

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



Held on Wednesday 19th June 2024, 7:30pm
At Walford Village Hall

Present: Councillors Akers (Chair), Evans, Berry, Warburg, Barnett, Watson, Simeon Cole.

In attendance: N Richmond (Clerk), and 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies: To accept apologies and note reasons for absence.**
Apologies were received from Cllr's Petersen, Vine, Sandra Cole and Llewellyn whose reasons for absence were accepted.
2. **Declarations: To receive declarations of interest and consider any written applications for dispensations.**
No written applications for dispensation were received. Cllr Watson declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item 7.3 as a member of the HHMP working group and item 14 in respect of GemFest because she knows two of the directors involved. Cllr Simeon Cole declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 9.1 Planning in respect of 241223 Springherne Cottage.
3. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024.**
The minutes having been circulated councillors all agreed them as a true record of the meeting, and they were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Public participation session:**
 - 4.1. **To receive an update from West Mercia Police.**
No one from West Mercia Police was present.
 - 4.2. **To receive a report from the Localities Steward.**
Reports have been circulated. No questions arose.
 - 4.3. **Public participation session: three (3) minute limit per person (15 minutes maximum).**
Andrew De la Haye asked about the procedure to replace the two councillors who had resigned. The clerk said that Herefordshire Council had been notified and they had issued a notice allowing for ten parishioners to call an election. If this did not happen by the closing date, which Cllr Warburg advised was the 21st June, then parish council would be notified and asked to co-opt two councillors. Council would ask for expressions of interest and if more than two people came forward they would be asked to attend parish council to make a short presentation of their reasons for wanting to be on the council and any experience they would bring, following which a secret ballot of the existing councillors would decide who was co-opted.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **To approve the payments on Appendix A.**
Cllr Berry proposed that the single payment be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett and all voted in favour.
 - 5.2. **To ratify the payments on Appendix A.**
Cllr Berry proposed that the payments to be ratified be approved en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett and all voted in favour.
 - 5.3. **To receive the internal audit and sign the AGAR.**
The internal audit and completed AGAR forms had been circulated. Cllr Barnett proposed that they be signed. This was seconded by Cllr Warburg and a vote taken 6 in favour with 1 abstention so was carried. The AGAR forms were signed by Chairman Cllr Akers and Nick Richmond the clerk.
 - 5.4. **To note the dates for the exercise of public rights and publish these on noticeboards and the council website.**
The clerk advised that the Notice of Public Rights would be published on 21st June 2024 and operate from Monday 24th June 2024 until Tuesday 6th August 2024. These dates were approved and noted.
6. **Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch: To receive reports and consider any actions:**
 - 6.1. **KBCL Maintenance Co-ordinator report.**
In the absence of Cllr Petersen Cllr Barnett reported that all was well at the KBCL site. There is a need to trim and tidy the area and Cllr Petersen will begin the process of obtaining quotations for the work on the railway buttress. Cllr Simeon Cole requested that the wood for the footpath steps be removed from his premises. Cllr Akers confirmed that she would take the wood and arrange a

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suitable date with Cllr Simeon Cole for delivery. The clerk will take a picture of the timber from KBCL held at Cllr Simeon Cole's yard which he will put on the council website offering it for sale.

6.2. To receive an update on the improvements to access the permissive footpath (from Kerne Bridge to the Canoe Launch) directly from the Inn on the Wye.

Ward Cllr Simeon Cole continues to press Herefordshire Council for the approval to alter the access opposite the Inn on the Wye.

6.3. To receive an update on the conversion of the permissive footpath to a Public Right of Way.

Cllr Warburg is actively working on this.

7. Projects: To receive written reports from the following projects and working groups and consider action:

7.1. Community Support Scheme Coordinator.

No written report had been received.

7.1.1. To consider quotations for the upgrade of the path to The Hub at Walford Village Hall.

Cllr Akers advised that a cheaper concrete path was now being considered, and she will seek separate quotations for the work, and Cllr Simeon Cole will also provide a quotation. The work will have to be agreed with the Village Hall Committee and it was considered desirable that the Village Hall assume responsibility for the work as on their land.

7.1.2 To consider prior approval of up to £200 for safety works to the decking area at The Hub.

Cllr Akers advised that someone had slipped on soil that had been washed onto the decking at The Hub. Cllr Barnett had cleaned the decking so the safety works were no longer required, and she thanked Cllr Barnett for carrying out the cleaning. Cllr Simeon Cole suggested that the ditch behind the Village Hall required clearing out but that this was a matter for the Village Hall committee to take up with the landowner.

7.2. Police Liaison.

Council currently has no Police Liaison officer. The clerk advised that the police have said in respect of the recent HGV incident on Leys Hill that the driver of the HGV may be charged with driving without due care and attention.

7.3. Howle Hill Memorial Project.

7.3.2 To consider waiving Financial Regulations 5.7 and 5.8 to enable approval of quotations under the aegis of the National Lottery Community Fund grant ref. 20275271.

7.3.3 To enable raising of orders in accordance with the National Lottery Community Fund terms and conditions in accordance with the approved Lottery grant budget of £13,733 Note – this value shall be considered as a maximum.

Cllr Berry read the following statement: As you will have seen from the papers sent out to support item 7.3.2 the National Lottery Community Fund grant only requires single quotations where the value does not exceed £12,000. However, in order to prevent a protracted argument, the working group have sought a further quotation in addition to the two already requested for the substantial portion of the work. The working group together with the Clerk will evaluate the three proposals and make a recommendation to council. Therefore, the motions at 7.3 are for the time being withdrawn.

7.4. Safety & Environmental Working Group.

The notes from the working group meeting having been circulated the following matters were discussed:

7.4.1 Daycroft Lane – Flood Management.

Cllr Akers proposed that the clerk write to local landowners to introduce Holly Williams from the Wye Valley National Landscape Team (Natural Flood Management), and provide Holly with previous documentation in respect of Daycroft Lane for review. This was seconded by Cllr Evans and all voted in favour.

7.4.2 Leys Hill Junction including additional HGV signage.

The working group had proposed that the clerk chase for a response to the Chairmans letter to the Traffic Management team at Herefordshire council. The clerk advised that the data from the September 2023 speed monitoring had now been provided, and he has spoken to the Cabinet Member for Highways Cllr Barry Durkin who will take these matters up with the TM team, and it was agreed to wait for Cllr Durkin to report back. The clerk is to contact Ian Connolly of West Mercia Police traffic management for advice on the HGV signage at Leys Hill.

7.4.3 Footways (pavements) in Walford Village.

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Despite the clearing of the pavements carried out by Lewis Fowler (Davis Reeves) Cllr Berry pointed out a section from the Village Hall to Walford Church that is too narrow and is a danger to pedestrians. He proposed that the clerk report this (again) to Herefordshire Council and write officially to Ward Councillor Simeon Cole asking for action to be taken. This was seconded by Cllr Watson and all voted in favour. Cllr Akers said that a 40mph sign by the new house opposite the Village Hall is now obscured by vegetation and needs clearing. The clerk will contact the Locality Steward to take action.

7.4.4 Waste Collections and Recycling – Church Lane.

It was reported by Cllr Watson that this matter had been resolved and waste collections were to resume as normal.

7.5. To receive an update on the Parish newsletter.

Cllr Akers reported that the newsletter was almost ready for publication and distribution but she has only one price for this so will seek further quotations.

7.6. To receive an update on the installation of a defibrillator on Bulls Hill.

Given the delay in getting the Locality Steward to consider the post on which the solar panel is to be attached Cllr Cole proposed that council goes ahead with the installation immediately. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett and all voted in favour.

8. Highways and public rights of way: To receive written reports and consider actions:

8.1. PROW officer.

Cllr Warburg reported on the visit he undertook with the clerk to look at WA22. The path to the new bridge (installed thanks to the efforts of Cllr Simeon Cole) had been cleared by a resident but the stiles across Bulls Hill were choked with vegetation. The clerk went the following day and cut back the vegetation at both stiles and at a further stile across the next field. Cllr Warburg is working on a survey of the Wye Valley Walk looking at additional byways that may have existed in the past for which there is a deadline to re-establish them as PROWS. Cllr Watson asked about outstanding jobs particularly footpath posts. The clerk reported that following reports that WA6 from Newhouse Farm was overgrown he had asked the lengthsman to clear it and the work had been carried out.

8.2. Lengthsman Co-ordinator: To receive an update.

The clerk reported that the drainage work at The Dam had been carried out and the pavements through the village cut back by Lewis Fowler. A date for the work on Bulls Hill has yet to be confirmed and the clerk will chase Terry Griffiths for it.

8.3. To receive an update on the repairs to the Coughton bus shelter.

Cllr Llewellyn has not yet provided an updated quotation from her husband. Cllr Cole said he would arrange two additional quotations. Cllr Cole said the ivy around the shelter needed cutting back and it had been carried out by the lengthsman on the last occasion. Cllr Berry thought that the landowner should see to this however Cllr Simeon Cole said that it was a house and the prospects of getting the householder to take action were remote.

9. Planning:

9.1. To comment on applications for determination by Herefordshire Council - see Appendix B.

Cllr Simeon Cole left the meeting.

9.1.2 241223 Springherne Cottage – Wooden garage and store.

Cllr Warburg proposed that council support the application provided that two conditions, firstly on lighting as proposed by the WYE Valley National Landscape, and secondly on the colour of the garage as proposed by HC Landscape team be observed, and all councillors agreed.

Cllr Simeon Cole rejoined the meeting.

233268 – Cats, Leys Hill 8 Eco homes

Cllr Watson expressed concerns over the re-consultation, in particular the design changes including the removal of wood panelling replaced by rendering, issues over sewerage drainage and a statement that the Walford NDP suggested that there was no need for affordable housing. She proposed that council now objects to the re-application for those reasons. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett and a vote taken with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions so was **PASSED**.

10. Daycroft Lane: To receive an update.

Covered in agenda item 7.4.1

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11. **The Dam: To receive an update.**
The clerk advised that one expression of interest in buying the plot had been received. A negotiation will now be commenced with the interested party. Cllr Simeon Cole proposed that a negotiating team of Cllrs Akers and Berry together with the clerk undertake the negotiation and all councillors agreed.
12. **Leys Hill**
Covered in agenda item 7.4.2
13. **To consider the prevalence of domestic violence and what actions council might consider to help victims.**
Given the calling of the General Election it was decided to carry this item forward to the next meeting.
14. **Gemfest 14th-16th June.**
To discuss the handling of the event and consider any complaints received.
No members of the public had chosen to attend the meeting to express views. The clerk advised that he had received one e-mail from a resident of Gloucestershire living 3.5 miles from the site asking who to complain to about the noise (the clerk pointed the person to Herefordshire Council licensing) and one e-mail from a parishioner with positive comments about the organisation of the event. Cllr Evans had e-mailed about the lack of security at the site as it appeared that anyone could walk in. Cllr Barnett said that security was not obvious, the police had attended to check but took no action. He added that drugs were being sold on the gate and the noise over two nights would have meant that nesting birds would probably have deserted their young.
15. **To consider correspondence received.**
Cllr Warburg mentioned the Parish Summit and said he would like to attend. Cllr Watson will also attend. The clerk had received an e-mail from a resident urging parish council to move forward with the HHMP project. Cllr Watson reported that the D-Day event at HHMP had been attended by 40 people and was much appreciated as being the only other event in the area apart from in Ross itself.
** memorial cross* *JA*
16. **Use of gov.uk e-mail addresses. To receive an update.**
The clerk having done what he can to provide councillors with working gov.uk e-mail addresses it was agreed to take this item off the agenda.
17. **Items for next meeting agenda: (No discussion)**
 - 17.1. Leys Hill Junction
 - 17.2. The Dam
 - 17.3. Daycroft Lane
 - 17.4. Defibrillator installation Bulls Hill
 - 17.5. Coughton bus shelter repairs
 - 17.6. Improvements to the permissive path from KBCL to Kerne Bridge and conversion to a PROW.
 - 17.7 Kerne Bridge signage
 - 17.8 HHMP quotations
18. **Next WPC meeting: Wednesday 17th July 2024 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall**

The meeting finished at 21.19 pm.

Signed by the Chairman.

DATE 17/07/2024