

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 29th January 2020 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors: John Hulse (Chair), Pete Jones, Massie Piggott, Carolyne Gwynn, Hugh Farey (acting secretary)

In attendance: Ward Councillor John Harrington

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Geoff Hancock, Vicky Hancock (Clerk)
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** None.
3. **Open Session.**

3.1 Ward Councillor Harrington gave a brief update;

- The next budget would be formalized on 14th February.
- It is intended that the Lengthsman scheme will be re-introduced. £250,000 was available for distribution to assist those parishes who have retained their Lengthsmen, those who dropped them for want of funding but would like to re-introduce them, and those who would adopt the scheme from scratch. Cllr Hulse commented that it seems somewhat perverse that Parish Councils who ignored advice to withdraw from the Lengthsman Scheme are being rewarded while those who followed Herefordshire Council advice cannot take advantage of these funds.
- The problem of excess phosphate/nitrate levels in local watercourses is being actively addressed. Welsh Water consider themselves compliant with relevant directives, but Herefordshire Council will support further mitigation of the problem by encouraging, and financing, areas of wetland in areas where biological activity can absorb some of the chemicals involved. Natural England are being consulted. In the meantime, planning applications can proceed as normal, but granted under conditions. Parish Councils will be kept fully informed.
- The £27 million offered by the Local Enterprise Partnership for the development of the Hereford Bypass scheme has been withdrawn as no such scheme has been definitively forthcoming. The LEP has rejected suggestions that the money could be used for alternative traffic amelioration schemes. In spite of this, Herefordshire Council is actively investigating possible alternatives/additions to the Bypass scheme, such as the reduction of traffic-lights in the city, another bridge across the River Wye, and free bus transport for school children.
- There is a shortage of Tarmac in Herefordshire as promised supplies have not arrived. This will delay the repair of the 500 category 'A' potholes which have been identified. A 'normal' number for this time of year is 100.
- Locality Stewards are currently employed by Balfour Beatty to assess and report the state of the roads, and Balfour Beatty then decide what action to take. Hereford Council are minded to employ them directly, so that the Council can prioritise maintenance and repair itself.
- The speed limits along the A44 from its junction with the A49 to Bredenbury are still under consultation.
- A roundabout at the bottom of Dinmore Hill is under consideration, but may involve Herefordshire Council buying the necessary land.

- Bredenbury has been elevated from 37th to 15th in priority regarding the TRO requested regarding the speed limit outside the Primary School. Ward Cllr Harrington promised to continue to press for the TRO to be prioritized.
- The recent poor Ofsted report on Bredenbury Primary School is a cause for concern. It is currently being managed by the Headmaster of Queen Elizabeth High School in Bromyard. The Parish Council was keen to do whatever it could to assist in looking after what is considered by the parish as an important community asset.

The Chairman thanked Ward Councillor Harrington for his input.

3.2 As a local resident Pete Jones asked if anything could be done about the state of the mud on some local roads, dropped by agricultural vehicles. It was noted that some local farmers were more assiduous than others in ensuring their contractors cleared up after their activities, and Cllr Hulse said that he would speak to them informally.

4. To consider the minutes of the previous meeting.

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It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes and they were signed by the Chairman.

5. Planning.

No planning to discuss. An application had been received after the Agenda for this meeting was published, and would be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Budget Monitoring.

Cllr Hulse shared the budget monitoring sheet. A failed laptop had been covered by insurance and a contingency allocation in our budget. Variance from budget is -1.6%. 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 30th December. Balance brought forward £10872.73. The balance at 1st December 2019 £9487.46. Agreed and signed by Cllr Jones.
- 7.2 Clerk distributed the Bank Control Account to 31st December 2019 which detailed payments and receipts to date. Balance less outstanding cheques £9487.46. Noted and signed by Cllr Jones as an accurate record.
- 7.3 A payment of £116.40 to BBLP for the deployment of SID was APPROVED.
- 7.4 It was RESOLVED to agree the following payments:
 - 7.4.1 Clerk's December salary and note assessment report re: Work Place Pension.
- 7.5 The insurance claim for the failed laptop was APPROVED.

8. "A Carbon Neutral Community."

Cllr Jones had been trying to arrange a meeting of the Working Group set up at the last meeting with a representative of Hereford Green Network, but without success so far. He is continuing to try, and awaiting a response.

9. Neighbourhood Plan Update.

Councillors were informed that the appointed examiner had made several enquiries of a technical nature to which Cllr Hulse and our professional consultant Ian Culley had responded. The Steering Group had been advised of their responses.

A representation had been received from Andrew Turner of Herefordshire Council, advising of the possibility of contamination in a long-disused quarry in a site allocated for possible housing development in the Neighbourhood Plan. This was already known to the Council, the owner of the site and potential developers, and all due investigation and consideration was in hand.

9.1 Delegation to the Steering Group of the authority to discuss and negotiate changes to the Neighbourhood Plan following suggestions by the examiner was APPROVED.

10. Smartwater Update.

Cllr Hulse informed councillors that we now had 72% of the parish signed up for the scheme, and encouraged councilors to chase up the few households which had not yet received a personal visit with a view to our achieving the required 80%.

11. Housing.

Cllr Massey inquired about the possibility of the Parish Council setting up a Charitable Trust for the acquisition and administration of affordable housing for needy parishioners, similar to that currently ongoing at Kyre. Ward Councillor John Harrington agreed to look into it from Herefordshire Council's point of view, and suggested that the Public Works Board might be approached for a loan if necessary.

12. Road Safety -

This had already been covered in earlier points and was not discussed further.

13. Bredenbury Primary School.

This had already been covered in earlier points and was not discussed further.

14. Correspondence

14.1 A letter had been received from Ian Raven, of the group interested in opening the old railway line for public access, explaining that his first approach was very preliminary, that he was consulting further with 'Sustrans' next month, and that the relevant landowners would then be contacted.

15. Matters for the next meeting:

The "Carbon Neutral Community" report, Business Continuity, the Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the Smartwater scheme, the Housing Charity possibility, Road Safety, the Primary School.

16. Dates for the next meetings:

Wednesday 26th February 2020, Wednesday 25th March 2020

The meeting closed at 8.35pm