

Llangarron Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Tuesday 25th February 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, John Joseph and Neil Wheeler.

In attendance: Parish Clerk Mark Hearne, Ward Cllr Elissa Swinglehurst & 6 members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence

Councillors Nick Saunders

2. To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation – Councillor Paul Bailey declared a DPI against Agenda items 5.1.

There was agreement to Councillor Norman's request that all Parish Council business should be conducted in an open and transparent manner. It was further agreed that each Councillor should have an equal right to express their views but when a decision has been democratically approved it should be respected and not undermined.

3. To consider the minutes of meetings held on 28th January 2020 – Councillor Lodge tabled the following amendments which were agreed.

Paragraph 4.1.2 "194213 (Tredunnoch Farm)" to be replaced with "193230 (Trejenna)"

Paragraph 6.3 – "Councillors agreed to pursue Option 1" should be replaced with "Councillors agreed to pursue Option 2".

Councillor Joseph asked that his declaration of interest be amended to read DPI.

With these amendments 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 focused on the serious flooding across the county and recommended that it was important to acquire a deeper understanding of the circumstances which contributes to the problems. As the recent storms will inevitably occur again in the future it will be necessary to acquire knowledge of how the Garron functions in order to build some flood resilience. To be effective this needs to be a collaborative exercise involving landowners.

Herefordshire Council have set the budget for 2020/21 and funds allocated to deal with the phosphate issues in the River Lugg catchment area.

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

4.1.1- A resident commented that they had been allowed insufficient time to speak during the Parish Council meetings.

4.1.2-A resident asked if the Parish Council were intending to take any action to preserve the “old school wall” and the church wall. Councillors explained that as these walls were not the responsibility of the Parish Council it would be inappropriate to fund any repairs from the precept/budget.

4.1.3- A resident asked for advice should they again be prevented from leaving their property due to flooding. Councillor Norman confirmed that he would be content to be contacted should this occur again in the future.

4.1.4-The poor state of the roads at Whitchurch was raised by a resident especially as repairs undertaken on the 5th February 2020 had already started to fail by the 21 February 2020. Ward Councillor Swinglehurst explained that Balfour Beatty are currently focusing on temporary repairs due to the substantial backlog. Councillor Lodge added that Whitchurch is scheduled for a total repair when resources allow.

4.1.5-A resident expressed concern over the behaviour exhibited at the previous Parish Council meeting.

5. Planning – Comments on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council. Councillor Bailey (Chairman) left the room whilst the following application was discussed with Councillor Matthews assuming the Chair for this part of the agenda.

5.1 – Planning Consultation – 200208 – High View, Parkmill, Llangarron, Herefordshire. Conversion of and alteration to an outbuilding to form a dwelling house. Following discussion Councillors decided to support, by a majority decision, the proposals set out in the planning application with the clear proviso that there would be no material changes to the application in the future.

6. Flooding - Councillor Norman reported on two flooding/drainage issues:

6.1 – Dovecote Corner – The problem results when heavy rainfall leads to a high volume of surface water accompanied with silt and debris which then leads to pooling of the water. The surface water runs off the field onto the closed to traffic part of the U71210. The cost to the Parish Council of removing the accumulated silt is £150 on an ongoing basis is not sustainable in the longer term. The solution revolves around seeking the assistance of the landowners to help remove the silt when future flooding occurs.

6.2 – Treessey Farm – Action taken by the landowner to redirect the pipe under the road has led to drainage issues resulting in flooding on the road. The landowner has erected a lambing tunnel on top of the pipe which exacerbated the problem. The landowners have offered to excavate and backfill the trench if the Parish Council funds the cost of the pipes which the lengthsman estimated to be circa £1k.

6.3 – There was general discussion about the current and future effects of the climate emergency/flooding especially on the more vulnerable residents and businesses in the village. Ward Councillor Swinglehurst suggested that it was important to “walk” the Garron to look for any obstructions/siltation. It was also recognised that a collaborative approach with landowners was important. It was, therefore, RESOLVED that Councillor Joseph would act as the interface between the Parish Council and landowners. It was further RESOLVED that the clerk undertake some research to provide some relevant climate emergency initiatives which may have some utility in the parish.

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

7.1 – Councillor Paul Lodge referred to the resolution to introduce the proposed 20mph speed limit in Llangrove over a two-year period.

7.2 - Councillor Lodge reported that the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Working Group formed to identify speed reduction initiatives across the parish will be submitted, for approval, to the next Parish Council meeting.

7.3 – Councillor Lodge reported that he met the Locality Steward on the 6th February 2020 during which they surveyed routes in both Llangarron and Llangrove and highlighted areas where repairs are required. The timetable for undertaking the repairs will be dependent on the necessary funding becoming available. As soon as resources allow a full repair to the road adjacent to Hilltop Farm will be undertaken. Councillor Lodge added that the relationship with the Locality Steward is working well.

8. Updated Budget 2020/21 and Review of projected end year position (2019/20) – The clerk briefly updated the meeting on the changes to the budget (2020/21) following decisions taken at the last Parish Council meeting. The principal changes include an increase to the lengthsman budget to £8k and the inclusion of £4.5k to cover the work on the 20-mph speed limit in Llangrove. The effect of absorbing NDP costs over the remaining grant monies would result in a modest reduction in the general reserve. Councillor Lodge highlighted that the Parish Council will shortly be asked for payment from Herefordshire Council towards the cost of the elections held in May 2019 and this would reduce the level of the reserves at year end by some £1700. It was agreed that a financial report will be submitted at each Parish Council meeting.

9 Lengthsman - To receive an update from Councillor Norman – Councillor Norman reported that there are no immediate issues to highlight and all outstanding invoices will be presented by the end of March 2020.

10. Footpaths – To receive an update from Councillor Dingsdale – Councillor Dingsdale provided a brief update explaining that Terry Griffiths had been appointed to provide routine footpaths maintenance but due to previous issues around communication essential work had stalled. It was RESOLVED that Councillor Dingsdale’s list of footpaths repairs would be forwarded to Terry Griffiths via the clerk and this work would be undertaken as part of a maintenance day[s]. It was further RESOLVED that Terry Griffiths would erect two posts for dog fouling signs.

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

11.1 – Clerk’s salary in accordance with his employment contract (February 2020)

11.2 – Clerk’s travel expenses - £16.20

11.3 – Stationery - £61.35

11.4 – Postage - £7.32

11.5 – PAYE – February 2020 - £93.60

11.6 – HALC - £762.82

12. Clerk Correspondence.

12.1 – A request has been received for Parish Council support towards the maintenance of the “old” school wall and the church wall. As both walls are privately owned the Parish Council considered it is a matter for the respective owners to facilitate any necessary repairs. It was RESOLVED, however, that Balfour Beatty are asked to maintain all Herefordshire Council owned verges.

12.2 - A resident asked if the Parish Council could address the issue of the poor state of the steps on the footpath leading from Stone Bridge. It was RESOLVED that the lengthsman would investigate and report back on his findings.

13 – Date of Next Meeting – The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 31st March 2020 beginning at 19.30hrs

Meeting closed at 21.25hrs

Signed.....

Dated.....