

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 24th June 2020 at 7.00pm via GoToMeeting online

Present: Councillors: John Hulse (Chair), Pete Jones, Carolyne Gwynn, Geoff Hancock

In attendance: Clerk Vicky Hancock, 1 local resident

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Piggott
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** Cllr Hancock declared an interest in items 5.2, 7.3.1 and signed the book accordingly.
3. **Open Session**
 - 3.1 The Chairman had received a query from a local resident regarding flooding on their property due to the recent heavy rain and ownership of the adjacent land. As this is glebe land she has been put in touch with the property manager for the Herefordshire Diocese. Three queries were received from a resident who asked if we could have a temporary 20mph speed restriction on the A44 through Bredenbury. It was explained that this was a government scheme for towns to respond to the Covid-19 and the 2 metres rule on busy pavements and not something we could instigate. The resident also commented about the fact that the trees had been cut back in the 'tunnel' through Bredenbury. It was explained this was a health and safety priority because vehicles were driving in the middle of the road to avoid overhanging branches and the Parish Council had been trying to get this resolved for over two years. The resident also commented about the vehicles leaving Rowden House and not taking due care on the lane. It was **RESOLVED** to write to the Principal and ask if staff and visitors could be reminded about taking care when leaving the premises.
Cllr Jones reported there was another blockage of the drain outside St Andrews Close following the heavy rain. It was cleared with some difficulty and the responder said it was caused by roots growing into the drain. This has been an ongoing problem for a number of years. A resident has asked if we could contact the Locality Steward and ask if there is any progress on the upgrading of this pipe. Clerk to contact Colin Smith.
 - 3.2 Ward Councillor Harrington not in attendance
4. **To consider the minutes of the previous meeting.**
Parish Council Meeting... 27th May 2020 It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes and to be signed by the chairman in accordance with social distancing
5. **Planning**
 - 5.1 P201552/F Land adjacent to St Andrew's Church, Bredenbury, Bromyard HR7 4TF
Proposed erection of two dwellings. Questions were asked of the landowner regarding the design of the buildings and if there could be some reflection of Wyatt architecture. Councillors welcomed the possible addition of two new houses on land that has been seen as an eyesore in the heart of the village for a considerable time. Cllr Jones asked are the buildings going to be built to the design or could they be sold off to owners who may change the designs? The planning application will define the style of building. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council agreed to support this application with reference to Neighbourhood Plan Policies.
 - 5.2 P201546/F Land adjacent to Hillgrove Bredenbury

Proposed portal framed general agricultural building. It was RESOLVED to send a general comment regarding the size and proximity of the building with reference to Neighbourhood Plan Policies

6. Budget Monitoring

6.1 The Clerk shared the May budget monitoring sheet. There being no questions the monitoring was noted and to be signed by Cllr Hulse in accordance with social distancing.

7. Finance

7.1 The Clerk shared the bank statement to 31st May 2020. Balance brought forward £11650.02. The balance at 31st May 2020 £11307.51. Noted and to be signed by Cllr Hulse in accordance with social distancing.

7.2 Clerk shared the Bank Control Account to 31st May 2020 which detailed payments and receipts to date. Receipts £139.00. Balance less outstanding cheques £10727.17. Noted and to be signed by Cllr Hulse in accordance with social distancing.

7.3 It was **RESOLVED** to agree the following payment:

7.3.1 Clerk's June salary and note assessment report re: Work Place Pension

7.4 It was noted we had received a remittance of £90 which was a grant from Keeping Connected to purchase the 1-year licence for GoToMeeting.

7.5 Receipt of HMRC P32 Q1 noted.

8. Community Resilience Plan Cllr Jones

Cllr Jones gave a response from meeting at HALC in the autumn regarding Community Resilience planning. Parish Councils were asked to consider developing local plans covering events such as flooding, high winds, snowfall, utility outages to support the local authority and emergency services when these events occur. Templates and guidance was issued which could be used. Local councils can determine if a plan would be suitable for their circumstances. To produce a plan would be a considerable amount of work, organising briefings, developing training sessions and keeping the plan reviewed and up to date. Cllr Jones said we have the skills in house to produce such a plan but it would be a huge effort to put the plan together. Details and resources can change frequently which would involve a review and an update of the plan to reflect changes. Cllr Jones' view is that we should not produce a plan and he outlined his reasons.

1) The effort to explain the need for and the operation of a plan in hypothetical situations to volunteers and members of the public

2) The difficulty in maintain peoples' commitment to it over time – updating and training etc.

3) The problem of gauging what impact the plan would have on the effectiveness of Herefordshire Council or the other emergency services. We have a major traffic route running through the village which should allow a prompt response to any incidents that are happening here as it would be a priority for the council to keep a major route open. Flooding doesn't happen on a regular basis because of the elevation of the village. We are close to Bromyard for support facilities such as places of safety if we needed them and access to shops and food supplies etc. Additionally the majority of elderly residents live close the main road.

Finally, Cllr Jones noted that during the current crisis the Parish Council, the PCC and many volunteers have come together to develop a local initiative to support residents who are shielding and this has been done successfully without any formal resilience plan. He would question whether a formal plan would have improved the community response. It has been recognised that this has been fantastic. Cllr Jones felt we should consider some mechanisms to deal with issues we already know can affect the village. The most obvious being the blockage of lanes during heavy snowfall. He wondered whether we should have formal

agreements with local contractors or farmers to clear the lanes of snow. The chairman thanked Cllr Jones for a very thoughtful and cogent response. Cllr Gwynn felt that local farmers are hugely proactive in clearing routes not only for themselves but to help maintain the flow of traffic and that a formal agreement is not needed. Council agreed and believes community action to adversity will suffice as has been seen particularly during the heavy snowfall and in more recent times as a response to Covid-19.

9. Policies

- 9.1 All councillors had received the Financial Regulations for review. There being no comment or changes to the adopted document it was agreed that a formal review has been undertaken.
- 9.2 Clerk reported that NALC has written a new Model Code of Conduct that is in consultation until August 2020. The Councillors agreed that it was written clearly, concisely and in plain English. As all councillors have recently read, understood and agreed to abide by the Herefordshire Council Code of Conduct this version would remain pertinent until such time when the NALC model policy becomes available. Clerk to complete the consultation on behalf of the council.

10. Road Safety

- 10.1 Harp Lane TRO. As Ward Cllr Harrington was not in attendance the clerk to make contact and see if there has been any news. It was agreed that it would be Important to have something in place by September when the new term starts.
- 10.2 Warning signage for horses and riders. The Clerk has contacted BBLP to understand what the process and costs would be for installing these signs on Wacton Lane and Rowden Lane and also asked the same question of 'no footway' signage.
The response from Ray Wallace, Senior Engineer at Balfour Beatty was that installations would only be considered if the transient hazard is likely to be encountered by a regular driver on that particular stretch of road on significantly regular occasions. If we felt that was a significant chance that a regular road user would encounter a horse and rider then they would look at the road to see if there is room for the required signs. Having used local knowledge and made enquiries we have ascertained that a significant number of horses use the lanes. There is an Equestrian Stud on Wacton Lane and horses can be on the lane up to at least 6 times per day. Heavy goods vehicles travel on this lane regularly. There are two equine businesses on Rowden Lane – in addition there are at least eight private riders that use the lane frequently. As councillors also pointed out the Rowden School has staff that come and go 365 days of the year and also parents bringing children to the village school so there are a considerable number of regular road users.
With reference to the 'no footway' signs it was important to note that students and staff from Rowden School regularly walk on the lane as do a significant number of people taking regular exercise. Clerk to contact Ray Wallace with this information that meets the general criteria.

- 11. **Correspondence** – Speeding on the A44. Contact has been made with Simon Hobbs, Senior Accident Investigation Engineer, regarding the heightened speed of vehicles on the A44 through the village. There is also greater number of heavy vehicles travelling to the new bridgeworks in Worcester all through the day and overnight.
We are still awaiting response as to any speed monitoring –some SNAP posters have been put up to raise driver awareness. Clerk to make contact again and email Ward Cllr Harrington.

12. Matters for the next meeting:

Report back on actions that have been taken from this meeting,

Notification of Exempt status for year end March 2020

13. Dates for the next meetings:

Wednesday 29th July

Wednesday 26th August

Wednesday 30th September

Annual Parish Meeting – TBA

FYI - Following the Government announcement of further easing of lockdown restrictions from 4th July, NALC and SLCC strongly advise local councils to continue to meet remotely, without the need for face to face contact. Government rules still state that we should all work from home if we can. Local councils have the powers to hold public meetings remotely by using video or telephone conferencing technology until May 2021 and so most councils will have no need to meet in person. Furthermore, local councils have the duty to allow the public to observe council meetings without placing restrictions on the number attending, which many council meeting venues will not be able to accommodate in a safe way at this time.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm