

Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 7.00pm via GoToMeeting online

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

In attendance: Clerk Vicky Hancock

1. **Apologies for absence:** None given
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** None declared
3. **Planning** P210100 2 Grendon Firs Bredenbury Bromyard HR7 4TH Proposed single storey side extension. The application complies with the Neighbourhood Plan Policy BW&GB 6 Extension to Dwellings. Councillors **RESOLVED** to support the application.
4. **Neighbourhood Plan Referendum** JH gave an update to Councillors on NP plans due to go to referendum. The issue is regarding Natural England (NE) having changed their stance with respect to the contamination of the RiverWye/River Lugg catchment. They had previously approved an interim approach which was known as a '5 -point plan' they are now saying they cannot sustain that. The knock-on effect of this is the impact on the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) which is an under-pinning principle in our Neighbourhood Plan. This means that Herefordshire Council have decided we can continue to go to referendum with our Plan, and even with a positive outcome they will not adopt the Plan until the issue with NE is resolved. Our concern is we are worried that people will feel it is not worth voting on the Neighbourhood Plan referendum. If we get a positive result our NP policies will still carry material weight. The key point therefore is for us to still promote the referendum and encourage people to vote. We have requested Cllr Harrington to ask for a positive statement confirming that 'if approved at referendum the Bredenbury Group NP would still carry material weight irrespective of whether it is adopted by Herefordshire Council' to go out from Samantha Banks Neighbourhood Planning Manager. Together with the Steering Group we will continue to promote the referendum. Polling cards will be delivered w/c 22.03.21 and the Steering Group will be putting together a letter to go out to all our voters at their meeting on Monday 22nd March.

The Clerk reminded councillors the scheduled Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 31st March

The meeting closed at 7.25pm