

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 31st March 2021 at 7.00pm via GoToMeeting online

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

In attendance: Clerk Vicky Hancock

1. Apologies for absence: None received

2. Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation: Cllr Hancock declared an interest in items 6.4.3, 6.4.4 and signed the book accordingly.

3. Open Session

3.1 Cllr Hancock reported views from local residents at Grendon Firs. He has received communication regarding the state of the footpath from Grendon Firs to Three Pines garage. There are three families living at Grendon Firs who have young children at Bredenbury Primary School. Two of the families have younger children in pushchairs. They walk this twice daily and always worry about the stones, debris and encroaching vegetation that is making negotiating the pavement so dangerous. It was noted that many more local residents are walking up to the Egg Shed and the state of the pavement had been commented upon. The Councillors agreed this was a serious issue that needs resolving. Councillors requested the Clerk contact BBLP to initiate the procedure for getting this addressed.

3.2 Ward Councillor Harrington was called to an emergency meeting and was unable to participate but would send his update for distribution and asked that any issues arising from the meeting to be forwarded to him.

4. To consider the minutes of the previous meetings: Parish Council Meeting 24th February. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes and these to be signed by the chairman in accordance with social distancing.

Parish Council Extra-ordinary meeting 17th March 2021. 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 March budget monitoring sheet.

The budget variance stands at -13.6% under budget. Cllr Jones asked which were the major areas of underspend. Some underspend was clearly as a result of Covid-19 restrictions and under the following budget headings: Village hall hire, Clerk's mileage & expenses, Councillor's mileage & training, Cllr training HALC (used free training places), donations (only poppy appeal). Other underspend IT (unused), Noticeboards (donated) Grit bins (none replaced). Areas of overspend include the footpaths repairs and materials for Lengthsman, office expenses include postage to all residents regarding the NP referendum (this to be reclaimed), HC uncontested election charges.

Cllr Jones asked if we could invest the reserves in the current account. It was noted there would be little return on investments in the current climate and the Council would need instant access to funds if needed. Clerk to investigate a parish council reserves policy. Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the March monitoring. To be signed by Cllr Hulse accordance social distancing.

6. Finance

6.1 The Clerk shared the bank statement to 1st March 2021. Balance brought forward £9,380.36. The balance at 1st March 2021 £9,046.72. Noted and to be signed by Cllr Hulse in accordance with social distancing.

- 6.2 Clerk shared the Bank Control Account to 1st March 2021 which detailed payments and receipts to date. Outstanding cheques total £722.86. Closing balance £9,046.72
Noted and to be signed by Cllr Hulse in accordance with social distancing.
- 6.3 Council noted payments already made: to
 - 6.3.1 Autela Payroll Services £39.16
 - 6.3.2 HMRC PAYE Q4 £209.40
- 6.4 It was **RESOLVED** to agree the following payments:
 - 6.4.1 J Hulse Timber £210.60
 - 6.4.2 Andrew Wood Lengthsman services £200.00 (Cllr Hulse noted the work at Butterley Brook was very professional and completed to a high standard.)
 - 6.4.3 Clerk's March Salary & note assessment report re: workplace pension
 - 6.4.4 V Hancock Postage & Envelopes £102.68
- 6.5 Clerk notified receipt of P60 End of Year certificate 2021
- 6.6 Council discussed opening an account for the Parish Council at Bromyard Timber for Lengthsman materials. It was agreed Cllr Hulse to approach Bromyard Timber on behalf of the Parish Council.
7. **Planning Application P210508/F** Land at Grendon Manor, South of Grendon Firs, Bredenbury, Bromyard, Herefordshire, HR6 4TH. Proposed farm shop vending machine. In the documentation the applicant has listed potential providers of goods which could be sold through the vending machine. Cllr Hulse noted that his business was mentioned on the list but he has not been approached by the applicant and it is purely a cursory list of businesses in the area. Councillors discussed the fact that the current egg shed has been such an asset to the community during lockdown and continues to be well used and supported. It was disappointing that there had been a spate of thefts from the shed which has necessitated an application to change this facility. Councillors agreed it was a valuable community asset and the proposal meets the requirements of the following Bredenbury, Wacton and Grendon Bishop Neighbourhood Development Plan policies: BW&GB 15 Business Development BW&GB 17 Agricultural & Forestry Enterprises BW&GB 18 Enhanced Services & Facilities for the Community. Councillors agreed to support the application.
8. **Neighbourhood Plan Referendum** All households have received a letter encouraging them to vote on 6th May either in person or by post. The letter will be followed up with further communications via The Roundabout, the website and the NP banner on the village hall. Councillors can encourage people to turn out for the referendum.
9. **Lengthsman Update** Cllr Farey had been to the bridle way at Butterley Brook and noted by the number of hoof prints that this gateway had been well used and the gate was very easy to open and close. Andrew has said that whilst he is carrying out work under the instruction of the council he has been approached by residents asking him to do other jobs. He was concerned that they may take excess advantage of him when he is out and about completing his instructed work. Cllr Farey to instruct Andrew to remind residents they should email the Clerk with any issues. Cllr Jones to hold a review of the Lengthsman in accordance with the contract. Cllr Jones to produce a questionnaire to circulate to the Clerk, Cllr Farey as Footpath Officer and the Chair to document the work completed and the outcomes and any matters arising to lead to a formal appointment for the coming year. Cllr Farey asked to not participate in the review conversation due to a professional interest.
10. **Road Safety** Horse and Riders signs have now been installed. Two on Harp Lane and one on Wacton Lane. These have been well received and we have already had positive comments and thanks from local riders.
11. **TRO 30 mph Harp Lane** The statutory consultation period has now been completed so we will await to hear the outcome from ADL.
(Cllr Piggott joined the meeting at 7.45pm)

- 12. Footpaths** Cllr Farey forwarded correspondence he has been having with HC regarding the stile at Wacton Green. They have agreed that the observation Cllr Farey made regarding the stile was correct and they intend to install a bridge. This would mean a gate at the end of the bridge would replace the stile. An email from Louise Hart agreed the previous stream crossing was in the correct location – not the current crossing therefore a replacement bridge will be installed. Councillors thanked Cllr Farey for his hard work and persistence in getting this resolved.

The gulley under the road at Wiggall has collapsed and this has been reported to drainage and has a job number for completion.

The Wacton Grange area and the route of the footpath has been designated 'low priority' by HC.

- 13. Smartwater** Signs have now been installed; however, we are still awaiting the A1 signs to go on the 40mph signs at the entrance and exit to the village. If we are able to keep the temporary signs that would be a bonus but if we are unable to do that there is a Smartwater shop where we can purchase additional signs if necessary. When the new signs are installed, West Mercia would like a publicity photograph.

- 14. Correspondence** None

- 15. To raise matters for the next meeting**

NP Referendum

Road safety

Smartwater

Lengthsman

Footpaths

Reserves

- 16. To note dates of the next scheduled meeting** (via GoToMeeting)

Wednesday 28th April 2021

The meeting closed at 8.09pm