

# BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors: John Hulse (Chair), Geoff Hancock, Pete Jones, Massie Piggott,  
**In attendance:** Vicky Hancock (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Sayce, Cllr Farey, Cllr Gwynn, Ward Cllr Harrington
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** Cllr Hancock declared an interest in item 7.3.3 and signed the book accordingly.
3. **Open Session**
  - 3.1 Ward Councillor Harrington not in attendance
  - 3.2 No local residents in attendance. Cllr Piggott had spoken to a local resident on Wacton Lane who asked about access to grit on their lane which is unadopted. BBLP are delivering some additional salt which is to be stored at Grendon Manor. Cllr Piggott will fill a blue bin and position in the lane. Cllr Hulse reported that the grit bin near Wiggall is to be replaced and the bin on Wacton Lane has been righted. Another resident on Wacton Lane reported that there is a blocked drain on Glebe land which is causing run-off from the field. Clerk to make enquiries about ownership. There is a blocked ditch opposite Rowden Mill Station. Clerk to request BBLP look at this.
4. **To consider the minutes of the previous meetings...**

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It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes and they were signed by the Chairman.
5. The Chairman explained to Council that now our Neighbourhood Plan had completed Regulation 16 and was at the examination stage it was prudent to ensure that we refer to our NP policies when deciding planning applications. Council agreed we should highlight the relevant policies when submitting our comments. Discussion ensued regarding relevant policies. It was decided that applications would meet criteria - In conflict with..., Consistent with..., Supportive of Bredenbury, Wacton & Grendon Bishop Neighbourhood Plan.
  - 5.1 P193202 Sawbury Hill Farm, Bredenbury. Proposed conversion of existing barns into dwelling houses. The Council agreed to support the application and to cite relevant NP policies in the response.
6. **Budget Monitoring**

The Clerk shared the November budget monitoring sheet. She explained that the expenditure on SID was below the forecast as there had been fewer deployments since April and the device had not been taking data for the whole of the month due to the life of the battery. Cllr Hulse noted the budget was in line with expected expenditure and the variance as a percentage of the budget stands at -1.24%. There being no questions the monitoring was noted and signed by Cllr Hulse as an accurate record.
7. **Finance**

As agreed in the Financial Regs Cllr Pete Jones was appointed to sign the following-

  - 7.1 The Clerk shared the bank statement to 1<sup>st</sup> November. Balance brought forward £11845.25. The balance at 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 £10872.73. Agreed and signed by Cllr Jones.

7.2 Clerk distributed the Bank Control Account to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 which detailed payments and receipts to date. It was noted there had been two salary payments to November 1<sup>st</sup>. Balance less outstanding cheques £10812.73. Noted and signed by Cllr Jones as an accurate record.

7.3 It was RESOLVED to agree the following payments:

7.3.1 Cllr Hulse Expenses mileage & parking. £14.44

7.3.2 BBLP SID October deployment £180.00

7.3.3 Clerk's November salary and note assessment report re: Workplace Pension

## **8. Society of Local Clerks Membership (SLCC)**

Cllr Hancock declared an interest and did not participate in the discussion.

The Clerk requested that Council pay for her SLCC membership for 2020/21. She explained that she had personally paid the annual membership 2018/19 and 2019/20. SLCC provides advice, training packs, bi-monthly magazine, support and a local association meeting which has been invaluable. She explained the power under which councils may pay the subscriptions of their clerk to the Society of Local Council Clerks. *'a local authority may pay reasonable subscriptions, whether annually or otherwise, to the funds of any association of officers or members of local authorities which was so formed'*. The Council agreed it was a valuable association particularly when working in isolation. They RESOLVED to pay the 2020/21 membership of £109. The Chairman asked if it were possible to reimburse the Clerk for the 2019/20 membership. This to be brought to the next council meeting.

## **9. Neighbourhood Plan Update** – Councillors were informed that the Steering Group had received the shortlist of three potential examiners for the NP and would make a decision at the Steering Group meeting on Monday 2nd December.

9.1 Cllr Hulse attended the Core Strategy and NP Workshop and fed back to Council. He explained that there was discussion regarding the updating of Herefordshire's Core Strategy and also a review of the 'made' Neighbourhood Plans. He felt that our plan, being developed later in the process, was in a good place as we had included the settlement boundary and a housing allocation. Herefordshire Council had not decided when and how often Neighbourhood Plans would need to be reviewed but early indications suggested that plans with minor changes would be able to do this in-house (e.g. typos, grammatical errors). Plans with minimal change would be required to go back to Regulation 16 and plans which required major changes would need to go back to initial consultation. It was seen as important that in our Neighbourhood Plan had developed our own policies rather than relying only on the Herefordshire Council Core Strategy as this is also due to be reviewed.

9.2 We have received a Neighbourhood Planning Review Questionnaire from Herefordshire Council. It was RESOLVED to delegate this to the Steering Group for response.

## **10. Feedback from HALC Conference** – at short notice Cllr Hulse unable to attend this conference

10.1 HALC/NALC membership subscriptions 2020/21. Clerk noted that these fees were due to increase and awaits outcome of HALC AGM to confirm costs. Interim calculations suggested the increase to the council would be £14.68 inc VAT.

10.2 Wise Owl Training. The Clerk shared the latest HALC Training opportunities. Cllr Jones & Cllr Piggott to attend Highway Patrol on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Costs to be covered by the two free training places still available.

## **11. Lunch Club** Cllr Jones said the Lunch Group would be meeting again in the New Year and details will be available in Roundabout the Parishes. Cllr Hulse also to flag up in his monthly update.

**12. Village Housing** – Cllr Piggott gave information regarding the Kyre Charitable Trust which owns some cottages they are able to let out to vulnerable/aging/young families in the community and the support these houses are able to give to locals at difficult times. Discussion followed with ideas as to how providing housing in the community would be possible, Public Works Loan. A small working group to convene and look at this in more detail. Cllrs Piggott, Jones, Hulse volunteered to meet.

**13. Smartwater Update** – a letter has gone out to residents explaining that if they were able to commit to this scheme the Parish Council would fund it for the community. West Mercia Police will partly fund the kits and provide signage which will alert potential thieves they are entering an area where premises are forensically protected by area Smartwater. It was reported that the uptake had been good so far.

**14. Road Safety -**

14.1 October SID data we do not have figures for the complete month as the device was not operational. Data available shows 85% of the vehicles were travelling within the 40mph limit.

14.2 Salt – covered in Item 3.2

**15. Correspondence**

15.1 Leominster-Worcester railway. The clerk read correspondence from Ian Raven about the possibility of a group converting the old railway line into a cycle/walk leisure way. Councillors had spoken to three landowners whose land is part of the old line. Their major concern was that the first they knew of this was reading about it in The Hereford Times as they had not had been approached by anyone involved in this initiative. There would be concerns regarding bio-security and health and safety as some of the land has been taken back into the farm and is used.

The Council agreed that whilst they support tourism and healthy living initiatives, it was a concern that none of the landowners had been consulted. Therefore, they request that this group contact the landowners prior to Council progressing the item further. Once that has been done, they would be pleased for someone to come and speak to the Council. Clerk to respond.

**16. Matters for the next meeting:** Smartwater, Neighbourhood Plan, report back from The Great Collaboration

**17. Dates for the next meetings:**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

The meeting closed at 8.25pm