

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



Held on Wednesday 16th October 2024, 7:30pm at The Inn on the Wye

Present: Councillors Akers (Chair), Berry, Evans, Warburg, Watson, Simeon Cole, Sandra Cole, Vine, Field, Petersen.

In attendance: N Richmond (Clerk), and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies: To accept apologies and note reasons for absence.**
Apologies were received from Cllr's Barnett, Robinson and Llewellyn whose reasons for absence were accepted.
2. **Declarations: To receive declarations of interest and consider any written applications for dispensations.**
No written requests for dispensation were received. Declarations made were as follows:
Cllr Watson and Cllr Vine item 8.3 HHMP non-pecuniary as a members of the HHMP working group.
Cllr Simeon Cole reserved the right to change his vote in relation to any planning matters that might come before the Herefordshire Council Planning Committee.
3. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 2024.**
The minutes having been circulated Cllr Akers asked if there were any comments. None being made Cllr Berry proposed that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Simeon Cole and all voted in favour. The Chairman signed the minutes.
4. **Public participation session:**
 - 4.1. **To receive an update from West Mercia Police.**
No member of the police was present.
 - 4.2. **To receive a report from the Localities Steward.**
Weekly reports from the Localities Steward had been circulated. No questions arose. Cllr Simeon Cole advised that the current Localities Steward Harry Bradbury was being replaced by his Father. Council wished to thank Harry for his services within the Parish over the last couple of years.
 - 4.3. **Public participation session: three (3) minute limit per person (15 minutes maximum)**
Guy Smith made two comments concerning the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch which the clerk subsequently advised him could not be included in the minutes as they were hearsay. Guy also said that he held negative views of the operation of the canoe launch as he felt it had a significant detrimental effect on his business.
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **To approve the payments on Appendix A.**
Cllr Watson queried the payment to HALC for website domain and hosting, pointing out that Mark Millmore who set up the website is a Board member of HALC. Cllr Berry said that the first two items on the invoice were for the NDP website that the council had instructed to be closed after the referendum held on 4th May 2023, and that the other items were described as covering up to February 2026 well after council membership of HALC had ended. Cllr Akers said that the invoice should be placed on hold and put under query with HALC both about the NDP costs and if HALC would continue to host the website independent of our membership. This was agreed and Cllr Simeon Cole proposed that the other payments be approved en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Berry and all voted in favour.
 - 5.2. **To receive the 30th Sept 2024 accounts and note the council bank balance of £ 51,715.32 as at 30th Sept 2024.**
The accounts were noted. No questions arose.
 - 5.3. **To consider a proposal from the Finance Committee to move the following sums from the council current account into an interest-bearing reserves account: £ 15,441.81 HHMP funds, £ 3,215.00 KBCL Reserve, £8,750.00 Community Reserve, £ 3,600.00 Election Reserve.**
Cllr Berry requested that the £ 8,750 Community Reserve figure be removed from the proposal as this sum came from a time before the precept was increased to take into account the cost of the WCSS Co-ordinator. This was agreed and Cllr Berry proposed that the remaining figures be moved. This was seconded by Cllr Vine and all voted in favour.
6. **Leys Hill Junction Traffic Calming: To receive an update**
The clerk reported that despite several e-mails to Herefordshire Council Traffic Management a date for the proposed meeting had not been arranged. Cllr Simeon Cole said that he could not recall

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



seeing these e-mails so the clerk said he would send another request and copy Cllr Simeon Cole on his personal e-mail address also.

7. Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch: To receive reports and consider any actions:

7.1. KBCL Maintenance Co-ordinator report.

Cllr Petersen reported that an end of season review had highlighted a number of issues that require work completion before the start of the next season, particularly repairs to the steps at the launch point. These matters will be discussed at the KBCL Working Group meeting to be held the following evening. A proposal will be drawn up by Cllrs Petersen and Barnett in conjunction with Charlie Baker of Riversea Holdings to include approval by the Environment Agency. Centre path refurbishment and clearing of the car park edges of foliage was also discussed, and it was thought that Lewis Fowler (David Reeves) might be employed to carry this out. Charlie Baker continues to pursue the planning application for the new café structure and to source a new car park meter.

7.2 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.

Cllr Simeon Cole is pressing Bruce Evans of the HC Traffic Management team for drawings and costings of the design to make the safety improvements on the B4234.

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

Cllr Warburg had no current update.

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

8.1. Community Support Scheme Coordinator

Rebecca had submitted a report which had been circulated. The clerk will provide figures for mobile phone top ups and speak to Rebecca about the possibility of council subsidising her to use her own phone for WCSS. Cllr Simeon Cole is to provide details to the clerk of Herefordshire Council initiatives that could be taken up by WCSS. The proposal for a warm hub was considered a good idea. The clerk will ask Rebecca for an idea of the hours of operation so these can be agreed with the village hall.

8.2. Police Liaison.

Cllr Robinson having given his apologies there was no report.

8.3. Howle Hill Memorial Project.

8.3.1 WPC Clerk to obtain a quote for supplying and laying the turf from Terry Griffiths (TG).

Cllr Barnett has details of the area of turfing required for the clerk to ask for a quotation.

8.3.2 To approve payment to Walford Timber of £1,000.57 for hazel hurdle fencing. TG to install the fencing and revise his quotation for the labour element and concreting of the posts.

Payment approved under agenda item 5.1

8.3.3 WPC to agree to purchasing 50mm x 75mm brass dedication plaques for Freemans Contracting, Walford Timber and Mr & Mrs Cornes with a maximum budget of £75 for 3 plaques.

Brass dedication plaques were deemed not appropriate so it was proposed by Cllr Akers that instead the proposed maximum amount of £75 be approved for a framed certificate to be installed in the bus shelter. This was seconded by Cllr Berry and a vote taken with 7 in favour 3 against so was PASSED.

8.3.4 WPC to agree to a maximum budget of £150 for plants.

The clerk advised that Cllr Barnett had offered to donate £150 of plants and council expressed its gratitude for the very generous offer.

8.3.5 WPC to agree £150 budget for Platform One to install lecterns.

Cllr Berry proposed that this be approved. Cllr Evans seconded the proposal and a vote taken with 8 in favour 2 against so was PASSED.

8.3.6 To receive an update from the Clerk on the planning application to move the war memorial.

The clerk reported that with the quotation and method statement supplied by Monmouth Memorials he had everything required to provide the HC Planning dept. with the information required to take this forward. He advised that the location plan and site block plan required would cost approx. £40 to obtain. Cllr Petersen offered to help the clerk if needed.

8.4 To receive an update on the Parish newsletter.

Cllr Akers reported that the newsletter was finished and a purchase order was required to Dawleys for printing and distribution.

8.5 To receive an update on the installation of a defibrillator on Bulls Hill. To pre-approve expenditure of up to £300 for the purchase and installation of a new metal pole on which to affix the defibrillator.

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



Cllr Berry proposed that the expenditure be approved. Cllr Watson seconded the proposal and a vote taken with all in favour. It was suggested that a rotten bridleway sign next to the telegraph pole could be replaced by HC/BB with a metal sign that would then be available for the defibrillator and solar panel. Cllr Akers to send a picture to the clerk.

9. Highways and public rights of way: To receive written/verbal reports and consider actions:

9.1. PROW officer – to receive a verbal report.

Cllr Evans reported that the work on WA66 had been completed but the mud and stone remaining may not be the safest option. WA71 has a footpath finger post that needs replacing. WA50 which is officially shut is still used unofficially. Cllr Simeon Cole advised that where WA66 meets the road at Deepdean near Yew Tree Cottage and the reservoir there is a pit that fills with debris and when full means that water spills out onto the road. He advised that the lengthsman 'keep an eye' on it in case it requires clearing.

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

The clerk reported that the road under the old railway bridge near Walford Church was flooded again. Cllr Simeon Cole said that the grips there needed clearing again. Overhanging trees at Sharmans Pitch from The Hill House upwards were according to Cllr Petersen making the road narrower and therefore a danger to motorists. Cllr Simeon Cole has been taking these matters up with Balfour Beatty but it is unclear what rules they are working to. It was agreed that the clerk would write to Cllr Simeon Cole in his capacity as Ward Councillor to take this further.

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

No update. The clerk will take some pictures so councillors can assess if any action is required.

9.4. To receive an update regarding the raw sewage reported in the ditch outside Red House, Bulls Hill.

The clerk reported that the HC Environmental Health officer Jane Coggle had asked the officer who visited the site Anna Jordan to give a summary of her findings, but so far these had not been received. Cllr Petersen reported on the incident of raw sewage at Howle Hill Cross which is believed to be caused by a faulty septic tank. It seems that the Environment Agency visited the site and spoke to landowners but have taken no further action so the matter is unresolved. The clerk will follow up with Jane Coggle. Cllr Warburg asked that the lengthsman be instructed to jet the pipes on Bulls Hill starting above Westfield House.

10. Planning:

10.1. To comment on applications for determination by Herefordshire Council - see Appendix B. P240162 Aylesmarsh Farm Cottage, Horn Green.

Cllr Watson suggested that Walford Parish Council support the application with three conditions: 1) any external lighting is dark skies compliant and includes the Ecologist's conditions that 2) the garage is not sold as a separate dwelling and 3) is not used as a holiday accommodation. A vote was taken on this proposal and all voted in favour.

11. Flooding

11.1 To receive an update.

Held over to the next meeting in the absence of Cllr Robinson.

12. The Dam: To receive an update.

The clerk has requested a review of the valuation of the plot following the observations made by the Pearsons. This has not been forthcoming so the clerk will phone Will Probert of RG & RB Williams to push for the review.

13. To consider correspondence received.

The correspondence from Newland Parish council regarding the condition of the Wye was discussed. Although there appear to be several such initiatives which do not appear to be linked it was agreed that council are interested in supporting the initiative.

14. Items for next meeting agenda: (No discussion)

14.1. Leys Hill Junction

14.2. The Dam

14.3. Flooding

14.4. Defibrillator installation Bulls Hill

14.5. Coughton bus shelter repairs

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



- 14.6. Improvements to the permissive path from KBCL to Kerne Bridge and conversion to a PROW.
- 14.7 The condition of Kerne Bridge.
- 14.8 Membership of the Finance Committee.
- 14.9 HALC website hosting and computer associated issues.
- 14.10 Training.
- 14.11 Sewage issues at Bulls Hill and Howle Hill Cross.

- 15. Next WPC meeting: Wednesday 20th November 2024 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall

The meeting finished at 21.16 pm.

Signed by the Chairman.

DATE Joanne Aherns