

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 25th November 2020 at 7.00pm via GoToMeeting online

Present: Councillors: John Hulse (Chair), Hugh Farey, Geoff Hancock, Pete Jones, Massie Piggott

In attendance: Clerk Vicky Hancock

1. **Apologies for absence:** Carolyne Gwynn, John Harrington
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** Cllr Hancock declared an interest in items 6.4.1 and signed the book accordingly.

3. Open Session

3.1 No local residents in attendance

- i. Cllr Hulse received communication from a resident regarding the changes to procedure for repeat prescriptions. Nunwell Surgery are no longer accepting telephone requests for repeat prescriptions and say patients should utilise the NHS app or Patient Access or deliver their request by post or at the surgery. They have also limited repeat prescriptions from three-monthly to one monthly. The demographic of some of our residents, lack of good internet access/technology and the need to make additional and more frequent journeys into Bromyard to deliver requests are of a concern. It was agreed to write from the Parish Council to Nunwell surgery expressing our concerns and copying in CQC, Bill Wiggins and Ward Councillor Hulse.
- ii. A resident raised the issue of accessing fibre broadband in the centre of the Bredenbury even though this is available to households directly opposite and just down the road.

3.2 Ward Councillor Harrington sent his report via email. (report & attachments to be emailed to councillors)

- Covid-19 seeing a spike in the numbers in South Herefordshire.
- He has sent an email regarding our fibre broadband issue to Natalia Silver, Fastershire Committee and Ellie Chowns, council member for Environment, Economy and Skills. We will await response.
- He has also promised to contact Stephen Vickers, Director of Adult & Community Services regarding our concerns about the changes to the process for ordering repeat prescriptions at Nunwell Surgery.
- A considerable amount of road resurfacing is being done around the county before the bad weather hits.
- Herefordshire Council worried that funds due from the Government may be cut because of the latest measures due to Covid-19. The Spending Review also indicates that there will be greater cuts in Council budgets.
- Hereford strategic transport review has been completed. Recommendations from the scrutiny committee to be made to the Cabinet when they meet on 3rd December. These include cancelling the western bypass and building a bridge at Rotherwas in the east. Investing in a county wide bus service and increasing walking and cycling provision for those that travel short distances in the city. 56% of people in the city travel less than 1.6 miles to work, school or go shopping.

- Review of the planning department is due to be undertaken by the Planning Advisory Service and completed by Friday 4th December.

4. To consider the minutes of the previous meeting.

Parish Council Meeting... 28th October 2020. It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes and these to be signed by the chairman in accordance with social distancing.

5. Budget Monitoring

The Clerk shared the November budget monitoring sheet. Little expenditure during this period and the budget variance stands at -5.60%. To be signed by Cllr Hulse in accordance with social distancing.

6. Finance

6.1 The Clerk shared the bank statement to 31st October 2020. Balance brought forward £13,246.20. The balance at 31st October 2020 £11,112.36. Noted and to be signed by Cllr Hulse in accordance with social distancing.

6.2 Clerk shared the Bank Control Account to 31st October 2020 which detailed payments and receipts to date. Closing balance £11,112.36. Noted and to be signed by Cllr Hulse in accordance with social distancing.

6.3 To note payments already made to Autela Payroll Services for July – Oct £62.32

6.4 It was RESOLVED to agree the following payments:

6.4.1 Clerk's November salary and note assessment report re: Work Place Pension

6.4.2 Poppy Wreath Poppy Appeal £20.00

6.5 Acknowledgement of re-declaration of compliance from the Pensions Regulator

7. Councillor Resignation & Vacancy 2021-22 It was with regret that we have received the resignation of Councillor Sayce representing Wacton Parish. Cllr Hulse thanked him for his work on the council and noted he was one of the youngest parish councillors in Herefordshire. The Clerk had contacted the Election service and a vacancy notice has been posted until 30th November. To date there has been one expression of interest. If there is no requirement for an election then a councillor may be co-opted.

8. Bank Signatories Councillor Sayce was a bank signatory so the clerk will contact the bank to have him removed from their records. There was discussion regarding the three other signatories: Cllr Hulse, Cllr Hancock, Cllr Gwynn. The remaining signatories were happy to continue and the clerk to contact Cllr Gwynn. It was RESOLVED that three signatories were sufficient, but this would be reviewed as necessary.

9. Planning

9.1 **P203530/F** Lower Butterley Farm House Horton Farm Road Thornbury Herefordshire HR7 4NG Replacement dwelling and associated works.

Councillors RESOLVED to support the application. Councillors were pleased to see the NP reflected in the planning statement.

9.2 Chairman shared a copy of a response from a resident to the Planning for the Future consultation.

9.3 Update on the area TPO at Valley View. The application at 19 Valley View discussed at the previous meeting was withdrawn by the planning department as they could not ascertain whether the tree had been planted prior to the TPO or since it was implemented as there were no records. Regarding area TPOs we have been told that they are temporary measures but with no indication of how long temporary is. There have been 14 applications from Valley View regarding works to trees over the years – four of which were for one property. Awaiting contact from planning.

- 10. Smartwater Update** The clerk has completed the application form for the Smartwater kits and this has been accepted and the grant for the additional support for the costs of kits and the signage has been accepted. We have secured 80% coverage across the parish and will need 105 kits to be registered. We are now awaiting the invoice to pay our percentage and then details will come of how the kits can be rolled out.
- 11. Road safety** ADL Bristol to meet with Cllr Hulse on Thursday 3rd December in Harp Lane to discuss our application for a new speed limit to be imposed along this stretch of Harp Lane and Valley View. Due to Covid-19 restrictions they can only meet with one other person.
- 12. Lengthsman** No tender returns were received but Cllr Hulse has spoken to all the invitees for their feedback. There were three common issues:
 - The jobs were too small for some busy/larger contractors
 - Performance measures were too onerous
 - Public liability at 10 million too excessive – we have checked with our insurers and advice is that 2 million public liability would be sufficientCllr Hancock asked if we could have a number of contractors to ask on an ad hoc basis. Cllr Jones felt that administratively it would be much easier to only have one contractor to respond to and ensure they had all the necessary checks in place. Cllr Jones to change documentation regarding response times, to be changed to 5 working days and 5 working days for estimate and timeframe to complete works. Completion time to be within agreed timeframe. All work to be reviewed assessed and signed off by the clerk, the footpaths officer or any delegated councillor. Health and safety all incidents to be reported to the clerk. Environmental issues to be reported to the clerk. e.g. spillage into a water course.
- 13. Footpath Officer** Bridleway at Butterley Brook update. Cllr Hulse & Cllr Farey have cut back the low hanging branches. They removed the broken fence post and the barbed wire. The chain and nail on the gate have been removed and replaced with a rope. Cllr Hulse has spoken to the resident who brought up the issue and they have agreed that they can get through and it has now been made safe. Cllr Farey reminded the council that hunting latches are a recommendation but not mandatory on bridleways. The footpath and bridge at Wacton Green is still an issue and is currently in the hands of the enforcement officer.
- 14. Noticeboards** The boards are still waiting to be erected. Councillors to see the boards as they are substantial and cannot be sited in the original places. There was discussion regarding the placing of the board at Bredenbury. It was felt that this board should be easily accessed by the residents of Harp Lane and Valley View. It was suggested it could be by the post box but we would need to contact the school. Clerk to contact the school. Cllr Hancock and Cllr Jones to meet and check where it could be erected. The other board is to be sited at Grendon Firs. Cllr Hulse and Cllr Piggott to erect the board at Grendon Firs.
- 15. Correspondence:** Clerk has received notification of the 2021 Census and has put information on the website regarding a number of temporary jobs available. The clerk read a letter of thanks from David Sutton for our good wishes for Rosemarie and explained that they are pleased she is making a good recovery.
- 16. To raise matters for the next meeting:**
 - Lengthsman
 - TRO
 - Smartwater
 - Noticeboards
- 17. Dates for the next meetings:** Wednesday 16th December Wednesday 27th January 2021
The meeting closed at 8.26pm