

Llangarron Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Thursday 28th January 2020 at 7.30pm in Llangarron Village Hall

Present: Councillors: Paul Bailey (Chairman), Sylvia Matthews, Barbara Fisher, John Norman, Simon Wainwright, Nigel Moore, Liz Dingsdale, Paul Lodge and John Joseph.

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

1. To receive apologies for absence

Councillors Nick Saunders and Neil Wheeler.

2. To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation – Councillor Paul Bailey declared a non-DPI against Agenda items 5.1 and 5.2. Councillor John Joseph declared a DPI against Agenda item 5.3.

3. To consider the minutes of meetings held on 26th November 2019 and 18th December 2019 – It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4. Open Discussion –

4.1 – Ward Councillor Report – In her report Elissa Swinglehurst referred to a recent briefing from Balfour Beatty which had majored on the substantial increase in Category One defects which has exerted additional pressure on their available resources. In order to respond to the high number of defects it has been necessary to rely increasingly on temporary repairs. Balfour Beatty have now invested in a high velocity patching machine which will be diverted to patching duties in March 2020. There is also a serious shortfall in the budget for maintaining bridges across the county.

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

4.1.1- A resident commented that there had been less evidence of Lengthsman activities this year.

4.1.2- A resident expressed concern over what he perceived to be a concerted effort to convey false information against Planning Application 193230 (Trejenna).

4.1.3- A resident suggested that the Parish Council could leave a legacy to future residents of Llangarron by facilitating the rewilding of the village.

4.1.4- The poor state of the roads was raised with Whitchurch and Hilltop Farm being specifically mentioned. Councillor Paul Lodge commented that this is an ongoing issue with the Locality Steward who is aware of the problem but is constrained by the lack of available financial resources.

4.1.5- A resident expressed support for Planning Application 193230 (Trejenna) and also commented on the status of the minutes of the PC/NDP meeting of the 16th October 2019. The clerk confirmed that the minutes will be uploaded to the website by the end of the week. The resident also expressed support for the proposed 20 mph speed limit in Llangrove and also suggested that Councillors had failed to attend recommended training on the NDP.

4.1.6- A resident raised concern over the increasing problem of dog excrement pointing to an instance where dozens of bags of excrement had been dumped in a field occupied by sheep. Councillor Barbara Fisher commented that the Herefordshire Council has supplied dog fouling signs which will be erected, with the assistance of the Lengthsman, by the end of February 2020.

4.1.7 – The proposed replacement of a bench in Llangrove and it was RESOLVED that the clerk would investigate the costs in time for the next Parish Council meeting.

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

5.1 – Planning Consultation – 200020 – Kentrev, From Llangrove Trewern Road to Kentrev Property, Llangrove, Herefordshire. Demolition of existing commercial greenhouses and the construction of three residential dwellings (C3) along with associated infrastructure. Following discussion Councillors decided to object to the proposals set out in the planning application because of serious safety concerns over children and students accessing Leapfrogs and the Academy. Other concerns raised by Councillors revolved around increased traffic accessing the site, potential drainage issues, increased maintenance costs on the road and the potential for further development in the future. It was RESOLVED that the clerk notify the LPA accordingly. **(Post meeting note – the start and finish times for both Leapfrog and the Academy were provided to the clerk who incorporated this information in the response to the LPA)**

5.2 – Planning Re-Consultation – 193230 – Land adjacent to Trejenna, Llangarron, Ross-On-Wye, Herefordshire – proposed development of two residential dwellings including new vehicular access of the highway. During discussion, Councillors acknowledged and welcomed the amendments to the original application but did not consider they addressed the objections set out in the response in October 2019 especially as the proposed development is outside the village boundary contrary to Policy RA3 of the Core Strategy. It was RESOLVED that the clerk notify the LPA accordingly.

5.3 – Planning Consultation – 194213 – Land opposite Tredunnock Farm, Llangarron, Ross-On-Wye, Herefordshire – Proposed single storey dwelling and new vehicular access. Following discussion Councillors objected to the proposals set out in the planning application on the grounds that the site of the proposed development is outside of the settlement boundary and situated in open countryside contrary to RA3 of the Core Strategy.

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

6.1 – Councillor Paul Lodge asked for some Terms of Reference for the Working Group established at the previous Parish Council meeting in order to identify speed reduction initiatives across the parish. It was RESOLVED that the clerk would draft guidance to be submitted to Councillors Lodge and Saunders.

6.2 – Councillor Lodge reported that he is waiting for the Locality Steward to agree a date in February 2020 to conduct a survey of the parish. There is already a long-standing list of highway issues but echoed Ward Councillor Swinglehurst's statement about the limited financial resources available to Balfour Beatty to fund the remedial work required.

6.3 – Councillor Lodge presented his paper setting out the options for tackling the issue of excessive speeding in Llangrove. Dismissing the do-nothing option Councillors debated

whether the introduction of a 20-mph speed limit at an estimated cost of £14,450 should be implemented over a one (Option 1) or two-year (Option 2) period. Following discussion, Councillors agreed to pursue Option 1 which will achieve the validation of the speed limit and the submission of a report to the Assistant Director Highways and Transport at Herefordshire Council during 2020/21 at an estimated cost of £4,500. To cover the cost of this work it was RESOLVED that the precept be increased by £4,500 to £27,500 for 2020/21.

7. Draft Precept & Budget 2021/22

7.1 – Precept 2020/21– It was RESOLVED that the clerk notify Herefordshire Council that the precept for 2020/21 will be £27,500.

7.2 – Budget 2020/21 – Based on information provided by Councillor John Norman it was RESOLVED to increase the budget for the lengthsman from £3640 to £8000.

8. Policies - To consider draft policies on:

8.1 – Co-option – It was RESOLVED to adopt the Co-Option policy and for the clerk to publish the document on the Parish Council website.

8.2 – Abusive, persistent or vexatious complaints – Councillor Sylvia Matthews explained that the draft policy was borne from a recommendation from the County Solicitor and is designed to afford protection to the clerk from vexatious and intimidatory correspondence from residents. It is not intended to prevent legitimate enquiries of the Parish Council. Although some Councillors expressed reservations over the draft policy it was approved by a majority decision but would be subject to a review within the next 3 months.

9 Lengthsman - To receive an update from Councillor Norman.

9.1 – Councillor Norman explained that due to the absence of contractual cover the lengthsman ceased work between April – October 2019 but has now been issued with an Authorisation Letter. Councillor Norman also reported that he has in his possession a costed breakdown of all the work undertaken by the lengthsman.

9.2 - It was RESOLVED that £1500 is released to allow the lengthsman to undertake the emergency work set out in Councillor Norman's written report.

9.3 - Ward Councillor Swinglehurst was unable to provide any further news on the £25,000 grant for lengthsman drainage issues but agreed to investigate further.

9.4 – It was further RESOLVED that the lengthsman is given the task of filling grit bins with salt provided by Herefordshire Council.

9.5 – Councillors agreed that the lengthsman erect the dog fouling signs currently in the possession of Councillor Barbara Fisher.

9.6 – It was RESOLVED that payment (£1708.80) should be made to the lengthsman in settlement of invoices TGC 947, 950, 951 & 966)

9.7 – It was RESOLVED to include Footpaths on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

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

10.1 – Clerk’s salary in accordance with his employment contract (December 2019 & January 2020)

10.2 – Clerk’s travel expenses - £64.80

10.3 – Stationery - £4.39

10.4 – Postage - £7.32

10.5 – PAYE – December 2019 & January 2020 - £217.80

10.6 – Garron Centre - £25.00

11. Training – To consider any current training needs – It was noted that the agreed budget for 2020/21 included an increased provision to meet any training needs during the next financial year. Councillor Matthews reported that arrangements will be made to source some training/guidance from the NDP team with Herefordshire Council and dates will be circulated in due course.

12. Clerk Correspondence.

12.1 – A request has been received from Llangarron Parochial Church Council for a donation towards the cost of repairing the church wall. The clerk advised that any financial support towards the cost of maintaining church property/land would contravene the Local Government Act 1894 and could be open to a legal challenge. Consequently, Councillors decided against making a donation. It was RESOLVED, however, that the clerk write to the Llangarron Community Association asking if they would be able to contribute towards the cost of the repair to the wall.

12.2 – A resident had written raising concerns about the alleged behaviour of some Parish Councillors towards some parishioners with regards to planning applications. It was RESOLVED that the clerk write to the correspondent advising that Councillors noted the content of their recent e-mail.

12.3 – The same resident raised two questions in connection with the Parish Council’s position in response to the climate emergency but Councillors were denied the opportunity of debating the issue because of the need for the Chairman to suspend the meeting at 22:10 hrs due to disruptive behaviour from some residents present.

Signed.....

Dated.....