

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 27th January 2021 at 7.00pm via GoToMeeting online

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

In attendance: Clerk Vicky Hancock, Ward Cllr Harrington, 2 residents in attendance

1. Apologies for absence: None

2. Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation: Cllr Hancock declared an interest in item 7.3.1 and signed the book accordingly. Cllr Piggott declared an interest Item 8 Planning (to sign the book in accordance with social distancing).

3. Open Session

3.1 Cllr Hulse had received query from a resident regarding the gates to the church/community car park asking why they were not open as they had wanted to park there to visit a grave. After contacting a PCC member, it was noted as an oversight and the gates would be open for parking in the future. No other views from local residents.

3.2 Ward Councillor Harrington delivered his report.

- Covid-19 update. Herefordshire had seen a significant spike in cases since Christmas with 203 deaths recorded. 121 patients currently in hospital. Tier 1 had an enormous effect on the numbers. The police had stopped 300 people crossing the border to come to the pubs in Herefordshire. There had not been any consultation from the government in the change of tier.
- Most over 80s in the county had now received their first vaccine.
- Still pressure to follow the rules and remaining focused on following the lockdown.
- The infection rate has reduced to 332 per 100,000
- The Council have been working on budget setting and this will be voted on in February. There are 12-million-pound savings to be made much of this is a result of the impact of the pandemic on resources. There will be restructuring within the council which will result in job losses and some cuts in services. The continued reduction in funding to local councils has had an impact on budgets.
- Transport review completed. Cabinet wants an eastern bridge and an improvement in cycling and walking and a bus system that will work for the entire county. Full council will vote on 2nd February.
- Herefordshire Council want the Locality Stewards to be brought back into council control. Our Locality steward has been covering Leominster but they are going to advertise for a replacement. There will be a PROW officer who can work with the stewards. Council also talking about bringing PROW, street works and traffic regulations over to the council to make these services more cost efficient.
- Cllr Harrington has chased up Ray Hickey regarding our list of concerns regarding the condition of the A44 and the report we sent. He has had a response which he will forward and it will be distributed to all councillors.

4. **To consider the minutes of the previous meeting:** Parish Council Meeting...16th December 2020. It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes and these to be signed by the chairman in accordance with social distancing.
5. **Co-option Councillor Vacancy for Wacton Parish** (local resident left the meeting for this confidential item) This item was moved to the end of the agenda after Item 15. Alex Gerrard expressed an interest to be co-opted as a councillor for the Wacton Parish. He was introduced to the councillors and invited to give a pen portrait of himself and share reasons for becoming a Parish Councillor. Mr Gerrard left the meeting. Chair requested a vote by a show of hands. By a unanimous show of hands councillors RESOLVED to approve the co-option of Mr Alex Gerrard as councillor for Wacton Parish. Cllr Hulse to inform Alex and Clerk to send out relevant paperwork and inform elections service.
6. **Budget Monitoring**
The Clerk shared the January budget monitoring sheet. The clerk reminded Councillors that the expenditure on SLCC membership and Smartwater is now showing under contingency which means there is an overspend of £81.88 on this budget heading. Little expenditure during this period and the budget variance stands at -3.92%. Councillors resolved to accept the January monitoring. To be signed by Cllr Hulse accordance social distancing.
7. **Finance**
 - 7.1 The Clerk shared the bank statement to 31st December 2020. Balance brought forward £10,643.89. The balance at 31st December 2020 £9,775.41. Noted and to be signed by Cllr Hulse in accordance with social distancing.
 - 7.2 Clerk shared the Bank Control Account to 31st December 2020 which detailed payments and receipts to date. Cheques issued and not drawn totalled £1,171.92. Closing balance £10,643.89. 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 January & note assessment report re: workplace pension
 - 7.4 The Clerk has submitted the VAT reclaim 09.03.20 – 31.12.20 for £714.57
8. **Planning Application P/204595** Grendon Manor, Bredenbury Proposed agricultural muck storage building. Prior to Cllr Piggott leaving the discussion a question was asked regarding the siting of the building. He explained that now they are using fewer antibiotics in the turkey sheds now they need to move the manure further from the buildings to prevent contamination. The muck needed to be in a covered shed rather than a heap to prevent any leaching from rainwater and contamination of the brooks. Cllr Piggott left the meeting. After discussion councillors RESOLVED to support the application with a recommendation that the consideration be given to the construction materials in order to harmonise with the surrounding countryside and thus minimise any negative impact of the visible amenity.
9. **Core Strategy & Hierarchy Review** (Cllr Piggott rejoined the meeting) Herefordshire Council are currently updating the Core Strategy and wish to collate up to date information from local communities regarding the services and facilities within the parish. Council agreed the Clerk could complete the survey on their behalf.
10. **Road Safety** Cllr Harrington has received a map from council highlighting the areas of concern along the A44 some of which have now become significant problems. We have reported these issues in the past but there has only been some patching which have not addressed the problem. Clerk commented on the weekly Locality Steward briefings. Often it is difficult to ascertain where the issues have been addressed because the area could cover a considerable distance. Cllr Harrington agreed that they are not always the easiest reports to decipher. It was suggested that What3words could be an idea. Cllr Harrington to follow-up.
11. **TRO ADL** have completed survey and average speed of traffic on Harp Lane is within the parameters to make it feasible to introduce a 30mph. They have comeback with proposals for the zone and

proposed siting of signage and details of the statutory consultation. The only item that wasn't mentioned in the report was the possibility of having flashing lights outside the school at the beginning and end of the school day. The Council is a statutory consultee and councillors agreed that the Chair and Clerk could complete the response and say it was in line with our policies and the surveys when developing the Neighbourhood Plan. Response to be received by 15th February. Cllr Hulse expressed thanks to Cllr Harrington for his support with this.

- 12 Lengthsman Update-** We have received an invitation to enrol for the 2021-21 PROW and Lengthsman scheme. Cllr Jones has completed the annual maintenance plan and invitation to be returned to Balfour Beatty Living Places. Cllr Farey updated us on the work that lengthsman has undertaken. Andrew has looked at the blocked drainage problem outside Wiggall and it appears the road has sunk and collapsed the drain underneath and therefore it is blocked. Cllr Farey to report this to the Locality Steward. He has checked by Butterley Mill Cottages where the stream has eroded the side of the footpath and bridleway. It is possible to put a post and rail around the area. Any materials to be purchased by the Parish Council. Andrew has looked at the pooling on the drive at the top of Brockington drive which is causing flooding on the main road. He has dug and cleared two drains where the sumps were entirely filled with silt. These are not part of the highway but a bridleway. Clerk asked that Andrew could submit his invoice for work completed.
- 13 Footpaths** Cllr Farey reported on the bridge and stile at Wacton Green Cottage. BBLP believe that these are not sited on the definitive footpath. Cllr Farey has looked at a range of maps and believe they are in the correct place and there is room to replace the bridge and stile. The footpath that runs between Little Wacton and Wacton Grange was discussed and it seems that the definitive map of the footpath and the statement defines the beginning and end of the footpath but not the route between these two points. The information and maps have been forwarded to the Locality Steward. Cllr Farey thanked for his investigative work into these issues.
- 14 Noticeboard** The noticeboard to be erected at Grendon Firs has proved tricky as there are too many tree roots in the way. It was decided to cut the posts down and erect the board on the fence. Cllr Piggott to complete.
- 15 Correspondence**
 - 15.1 Response from Nunwell Surgery
 - 15.2 Councillors had received a copy of a letter from Jo Churchill MP regarding the prescription changes at Nunwell. It is clear that the pharmacy needs to facilitate the ordering service depending on the needs of the community which can include a telephone service. The councillors agreed that the Clerk can forward this letter to the other parish councils to receive a copy of our original letter to the surgery.
 - 15.3 Letter from the Worcester, Bromyard, Leominster (WBL) Greenway Community Interest Company asking to be put on the Neighbourhood Plan consultation database. Seeking guidance on our response.
- 16 To raise matters for the next meeting**
 - TRO
 - Road safety A44
 - Lengthsman
 - Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to meet prior to next Parish Council meeting
- 17 To note dates of the next scheduled meetings** (via GoToMeeting)
 - Wednesday 24th February 2021
 - Wednesday 31st March 2021

The meeting closed at 8.21pm