

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walford Parish Council



Held on Wednesday 22nd January 2025, 7:30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall

Present: Councillors Akers (Chair), Berry, Evans, Warburg, Barnett, Llewellyn, Field.

In attendance: N Richmond (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies: To accept apologies and note reasons for absence.**
Apologies were received from Cllr's Simeon Cole, Sandra Cole, Vine, Robinson, Petersen and Watson 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. No declarations were made.
3. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 18th December 2024.**
The minutes having been circulated Cllr Akers asked if there were any comments. None being made Cllr Akers proposed that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting. Five councillors voted to approve the minutes with Cllrs Barnett and Field abstaining as not having been present. Cllr Akers duly 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.
 - 4.3. **Public participation session: three (3) minute limit per person (15 minutes maximum)**
The one member of the public present did not have any comments..
5. **Finance:**
 - 5.1. **To approve the payments on Appendix A.**
Cllr Berry proposed that the payments be agreed en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Warburg and all voted in favour.
 - 5.2. **To ratify the payments on Appendix A.**
Cllr Berry proposed that the payments be agreed en-bloc. This was seconded by Cllr Warburg and all voted in favour.
 - 5.3. **To receive the 31st December 2024 accounts and note the council bank balances of £ 16,975.84 (current A/c) and £ 6,973.19 (Instant Access Reserve A/c) as at 31st December 2024. The clerk advises that he has reclaimed VAT and the claim amount of £ 7,353.64 was received on 13th Jan increasing the current account balance on that date to £ 24,329.64.**
These were noted. Cllr Warburg commented that defibrillator replacement parts should be recorded in the accounts under maintenance of parish assets. Cllr Field enquired about the Riverbank Restoration element that appears in the accounts. The clerk advised that the riverbank work was carried out in a previous year and that he would correct both issues.
6. **Leys Hill Junction Traffic Calming: To receive an update.**
Having received notification that a very old TRO in Walford has been refused it is clear that the Leys Hill TRO has not been actioned. The clerk is to ask for a timescale and process for this to happen, and the item will be placed on the next agenda.
7. **Kerne Bridge : To receive reports and consider any actions:**
 - 7.1. **KBCL Maintenance Co-ordinator report.**
Cllr Barnett commented that the Railway buttress looks as if it has been subject to some movement and may be in a dangerous condition. He added that he will have a contractor examine the structure to assess the movement.
 - 7.2. **To consider a quotation from Lewis Fowler (David Reeves) of £140 to cut back vegetation around the KBCL car park.**
Cllr Evans proposed that the quotation be accepted and work undertaken as soon as possible before birds start nesting. This was seconded by Cllr Llewellyn and all voted in favour.
 - 7.3 **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.**

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In the absence of Cllr Simeon Cole this matter was held over to the next meeting.

7.4 To receive an update on the FOI request for information from Herefordshire Council on the survey of Kerne Bridge.

The clerk reported that the survey and removal of buddleia and other foliage was due to take place before the end of the month. Cllrs had observed signs that this was happening so the matter will be put on the next agenda.

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

8.1. Community Support Scheme Coordinator.

Cllr Barnett advised that all was proceeding as normal, a pantomime trip is being arranged and one new volunteer has come forward.

8.2. Police Liaison.

Held over in the absence of Cllr Robinson.

8.3. Howle Hill Memorial Project.

8.3.1 To receive and note the HHMPWG report.

The report had been circulated. Cllr Field commented that the parish council procedures had not been properly followed in relation to the project, and Cllr Barnett commented that the works had been railroaded through at the last moment in order to meet the Remembrance Day 'deadline'. It was agreed that the moving of the memorial itself and the planning application would be paused for the time being. The meeting agreed that lessons should be learned including that there was no contingency to allow for the additional materials and works that became evident in the run up to the 'deadline'. Cllr Berry offered to draft a specific policy/process for council to consider.

8.3.2 To agree the updated Terms of Reference for the group.

Cllr Berry proposed the adoption of the updated Terms of Reference. Cllr Warburg suggested that the reference to AONB be changed to National Landscapes. This was accepted and the proposal seconded by Cllr Barnett and all councillors voted in favour.

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

The clerk having passed on the location details to the lengthsman he will check to see when the lengthsman can carry out the works order issued.

8.5 Bio-diversity.

To consider the recommendation of the Safety & Environmental Working Group that council accepts the requirement for a bio-diversity policy and appoints Cllr Warburg to review and circulate available models in order to present an outline policy incorporating the existing environmental policy to the next Safety & Environmental Working Group meeting.

Cllr Warburg proposed that this recommendation be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Field and all voted in favour.

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 on the installation of replacement stiles on Bishopswood Hill. There was no further update on WA66 where the removal of the concrete had seen the replacement surface being washed away in the recent rains making the flooding issue at the bottom worse. The correspondence from Mr Geoffrey Lewis on footpaths was discussed and Cllr Akers advised that she would respond to him.

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

The clerk reported that the drainage grant had received an award of £4,400 omitting the piping work on Bulls Hill which Herefordshire Council said they could not agree 'at present'. The clerk will revert and ask when a decision will be made.

9.3. To receive an update on the sewage discharges on Bulls Hill and Howle Hill.

The Environmental Health officers from Herefordshire Council had visited the site and knocked on the door of the property they felt most likely to have a leaking septic tank. There being no answer they posted a letter asking the owner to contact them. The clerk has twice requested an update from the officer but not had a response. He will keep chasing.

9.4. To receive an update on the reported subsidence on the B4234 between Walford Timber and Kerne Lodge.

The clerk had reported the subsidence to Herefordshire Council with pictures on 8th January. The Balfour Beatty Locality Steward visited the site and reported the issue to the Herefordshire Council Assets Management Team. Following the meeting of the council Safety & Environmental Working Group the matter was escalated by the clerk who e-mailed Ed Bradford, Head of Highways, Paul Walker CEO of Herefordshire Council and Barry Durkin Cabinet Member for Highways on 16th

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January. The area is now being kept under surveillance and Cllr Field advised that access was being sought via a footpath below the affected area in order that a survey of the area could be undertaken.

10. Planning:

- 10.1. To comment on applications for determination by Herefordshire Council - see Appendix B.**
P243005 Coughton Forge – single storey side and rear extension.
Councillors voted unanimously to support the application.

11. Flooding

- 11.1 To receive an update following the meeting of the Safety & Environmental Working Group.**
The clerk has received many items of correspondence concerning flooding issues at the following locations:

a) Opposite KBCL entrance.

The issue was accepted by HC/BB as a defect and a jetter was scheduled to clear the drain under the road on 15th Jan. This did not happen due to an emergency elsewhere and is now scheduled for 3rd February.

b) Daycroft Lane.

The clerk had written to local landowners seeking their engagement with the council and Holly Williams to look at Natural Flood Management measures. This did not get a positive response so it was agreed that the clerk would introduce Cllr Robinson who lives in Daycroft Lane to Holly to see if a plan can be developed that could then be presented to landowners.

c) Alder Close.

It was agreed that Cllr Akers would contact Eric Drummond to see if he can help resolve any issues as the nearest landowner.

d) Hazlehurst Nursing Home.

Cllr Akers reported that blocked drains along that stretch of the B4234 were the probable cause of the flooding. The clerk will take pictures and report the issues to Herefordshire Council.

e) The Old Cider Barn, Hom Green

Cllr Akers will also consult Eric Drummond concerning this issue.

f) Peggles, Deepdean

The flooding issue has been exacerbated by the work carried out on WA66. In addition the water on the road froze making driving difficult. The parishioner has said that a grit bin is in the wrong place and moving it would help. The clerk will seek details from the parishioner and request that the bin is moved.

12. To consider correspondence received.

In addition to the flooding issues the clerk also received three FOI requests for information relating to HHMP which have been answered.

This was noted. No further action was required.

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

13.1. Leys Hill Junction

13.2. The Dam

13.3. Defibrillator installation Bulls Hill

13.4. Improvements to the permissive path from KBCL to Kerne Bridge.

13.5 Bulls Hill horse trough renovation.

13.6 Kerne Bridge survey update

13.7 KBCL car park potholes.

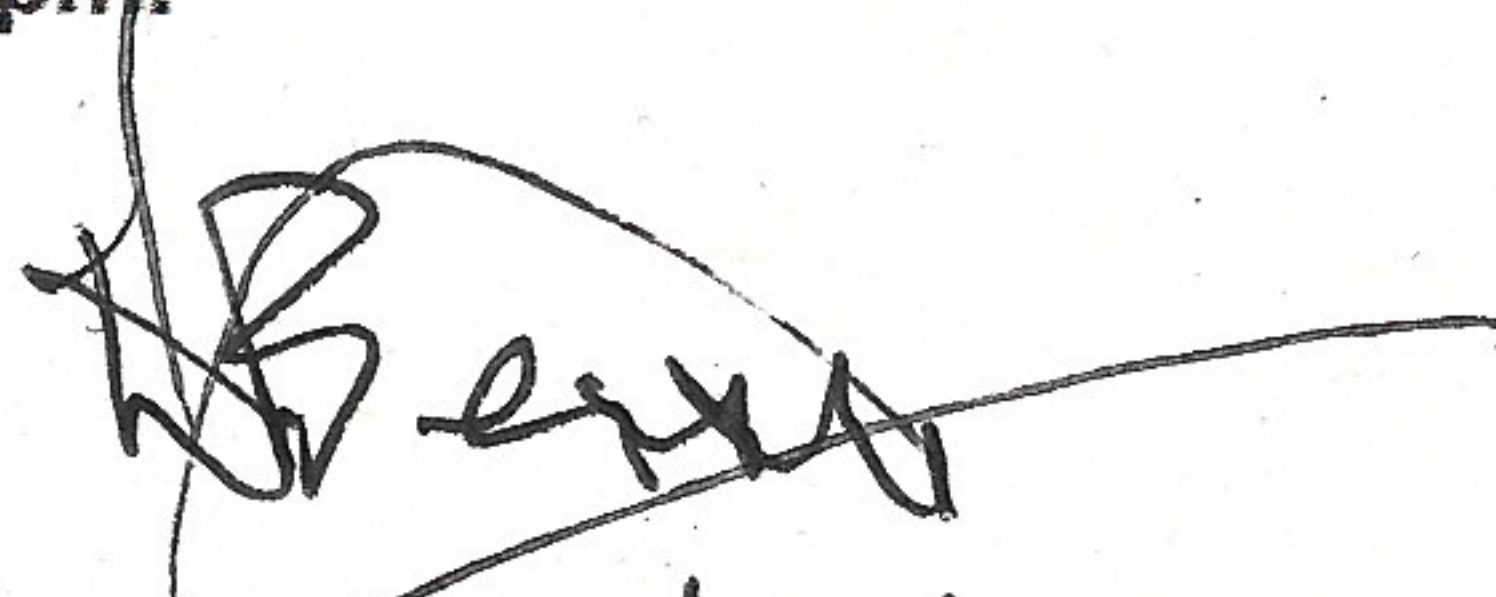
13.8 B4234 subsidence

13.9 SLCC membership

14. Next WPC meeting: Monday 24th February 2025 7.30pm at Walford Village Hall

The meeting finished at 21.10 pm.

Signed by the Chairman.


26/3/25