

BREDENBURY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 7.00pm in a private room at The Barneby Inn

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

In attendance: Vicky Hancock Clerk, Bruce Baker Ward Councillor

1. **Apologies for absence:** Becca Libby
2. **Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation:** None given
3. **To consider the minutes of the previous meeting:** Parish Council Meeting 29th November 2023. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes and these were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Open Session**

4.1 Views of local residents

- A question regarding the signage on the A44 at the Pencombe term. The Clerk was able to tell the Councillors that we had first mentioned the state of the signage in October 2021 and it had been a factor in a serious incident involving a motor-cyclist in collision with a vehicle turning off the A44 into Pencombe Lane. The hidden dip sign and the reflective bollards beyond the Pencombe turn towards Bromyard are part of an improvement scheme on the piece of road that has seen two fatalities in the recent past. Cllr Hulse also commented that he had held a discussion with Simon Hobbs regarding the possibility of a further hidden dip sign on the approach to Bredenbury Court. Cllr Hulse agreed to follow up.
- A resident had reported the concrete beams are still unstable over the septic tank that serves the school and other properties. The Three Counties Academy Trust had been alerted to this
- We have received a complaint about the gates used to by-pass the cattle grids on the road to Butterley. Clerk to contact BBLP regarding the ownership of these gates.

4.2 Councillor Baker gave a brief update

- Parish Councils to contact BBLP if gulley cleaning is needed
- National Planning Policy Framework has been revised which may have an impact upon Neighbourhood Plans
- Met with National Highways regarding the A417/A49 junction at the bottom of Dinmore – plans to make improvements at this accident site
- Children's Services still under the control of Herefordshire Council after the latest report. Collaboration with Leeds County Council still in place
- Feedback from the meeting with the Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner, Paul Middlebrough. Disappointed with poor attendance but thanked Bredenbury for their participation. Cllr Baker also commented on the value of the newly formed A44 group representing several local parishes. (A note of thanks to Councillor Baker for organising the meeting).
- 66 private properties were flooded during the recent storms
- Norovirus has been reported in the county
- Permits for contractors and businesses to take rubbish for recycling are to be digitised
- A reminder that PCs need to have a Section 106 agreement wish list if appropriate

- Revised proposal to increase Council Tax by 4.99% to be on proposed on 9th February
- The delay in granting shotgun licences to be addressed with additional staff

The Chairman thanked Ward Cllr Baker for his update.

5. **Budget Monitoring** January budget monitoring sheet was reviewed and **APPROVED**. (Appendix i) Noted and signed by the Chairman.

6. **Finance**

6.1 Bank statement to 01 December 2023 closing balance £15,988.37 Noted and signed by Cllr Jones. Bank statement to 31st December 2023 closing balance £15,407.29

6.2 Bank Control Account 1st December 2023 was reviewed. Balance including outstanding cheque payments £15,407.29. Bank control account to 31st December 2023 was reviewed. Balance including outstanding cheques £14,918.41. Noted and signed by Cllr Jones.

6.3 Noted payments already made:

6.3.1 HMRC Q3 £90.20

6.3.2 Clerk's December Salary

6.4 It was **RESOLVED** to agree the following payments:

6.4.1 Autela Monthly Payroll Q3 £59.84

6.4.2 HALC/NALC Subs and Affiliation 2024/25 £503.93

6.4.3 J Hulse Asset of Community Value application postage £4.80

6.4.4 Clerk's January Salary note assessment report re: Workplace Pension

6.4.5 J Whistance Electrical £256.70

6.5 Asset register updated to include the defibrillator. Signed by Cllr Hulse.

7. **Planning** P233324/F Wacton Grange, Wacton Lane, Bredenbury HR7 4TQ. Proposed installation of 3 air source heat pumps. It was agreed to **SUPPORT** this application in line with NDP policy BW&GB 13.

8. **Defibrillator** The clerk reported that the defibrillator has now been sited on the wall of the school house at Bredenbury Primary School and is visible from the A44. The cabinet is unlocked for immediate access in line with latest advice.

9. **Lengthsman** update. There has been no communication with our Lengthsman for several months. After many failed attempts it was **AGREED** that with regret the contract should be terminated. It was agreed that a replacement Lengthsman should be sought. BBLP have sent details of the Lengthsman Scheme. The amount which could be received for work on C & U roads has been reduced. It was decided not to participate in the scheme.

10. **Dog Fouling Signs** The Clerk collected two signs from Plough Lane and it is intended that they will be installed on Wacton Lane.

11. **Parish Footpath Officers** Cllr Farey, who is our Parish Footpath Officer, has expressed concern regarding the guidelines that have been issued on behalf of Herefordshire Council. He is concerned they establish a direct reporting relationship between the PFO and Herefordshire Council. The Clerk had sought advice from HALC on this issue who confirmed that the PFO should report through the Parish Clerk. In addition, the advice had stated that PFO should not engage in direct discussion with landowners which again, is contrary to our understanding and practice. In many instances, that direct discussion can lead to a speedy and positive outcome. Clerk to inform HC of the decision of our PFO.

12. **County Plan Consultation** The Parish Council had been invited to participate in an online consultation on the County Plan 2024-2028. The day before the scheduled meeting there was a paper distributed with the questions that would be asked and voted on at the meeting. On reflection the Chair decided that he could not respond on behalf of the council without having discussed it at a meeting beforehand. Therefore, he declined to attend the Zoom meeting. The papers for the consultation were discussed at the meeting and it was **AGREED** that council would

not participate in the consultation as the survey could not possibly contribute to a meaningful outcome in terms of prioritising activities and expenditure. Copy given to Cllr Baker. Chair to respond to Impact Consultancy with the decision.

13. Neighbourhood Planning

13.1 The clerk informed the meeting that the deadline for grants available through Locality for Neighbourhood Plans was changed and had now passed.

13.2 We had been contacted by the owners of two of the potential development sites within the settlement boundary. They had advised that they are planning to achieve a reduction in the overall nutrient output from their developments by offering to install, free of charge, modern package treatment plants in up to three adjacent properties with existing septic tanks. A leaflet outlining this proposal has been distributed by the owners to nearby properties.

14. Feedback APCC meeting – covered in Cllr Baker's report.

15. Feedback BBLP Annual Plan Delivery 2024-25 Chairman and Clerk attended a presentation of the annual plan. Cllr Hulse commented that it was disappointing that the meeting, which we understood to have been focused primarily on Parish Councils, was diverted onto issues which would have been better dealt with elsewhere. Commenting on the meeting content, Cllr Hulse asked that Cllr Baker investigate and answer the following points:

Are rural C & U roads less likely to be prioritised?

How are TROs designated? Are requests which do not use the Community Commissioning Model disadvantaged irrespective of their merit on the basis of funding?

16. Road Safety

- Following several earlier incidents in 2022 on Wacton Lane, a further 2 serious incidents involving lorries have left a dangerous soft verge. BBLP have put up warning signs. However, as well as the soft verge there is an adverse camber on the road which really needs addressing. Cllr Baker advised that he planned to meet the Locality Steward later that week and promised to raise this issue.
- JACs update – they have received the information regarding utilities where the gates are to be sited. BBLP to remove spoil so the SID base can be located.
- The hedge opposite the turn to Noakes Riding School has been cut back.

17. Village Hall update 17.1 Insulation has been completed thanks to volunteers. Plastering to be completed by the end of the week. Flooring to be selected and then 2nd fix electrics can be done. Volunteers to fit and paint the soffits and the corridor between the kitchen and the main hall to be concreted and then all the levels will be complete. Cllr Gerrard, Cllr Jones and Cllr Berwick offered help.

17.2 The revised application had been sent to HC for appraisal. Cllr Baker commented that he would be very surprised if the application was unsuccessful on this occasion.

18. Correspondence

18.1 Mineral and Waste Local Plan – our recommendations on the consultation have been implemented.

18.2 For information D-Day 80 celebrations to be on June 6th 2024

19. Matters for the next meeting: Road Safety, Asset of Community Value, Lengthsman.

20. Dates of next meetings agreed:

Wednesday 28th February @ 7pm

Wednesday 27th March @ 7pm

Wednesday 24th April @ 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.50pm