event Notice' or confirmation that this is not required.

6.3 To consider the purchase of gravel as a maintenance measure for the car park at KBCL.
Cllr Cole advised that two loads of gravel approximately 40 tons is required to make good the canoe launch area and the car park. The cost will be around £1400 from Radbournes of a type of gravel approved by the Environment Agency. He proposed that the gravel be purchased. This was seconded by Cllr Drummond and all voted in favour.

6.4 To receive an update on the works to the eroding bank and to consider the purchase of grass seed/turf to make good the grassy areas following such works.
Cllr Petersen gave an overview of the two years of effort that has led to the riverbank erosion revetment work that has recently been completed by JPR Environmental. Cllr Akers expressed the gratitude of the council for the hard work put in by Cllr Petersen in taking this forward and also to Cllr Cole for his work on site to prepare the area. Cllr Cole advised that purchasing turf now to make the area good was the best solution and Cllr Evans suggested that this would be a good gesture of support to Riversea Holdings in view of the disruption caused during the work. Cllr Cole proposed that the turf be purchased. This was seconded by Cllr Evans and all voted in favour.

6.5 To consider the insurance documentation for Riversea Holdings.
The clerk explained that council are required to approve the choice of insurers of Riversea Holdings. Council has received copies of their insurance issued by AXA a suitable insurer. Cllr Cole proposed that council approve the insurer. This seconded by Cllr Akers and all voted in favour.

7. **Leys Hill Junction.** To receive an update.
Bill Cansdale advised that following a further site meeting with Balfour Beatty some inconsistencies in the design had been resolved. Bill anticipates that the amendments once approved at Balfour Beatty will allow him to put a proposal to council's Safety and Environmental Working Group that the design and costings be adopted.

8. **Daycroft Lane drainage work.**
8.1 To receive an update.
The clerk reported that he has contacted several drainage surveyors none of whom have said they could carry out the survey council requires. Two companies details have been provided by Balfour Beatty one of which has quoted £750 a day for a team with a crawler camera. The other requested a site visit which has yet to take place and the clerk will follow up on this.

9. **Correspondence received.**

To consider the contents of a letter being distributed relating to the NDP Referendum.

JA

Cllr Akers introduced the discussion of the opposition letter by advising that the letter represented election fraud as it should state who is publishing it and that the apparent use of the electoral roll in the addressing of the letters is a breach of GDPR regulations. Andrew de la Haye the chairman of the NDP Steering Group had examined the assertions made in the letter and prepared a factual response for council to consider. Cllr Akers proposed that the response be adopted by council and published in it's name. Cllr Cole disputed points 4 and 5 in the proposed response as being incorrect. Andrew de la Haye explained the background to the assertion made in point 4 which he said was correct. In respect of point 5 it was agreed that as the comments made on the Herefordshire Council planning portal in relation to the planning application were different to what had been written in point 5 it would be amended to include the wording used in the HC portal. On this basis Cllr Dolman seconded the proposal which was then voted on 8 in favour 1 against and 1 abstention. Cllr Akers then asked that council consider how the response letter should be distributed, Her feeling was that although the opposition letter may not have been widely distributed it's effect was far reaching and that the response should be delivered to all households in the parish. She proposed that a team of volunteers form to either mail out letters or hand deliver them. This was seconded by Cllr Vine and voted 8 in favour 2 against.

10. To express the thanks of the council to those councillors not standing for council in May.
Cllr Akers expressed the thanks of the council and parishioners for the efforts of councillors not standing for re-election, particularly the very long service of Cllr Drummond who has been a councillor for more than 35 years. A round of applause was given.

11. Next WPC meeting: Wednesday 17th May 2023 Walford Village Hall

The meeting finished at 20.36 pm.

Signed by the Chairman.

Joanne Akers

DATE ______________________ 17/5/23