



Bartestree with Lugwardine Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7.00pm in the Bartestree Village Hall.

Minutes

Present:

Councillors: Polly Smith (Chair) David Evans, Siobhan Green, Paul Hodges, Jennifer Karayiannis, Wendy Soilleux, Ron Williams, Fiona Harris & Paul Wargent.

In Attendance:

Parish Clerk - Richard James
Herefordshire Council S106 Department – Jennifer Hilton-Trout
Designer – Fran White
Ward Member – Cllr Ivan Powell
Public - 18 members

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the designer and the Herefordshire Council officer. The Chair gave a brief outline of the 5 top requirements which came out of the public consultation in order and votes.

Ranking	Project	No of Votes	% of Votes
1	Combined walking, jogging and cycling track	241	29%
2	MUGA – Multi Use Games Area	227	27%
3	Outdoor Gym	135	16%
4	Football Pitch	131	15%
5	Leave 50% of the field as open mowed space	110	13%

The Chair reported that there had been leaflets dropped around the village, which were factual but had NOT come from the Parish Council. It was a right of any individual in the UK to express their freedoms of speech and had the right to circulate leaflets.

The Chair explained how the business of the meeting would take place and if things became rowdy, she would suspend the meeting.

1. To receive apologies.

There were No apologies.

2. To receive Councillor Resignations.

The clerk reported that Cllrs L Hoppe & A Long had resigned. Vacancy Notices had been put up in accordance with the law.

3. To receive declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations.

To Note - *The following declarations of interest were received.*

Cllr P Smith in item 9.2 and 13

Cllr P Hodges in item 13

Cllr P Wargent in item 13.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 04.01.24.

Resolution – *The minutes of the meetings held on the 04.11.24 were adopted as a true record and then signed by the Chair.*

5. To receive a Presentation on the Community Field.

Fran White introduced herself and her background. Fran had worked for the Herefordshire Council for 26 years design and overseeing play areas. presented 2 designs, Plan A (Minus a Football Pitch) & Plan B (With a Football Pitch) and briefly outlined the reasons why equipment was sited where it was, however this was flexible.

Fran explained that following the consultation there were over 66 ideas for the community field. Fran said she had managed to include 30 of these ideas including the Parish Councils top 5. Fran explained that there has been no costing done and this will only happen after the final design has been approved. But did say the running / walking and cycling track would around £20 - £25 per meter and this would be gravel.

Seats and waste bins have not been put on the plan as this would be down to the Parish Council once the plan had been approved.

Jeniffer Hilton-Trout said that the Herefordshire council was holding £67k of S106 monies for community field. The Paish Council would also need to look for outside funding from places like the National Lottery. Also, there was a covenant on the field stating there could not be any flood lighting or permanent builds on the field.

6. Councillor to ask questions on the Presentation.

Cllr Ron Williams.

(Q1) – What is the cost going to be for all the trees.

(Q2) – Would like to see the Gym equipment spread out around the area.

(A1) – Funding could be obtained through the “Tree Council Funding” so there would be no cost to the Parish Council.

(A2) – This may not be practical as the trend shows outside gym equipment users like to have their equipment all together. Other sorts of equipment could be placed around the field.

Cllr Fiona Harris.

(Q1) – Will the container / portacabin ③ require an electric and water supply.

(Q2) – Could the Miyawaki Forrest be moved.

(A1) – No there are other ways to supply electric and water to the container.

(A2) – Yes this would not be a problem.

Cllr Paul Wargent.

(Q1) – Enquired on how much theses designs are going to cost the Parish Council.

(A1) – Free of charge.

Cllr Jenny Karayiannis – No question.

Cllr David Evans –

(Q1) – The trees along the roadside ① will these replace the hedge or be an addition to the hedge.

(Q2) – How high is the mound ⑧ area going to be.

(A1) - The trees will be an addition to the hedge.

(A2) - The mound will be about 4’ or 5’ high.

Cllr Siobhan Green – No question.

Cllr Wendy Soilleux.

- (Q1) - Showed concern about the Roadside trees ① sheeding their leaves and making any running track slippery.*
- (Q2) - The leaves would also be an ongoing maintenance issue.*
- (Q3) - The residents had asked for a lot of open space. Could the Miyawaki forest ⑨ area be reduced, making more open space and the area is not so cluttered.*
- (Q4) - Could wildflowers be planted if required.*
- (A1) & (A2) - The trees could be a variety which does not shed their leaves.*
- (A3) - Yes, the Miyawaki Forrest could be reduced in size and moved if required.*
- (A4) - Yes, not an issue to plant with wildflowers.*

Cllr Paul Hodges.

- (Q1) - Could the roadside trees be moved to the rear of the site and plant smaller to fill the gaps in the hedge.*
- (Q2) - Concerned about the cost of large trees.*
- (A1) - It is something which could be done as this was just the 1st design.*
- (A2) - The cost of the trees on the site could be met by the Tree Council funding.*

Cllr Polly Smith.

- (Q1) - Could the picnic area ⑭ be moved as that area is wet under foot and then in the summer dusty from the traffic using the drive to Stalls Fm.*
- (Q2) - Could the Miyawaki Forrest ⑨ be moved into the wet corner where the picnic area ⑭ is so the roots would dry up that area.*
- (Q3) - The Oak trees where the pedestrian Entrance ⑤ all have Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) upon them so it may not be possible to put the pedestrian entrance there. Also, the roots of these trees would need to be protected.*
- (A1) - Yes, the picnic area could be moved.*
- (A2) - Yes, the Miyawaki Forrest could be moved but we must be mindful of the PROW footpath going across this area.*
- (A3) - The trees would have to be protected and advice would need to be obtained.*

7. Public Open Session on the Presentation.

Resident 1 - Comments.

- (1) - Good design, they like football but have issues with the football pitch.*
- (2) - They have major concerns about the management of the football pitch as they get thrown off the present pitches.*
- (3) - All they want is a pitch they can have a kick about on with their children.*
- (4) - Who is going to manage the football pitch area.*
- (5) - The Parish Council needs to make sure the Community can use the Pitch area anytime.*
- (6) - Concerns about footballs going onto the main road which may cause an accident.*
- (7) - Concerns about the noise from the football pitch and a noise survey needs to be carried out.*
- (8) - Concerned about footballs hitting pedestrians walking or running around the track.*

The Chair of the football club gave the resident and the Parish Council assurances that there would not be any adults playing football on the pitch it is for children up to the age of 13.

Resident 2 - Comments

- (1) - Congratulation on getting so many of the items the community asked for on the design.*

- (2) - It would have been nice to see a rain garden in the area.*
- (3) - They like the outside Gym equipment and can see this equipment being used a lot.*

Resident 3 - Comments

- (1) - Could the Miyawaki Forrest be moved.*
- (2) - Could the walking/running and cycling track go through the Miyawaki Forrest.*

Resident 4 - Comments

- (1) - Was the Mental Health of people taken into consideration when designing the field.*
- (2) - Was disabled advice taken when designing the field, if not could it be.*

Resident 5 – Comments

- (1) - Concerns about users of the community field going through the hedge along the A438 instead of using the official entrances.*
- (2) - Could the gaps in the roadside hedge be replanted ASAP for safety reasons.*

Resident 6 - Comments

- (1) - How is the football pitch being funded.*

The Chair of the Football club said that they had a £50k grant from the football association for this new pitch.

Resident 7 - Comments

- (1) – It would be nice to see fruit trees on the field.*

To Note – All the comments by the members of the public were noted.

8. Open Session.

Ward Member – (Cllr Ivan Powell)

- 1. As a member of the cabinet much of our time necessarily has been taking time to consider carefully the level of precept – the discussion point being whether it should be 4.99% or lower. The advice from officers has been that if we did not set at 4.99% then it risks making the following 3 years more challenging with potentially bigger funding gaps to address. The decision has been to set at 4.99% which has enabled us to secure our medium-term financial strategy. Discussions have been predicated on achieving a balanced budget for next year which has been very challenging.*
- 2. The cabinet strategy for the capital programme includes investment of £10 million pounds on road repairs, £12 million in investment in economic development, which in turn specifically includes New Model Farm at Ross on Wye. In addition, £1 million of investment across our market towns. You will appreciate much of this is focussed on economic growth to secure more employment opportunities.*
- 3. In terms of specific focus on parish level matters we have secured funding for the lengthsman scheme, public rights of way and drainage work.*
- 4. We have managed to produce a balanced budget, which is a challenging budget, but is a position which many other local authorities nationally have been struggling to achieve.*

To Note - Cllr Ivan Powell report.

Public Open Session

To Note – There were no additional questions from the public.

9. Community Field Requests.

9.1 – Parking for Football Tournament on 18th & 19th May 2024

9.2 – Village Fete on 4th August 2024.

9.3 – Mark out a Football Pitch and re-seed areas.

Resolution – (9.1) – The Parking on the community field for Football Tournament on 18th & 19th May 2024 was APPROVED.

(9.2) – It was APPROVED that the Event Committee could use the community field to hold the Village Fete on 4th August 2024.

(9.3) – It was APPROVED to allow the Football Club to Mark out a Football Pitch and re-seed areas on the community field and use until the end of the football season.

10. To Approve Payments.

	Payment	Net	Vat	Total
10.1	Clerk Salary – Tax & Pension – February 24	As per Contract		
10.2	Clerks Expenses	102.60	0.00	102.60
10.3	HALC – Subs 24/25	1380.40	276.08	1656.48

Resolution – All these payments were approved by the council for payment.

Payments Made

10.4	PFA – Grant Ash Tree	200.00	0.00	200.00
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To Note – This previously agreed payment was noted.

11. Footpaths Officer Report & consider actions.

To Note – There was No footpaths officer report.

12. Tree Wardens Report & consider actions.

To Note – Nothing to report this month.

13. Lugwardine and Bartestree Community Café.

- Permission for a permanent sign to advertise the dates/times of the Cafe at the entrance of the Community Hall on Parish Council land.

Resolution – The Parish Council decided not to grant permission for an advertising sign after receiving concerns from a member of the Village Hall committee. They felt it would encourage other users of the Village Hall to request the same and this would clutter up the front driveway entrance to the Hall.

14. Lengthsman

14.1 - Advert

Resolution – The lengthsman advert was approved.

15. Contracts.

- 15.1 - Parish Council Grass Cutting
- 15.2 - PFA Grass Cutting
- 15.3 - Hedge Cutting

Resolution – *All of the contracts (15.1) – (15.2) – (15.3) were APPROVED by the Council.*

16. Play areas.

- 16.1 - Frome Park
- 16.2 - Village Hall

To Note – *The Play areas were all OK.*

17. Working Group Reports

- 17.1 - Highways
- 17.2 - ECO
- 17.3 - Youth Club update

To Note – *It was noted that none of the working groups had met because they were awaiting on information to hold the meeting.*

18. Community Speed Watch

Resolution – *Council APPROVED that Cllr F Harris would be the new lead on the Community Speed Watch.*

19. Allotments.

Noted – *The Clerk had emailed a resident who may be able to help with regards to an allotment site, no reply had been received to date.*

20. Clerk Report.

- 20.1 - Dog Poo signs

To Note – *The school is working on a design, and it is hoped a design will be chosen by the end of the school term.*

- 20.2 - Ceremony Beacon

To Note – *Still working on a design.*

- 20.3 - Crime Commissioner Funding

To Note – *The Clerk reported that sadly the Parish Council was unable to apply this year for a number of reasons. The Highways plan had not been received from the consultant. No costing had been done and the time scale was extremely tight.*

- 20.4 - Picnic Table - Frome Park

To Note – *The Clerk is going to order the picnic bench and have it delivered directly to the play area.*

- 20.5 - Pot Holes

To Note – *Balfour Beatty had filled many of the potholes, but there were still more to be filled. The Council asked that members of the public report all the potholes they see on the Herefordshire Councils website. More complaints the more urgent the repair.*

- 20.6 - Burdon Drive Street sign

To Note – *Clerk was still awaiting a reply from Balfour Beatty.*

20.7 - Dot Gov email address

To Note – *The clerk will chase up HALC.*

20.8 – Community Field - Dogs becoming ill

To Note – *This was noted by the Council, however there was no direct proof as other dog walkers had used the community field and their dogs were fine. The Council will monitor the issue.*

21. Future Meeting Date.

The meeting was closed at 9.02pm.



Signed:

Cllr W Soilleux
Chair for the Meeting

Dated 7th March 2024