

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 30th March 2022 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors: John Hulse, Hugh Farey, Geoff Hancock, Pete Jones, Carolyn Gwynn, Alex Gerrard,

In attendance: Vicky Hancock Clerk

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Piggott, Ward Cllr Harrington
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** Item 6.4.3, Cllr Hancock signed the book accordingly.
3. **To consider the minutes of the previous meeting:** Parish Council Meeting 23rd February 2022. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes and these were signed by the chairman.
4. **Open Session**
 - 4.1 No local residents in attendance. There was discussion regarding the HGVs that have been using Rowden Lane lately. The Clerk has received a lot of communication regarding this from residents on the lane. It was clarified that these lorries were delivering to a farm whose access is on Rowden Lane. Cllr Hulse to note in his May update in The Roundabout that Rowden Lane has an 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign which is not a weight restriction but advisory.
 - 4.2 Ward Cllr Harrington emailed a brief report to members
 - **Covid:** The seven-day rolling rate of new cases by specimen date ending on 13 February 2022: the COVID-19 case rate in Herefordshire is 894.2 cases per 100k people. This is an increase of 29.1% on the previous week. Cases in England are 835.3 per 100k population. Hospitalisations remain relatively low.
 - **Ukraine:** The government now has an official website for anyone who may be able room for Ukrainians refugees – **Homes for Ukraine**. The Council suggests that donations are made via the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) but donations can be dropped off at The Bridge Street Sports Centre Leominster (by the recycling centre), The Bromyard Centre, amongst others, including Unit 37 on Three Elms Trading Estate in Hereford. Powdered milk, battery banks and hygiene products are in highest demand.
<https://www.talkcommunitydirectory.org/ukraine>
 - **Planters on City Link Road:** As part of the Hereford City Centre Improvement (HCCI) scheme which has a budget of £6 million (£3 million already in budget set up by previous administration and £3 million granted from the LEP) we have used some of those time restricted funds to put tree planters along the City Link Road to green an area which is currently barren and poorly designed. When we get the road layout here reconfigured to include a segregated cycle path as originally promised we can look to plant trees in ground and repurpose the planters. This is capital not revenue and unfortunately, cannot be used to reduce council tax.
 - **Dog Wardens:** Pencombe made a request for Herefordshire Council to consider what powers parish councils had to enforce dog fouling legislation. It was decided that a pilot scheme might be a good idea where a few parish councils had volunteers trained by Herefordshire Council to the standard where they could provide appropriate and robust witness statements (which would be needed to take an incident through the prosecution/court process if a warning or spot fine was challenged). This seemed a good idea and quite possibly, the ability for local volunteers walking around with a high-vis with

parish warden/dog warden printed on the back to gather evidence for Herefordshire Council officers may be all the weight that was needed locally to ensure more compliance.

- **Improvement to Children's Services:** Herefordshire Council continues on its improvement path with planned major investment in Children's Social Care Services but a request has come from the new leadership team for significantly more money than was originally projected to make the necessary changes and ensure we had an exemplar service. A recommendation to Cabinet requests a £11.49m investment to help ensure Children's Social Care Services are adequately resourced and that we provide the foundations for a more secure and resilient service for the future. Previous investment in Children's Social Care Services has already led to increased stability of workforce, reduced caseloads for some staff, increased levels of personal and case supervisions, and increased frequency of visits to children and young people and their families. The additional £11.49m funding will allow for significant and lasting improvements to reduce caseloads for Social Workers, provide more frequent and better supervision and management of our social care staff, and allow us to make more changes, more quickly to improve our social work practice for children and families in Herefordshire. Funding for the investment is being allocated from the Resilience Reserves, which is a fund to address unexpected organisational costs and help support the organisation in a time of need. This is a considerable expense at a difficult time in local authority funding but nothing compares to our duty to children and this is a long overdue improvement plan to add capacity and make lasting changes to the service, providing the necessary support for social workers (more staff) and ensuring all our looked after children are safe and there are no delays in assessing their needs and providing the appropriate intervention – which may be providing families with more support as a whole rather than looking to take children into care as the default position when staff numbers preclude proper assessment and family support. The total amount currently held in Resilience Reserves is £16.7m.

5. **Budget Monitoring** Chairman shared the March budget monitoring sheet. (Appendix i) Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept these and Cllr Hulse signed the document. It was noted that the council has met the Reserves Policy by carrying forward General Reserves closer to 12 months Net Revenue Expenditure.
6. **Finance**
 - 6.1 The Chairman shared the bank statement to March 1st. Closing balance £10,518.29 Noted and signed by Cllr Jones.
 - 6.2 Chairman shared the Bank Control Account which detailed payments and receipts to date. Noted and signed by Cllr Jones.
 - 6.3 Payments already paid noted:
 - 6.3.1 I.P. Culley Invoice BY11 £150.00
 - 6.3.2 Viking Office stationary £200.41
 - 6.3.3 Queen's Green Canopy Plaque £61.80
 - 6.3.4 Village Hall hire April 2021-March 2022 £200.00
 - 6.4 It was **RESOLVED** to agree the following payments:
 - 6.4.1 HMRC £14.00
 - 6.4.2 Autela Payroll Services Ltd Q4 £50.40
 - 6.4.3 Clerk's March Salary and note assessment report re: Workplace Pension
7. **Audit 2021-22** We have received AGAR paperwork from PKF Littlejohn for 2021-22 audit. It was **AGREED** to request internal audit from HALC. Clerk to action this.

8. Policy & Procedure

8.1 Asset Register 2021-22 All in agreement and Cllr Hulse signed as a true record of the Assets held by the Parish Council.

8.2 Standing Orders. Councillors **AGREED** the review of Standing Orders should be noted with no changes.

8.3 Review of Bank Signatories. Cllrs Hancock, Gwynn and Hulse **AGREED** to remain as bank signatories for Bredenbury & District Group Parish Council.

9. **Planning** Tree Preservation Orders. Regarding the letter sent to the Herefordshire Council to date we have not received any response but believe the communication has now been located.

10. **Local Plan** Local Plan Policy Options update. This has now entered a 6-week consultation process from 4th April. It was agreed that Cllr Hulse and Clerk Vicky Hancock would attend a briefing on Tuesday 12th April.

11. **Community Event** The planting of the tree for the Queen's Green Canopy on 13th March was a well-attended event. The church service, BBQ and bell ringing helped to make it a special day. Thanks to all involved particularly the special guests Barry Homer and Emilia Libby.

12. **Lengthsman** we received an expression of interest in the role. After discussion it was agreed to proceed with the appointment subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the tender process.

13. **PROW** Cllr Farey has produced the definitive map of the PROW in the group of parishes. Some discussion followed regarding historical changes to the PROW. Cllr Farey thanked for his work on this aspect.

14. **Road Safety** Traffic Management Group feedback. The group agreed that there should be an opportunity for consultation with the parishes and a sharing of the plans discussed. This should be in the form of a self-published brochure and letter to all residents. Alongside the Policies and Actions information it was decided that there should be a map which goes alongside these. Cllr Farey to share the map with the group at the next meeting. Other actions to be discussed are white lining and cat's eyes. Herefordshire Council has been contacted regarding accident data on the A44 over the last five years. Ward Cllr Harrington to request release of this information. Basic accident data can be accessed through www.crashmap.co.uk and www.collisionmap.uk

15. **Correspondence** New arrangements from Herefordshire Council regarding the management of Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO). These will move from Balfour Beatty Living Places to Herefordshire Council who will work in partnership with Hoople bringing these services back in-house.

16. **Confidential Item** Employment matters

17. Items for the next meeting

- Lengthsman Contract
- Local Plan Update (The council delegated the decision to contact Ian Culley, if necessary, prior to the next meeting)
- Feedback regarding Tree Preservation Order
- Traffic Management Plan

18. Dates of next meetings agreed:

Wednesday 27th April 2022 Annual Parish Meeting 6.30pm followed by scheduled Parish Council meeting 7.00pm

Wednesday 18th May 2022 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.10pm