

Llangarron Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Tuesday 26th November 2019 at 7.30pm in Llangarron Village Hall

Present: Councillors: Paul Bailey (Chairman), Barbara Fisher, John Norman, Simon Wainewright, Nigel Moore, Neil Wheeler and Nick Saunders.

In attendance: Parish Clerk Mark Hearne, Ward Cllr Elissa Swinglehurst & 16 members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence

Councillors Liz Dingsdale, Sylvia Matthews, Paul Lodge and John Joseph.

2. To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation – Councillor Simon Wainewright declared a non-DPI against Agenda items 5.1-5.3. Councillor Barbara Fisher declared a non-DPI against Agenda item 5.4.

3. To consider the minutes of a meeting held on 29th October 2019 – It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4. Open Discussion – The Chairman agreed to extend the open discussion to 25-30 minutes.

4.1 - To receive views from local residents on parish matters. The following issues were raised;

4.1.1- A resident expressed health and safety concerns over the proposal to install high speed broadband and 5G at the telephone exchange in Llangarron. **Post Meeting Note – the proposals form planning application 193967 issued by the LPA on the 25th November 2019.** The health and safety concerns revolve around “dangerous “levels of radiation which was suggested would be harmful over time.

4.1.2-The clerk confirmed that, in response to a question from a resident, that future agendas will be forwarded to all subscribers to the website as well as being posted on noticeboards in the usual way.

4.1.3-It was suggested that residents may wish to re-submit recent e-mails to the new clerk to make sure all were received and actioned as necessary.

4.1.4-A resident sought reassurance from Councillors that they would adopt a more conciliatory tone when discharging their responsibilities as Parish Councillors especially when considering planning applications. It was requested that this issue be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

4.1.5-Agenda items 5.1-5.3 – Planning Re-consultations relating to Biddlestone Orchards. Several residents questioned why the Parish Council were only considering four of the seven applications especially as all are interdependent. The Chairman acknowledged these concerns but explained that no rationale for this decision had been provided by Herefordshire Council.

Many residents expressed the view that there was little, if any, difference from the previous applications and the 600 or so objections around issues such as drainage, environmental impact and infrastructure remain equally valid.

4.1.6-A resident enquired why the issue around 20 mph speed limits has been extended to include the whole parish and subject to consideration by a Working Group.

4.2 – To receive a brief verbal report from Ward Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst. Included in her report were the following key issues:

- 4.2.1 - Herefordshire Council is continuing consultation on the budget for 2020/21.
- 4.2.2 - Herefordshire has changed its approach in the transfer of care resulting in an improved service which has delivered £5-6m in savings.
- 4.2.3 - Invited information or instances of soil loss in the parish which will be investigated.
- 4.2.4 - Due to high phosphate levels in the River Lugg no planning permissions are being granted throughout the catchment area.

5. Planning – Comments on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council.

5.1 – Planning Re-consultation – 173778 - Biddlestone Orchards, Llangarron. Erection of profiled steel-clad portal frame general purpose agricultural building.

5.2 – Planning Re-Consultation – 173779 – Biddlestone Orchards, Llangarron, Covered elevated lorry dock/loading platform.

5.3 – Planning Re-consultation – 173780 – Biddlestone Orchards, Llangarron. Upgrading existing vehicular access/egress to/from the A4137 Garrenhill Road and laying out of upgraded access track.

As the three planning re-consultations detailed above are interdependent, Councillors considered them collectively. Following discussion and taking into account the views of residents expressed during the open session it was concluded that there was little or no change in those proposals tabled earlier in 2019. It was, therefore, RESOLVED that the clerk write to the LPA confirming that the objections submitted in June 2019 remain valid and represent the Parish Council's current position on each of the re-consultations.

5.4 – Planning Consultation – 193672- Holly Cottage and The Nurseries, Llangrove, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. Proposed demolition of outbuildings, alterations and extension to Holly Cottage, redefinition of curtilages of Holly Cottage and The Nurseries, and erection of domestic garage for The Nurseries. Following discussion, Councillors confirmed that they had no objection to the proposals, and it was RESOLVED that the clerk write to the LPA accordingly.

6. Highways – To receive an update on highway issues.

6.1 - Councillor Nick Saunders reported that the roads were in a worse state of repair following the recent floods. Specific issues were identified during a recent journey around the parish with the Locality Steward. It is planned to hold a further meeting with the Locality Steward after Christmas 2019. Councillor Saunders asked that any issues connected with the highway should be forwarded and he will liaise with the Locality Steward as necessary.

6.2 - To consider the purchase of grit bins – Councillor Barbara Fisher reported that the cost of a grit bin was £474 (plus VAT) and it was RESOLVED to revisit this issue in 2020. The clerk advised that Balfour Beatty have offered all Parish Councils a tonne of salt. It was RESOLVED that the clerk ask the lengthsmen if he could accommodate this amount of salt.

6.3 – To consider setting up a Working Group to identify speed reduction initiatives across the parish. It was RESOLVED that Councillors Saunders and Lodge form the Working Group to investigate this issue.

7. Policies – To consider drafting policies on:

7.1 – Co-option. It was RESOLVED that the clerk would circulate a draft policy to Councillors in advance of the next Parish Council meeting.

7.2 – Abusive, persistent or vexatious complaints – It was RESOLVED that a decision on whether to adopt this draft policy would be deferred until the next Parish Council meeting.

8. Lengthsman - To receive an update from Councillor Norman.

8.1 – Outstanding Invoices. Councillor Norman explained that there are four outstanding invoices from the lengthsman each supported by details of the work undertaken. It was RESOLVED that payment should be made in settlement of these invoices.

8.2 – Lengthsman scheme – Due to the absence of contractual cover the lengthsman ceased work in the summer of 2019 but an Authorisation Letter is now in the possession of the lengthsman. Councillor Norman also reported that an allocation of £6k was set aside for lengthsman work in April 2019.

8.3 – Complaint against the lengthsman – Councillor Norman reported the details of a complaint received from a resident against the lengthsman. The lengthsman has provided a written statement in response to the complaint which Councillor Norman considered was a reasonable explanation for the action he took in dealing with flooding in Llangarron.

8.4 – The Chairman read out a letter received from a resident in which they complained about a drain in Llangrove which has not been cleared for over six months. Details in the letter will be provided to Councillor Norman who will liaise with the lengthsman.

8.5 – Councillor Fisher mentioned the “missing” sign in Llangrove, and it was RESOLVED that this would be reported to the Locality Steward.

9. Finance – To approve outstanding payments. – It was RESOLVED to make the following payments.

9.1 – HALC - £1349.10

9.2 – Lengthsman - £2089.20

9.3 – Llangarron Community Association - £50.00

9.4 – Llangrove Church (Hall Hire) - £16.00

9.5 – Llancloudy Chapel - £16.00

10. Training – To consider booking sessions from the latest HALC training schedule – It was RESOLVED that the clerk would circulate details of HALC courses to all Councillors.

**11. Next Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 28th January 2020 at Llangarron Village Hall
7.30pm**

Signed.....

Dated.....

DRAFT