

BARTESTREE WITH LUGWARDINE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2015 AT 7.30 PM IN BARTESTREE VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Councillors: Mrs W Soilleux (Chair); R Williams; Mrs L Hoppé; Mrs F Matthews; P Wargent; D Greenow; Mrs J Karayiannis and M Wilson.

In Attendance:

Mrs E Wilson (Parish Clerk/RFO);

Members of the public: 4

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs G Davies (Vice Chair); N Shore; Lucinda Rowberry (Chair of NDPSG)

2. To Adopt the Minutes of the Meetings held on Tuesday 13 January 2015 and Tuesday 3 February 2015

The Clerk confirmed that the Minutes had previously been circulated to Council Members.

Resolved: The Minutes were adopted and signed by the Chair

3. To Receive Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensations

Items 7.3 Cllr M Wilson – non-discloseable pecuniary interest as stepson owns development land in the area

Items 18 Cllr P Wargent – non-discloseable pecuniary interest as Village Hall Representative

Items 18 Cllr Mrs F Matthews – non-discloseable pecuniary interest as Village Hall Representative and husband collecting rubbish

Resolved: Interests Noted

4. Neighbourhood Development Plan

4.1 To receive a Report from The NDPSG Chair

Comments: A written Report had previously been circulated to all Councillors as follows:

The draft Herefordshire Local Plan / Core Strategy which will also deliver the five year land supply has been examined by a registered Inspector during February. However, due to the number of objections that have been raised, it is likely to be some time before the Local Plan is adopted and in force.

If a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is produced by the Parish prior to the Local Plan being adopted it will be matched to the Old UDP and not to the new NPPF and become out of date once the Local Plan is adopted. The NDP would then have to be redone to conform to the new Local Plan and the NPPF. It is the new NPPF policies that encourage and enshrine the principles of localism. The old style UDP does not.

Our Parish has been inundated with planning applications for large-scale developments and there appears to be no mechanism to stop these applications whilst the Local Plan remains unadopted. It is quite likely that many more dwellings than the suggested 118 may be approved and subsequently constructed.

All sites that have been offered as possible sites for development are graded according to their suitability under the SHLAA and HLAA assessments. If a proposed site is classed as "rejected" an NDP cannot put it forward as a proposed development site but a developer may do so. The status of all the proposed development sites is under review but the 2014 review, which has been long promised, has not been completed and will not be so for at least another two months.

The situation in Lugwardine is that one development project (Quarry Field) has been allowed on appeal and there is a proposal for a small-scale development on the field north of Traherne Close. Of the other Lugwardine sites, two have significant constraints and the remainder fall into the rejected category.

In Bartestree there are three sites under appeal and two sites where an application is pending. The results of these are awaited. One other site had a planning application withdrawn. All the remaining sites are either not possible to develop in the short to medium term or are classed as rejected.

The NDP Steering Group is therefore unable to put forward any sites for consideration at this present time.

There will be an Information Meeting to discuss the situation on Thursday 21st May at 7.30pm at Bartestree Village Hall to which all parishioners are invited.

Resolved: Comments noted.

5. To Receive Brief Verbal Reports from:

5.1 District Cllr D Greenow

Comments: Cllr Greenow advised that he had attended a meeting with Balfour Beatty when he highlighted some of the complaints he had received from residents regarding work – or lack of work/common sense – carried out including potholes and signage. He has also spoken to the Herefordshire Council regarding the lack of movement with the Local Plan/Core Strategy. Cllr Greenow made it plain that he felt it was unjust for such an inordinate delay particularly when bearing in mind the amount of hard work and time put in by the Steering Group and Parish Council, which appears to account for nothing.

Cllr Greenow then asked to deal with Item 9 – Transport Working Group and the queries raised below – see under Item 9

Resolved: Cllr Greenow's comments were noted and he was thanked for his Report

5.2 Local Police Officer

Resolved: In the absence of a local Officer, no report was received

6. Open Time – To Note Matters Raised by Local Residents Relevant to the Parish

Resolved: Mr Mike Fitzgerald advised of a forthcoming event at St Mary's RC High School, Lugwardine on 21 and 22 March 2015 and distributed leaflets giving further details.

7. Planning:

7.1 To Receive a verbal Report from the Planning Committee

Comments: Cllrs W Soilleux and M Wilson remarked on the various applications and decisions relating to planning matters, details of which are contained in the Minutes of the Planning Meetings.

Resolved: Comments noted and Cllrs Soilleux and Wilson thanked

7.2 To Note the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 16 December 2014, 31 January 2015, 27 January 2015 and 10 February 2015

Comments: The Minutes had been circulated previously

Resolved: Noted

Before discussing and voting on the following item the Councillors stated that they had attended this meeting with an open mind on this matter

7.3 To consider the following Planning Application Appeal: -

140757	Land East of Church House and West of A438, Bartestree, Hereford Residential development of up to 51 new dwellings of which up to 18 will be affordable
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Comments: There were no comments offered from members of the public in attendance. The Parish Council had nothing further to add to the previous comments, save that the paragraphs relating to sewage and water and the cumulative effect should be updated.
Resolved: The Parish Council did not support the appeal. In accordance with his Declaration of non-discloseable pecuniary interest Cllr Wilson did not vote. Cllr Greenow abstained.

8. Financial Matters

8.1 To Receive a Report from the RFO

The RFO gave a report and commented that bank balances to date were in order. Community Account £5,362.93 and Business Saver Account £28,917.94

The RFO pointed out that cheques to the value of £5,479.85 had not yet been presented. Therefore the correct balance in the Community Account is £63.08. As there will be expenses to pay during the period from March to April 2015, when the first Precept payment is due, monies from the Business Saver Account will need to be transferred back to the Community Account.

The Financial Notes including payments made and income received since the last Meeting was previously circulated.

Resolved: The Financial Report was noted and accepted by the Council. It was agreed that the RFO arrange to transfer sums between the Business Saver and Community Account as and when the need arises, the amount being at her discretion.

8.2 To Consider and Agree:

8.2.1 Payments made since 13 January 2015 [As listed in Finance Notes]

Resolved: The following payments were noted:

Carver Jones – Land Registry Fees – NDP (943) £87.00; Lidel – Refreshments NDP (944) £17.23; A Bayliss – Play Area Inspection (945) £45.00; T Mobile Top Up (946) £10.00; CPRE Renewal (947) £36.00; TM Jones – Hedge Cutting (948) £175.00; Mike Dyer – Lengthsman/P3 (949) £173.00; T Mobile Top Up (950) £10.00; Eve Wilson – Jan Salary and Room Allowance (951) £**.**;

8.2.2 Payment of outstanding Invoices [As listed in Finance Notes]

Resolved: The following payments were agreed:

Community Development Fund – Repayment NDP Grant (952) £2,008.71; Daniel Squire – Tree Maintenance (953) £1,872.00; Herefordshire Council – Paper Copies Planning (954) £60.00; HALC Subscriptions 2015/16 (955) £853.27; Eve Wilson – Feb Salary and Room Allowance (956) £**.**; Balfour Beatty – SIDs (January) (957) £180.00;

8.3 To consider transfer of monies from Community to Business Saver Account **Comments:**

Resolved: The sum of £10,000.00 has been transferred from the Community Account to the Business Saver Account.

8.4 Annual Inspection of Playground equipment be carried out by Herefordshire Council Parks & Countryside Service at a cost of £50.60 plus VAT

Resolved: Agreed

8.5 To consider Smith & Derby's offer regarding the cost of the annual clock service

Resolved: It was agreed to arrange for a 5-year service in the sum of £816.00, which allowed for a 15% discount

9. Transport Working Group

9.1 To request update from the Ward Councillor regarding

(a) 30mph speed limit along Blackhole Lane

Comments: Cllr Greenow advised that he had spoken to the Highways Department who said that as any speed limit would be unenforceable they are not

willing to change any of the signage. He will try to encourage them to change their attitude.

Resolved: Comments noted

(b) 20 mph speed limit along the A438 between the Village Shop and William's Mead at the beginning and end of the school day

Comments: The Highways Department have advised that they will carry out a speed survey, but pointed out that the school is not on the main road. Cllr Greenow was advised that parents are being actively encouraged to use the Village Hall car park, which results in children having to cross the main road to get to the school. The matter is 'in the system' but it is unlikely that there will be any action for at least 3 months.

Resolved: Comments noted

(c) School signs on A438

Comments: It was pointed out that the sign is positioned too high and Cllr Greenow advised that he would alert the Highways Department of this. As soon as funds are available a school sign will be implemented.

Resolved: Comments noted and Cllr Greenow thanked for his assistance.

10. To Receive Questions from Councillors (tabled 7 days prior to Meeting)

Resolved: No questions received

11. Parish Plan – Actions

Comments: Many Councillors have been too busy to deal with this but hope to deal in May 2015

Resolved: It was agreed that the Councillors would bring details to the next scheduled Meeting.

12. To receive an update on the current position regarding the signage at the Village Hall entrance

Comments: Consent to Display Advertisements was given on 13 February 2015. Cllr Wargent advised that he had obtained 3 quotations for the Notice Boards. It was proposed that the signs should be silver writing on a black background reading "Bartestree, Lugwardine and Dormington Village Hall and Playing Fields". The Notice Boards would be green oak timber. Quotations (excluding VAT) are: -

(a) Signman Furniture - £1,500.00 to include installation

(b) Tim Hawkins, Fine Furniture - £1,600.00 no installation and

(c) GJ Williams - £937.00 plus £340 for installation

The sign itself would cost £300.00 for 2 from Signs & Labels in Hereford.

Daniel Squire has quoted £500.00 plus VAT to remove the existing signage, level out the existing soil and backfill with top soil and finish off the entrance with sowing of grass seed and planting of daffodil bulbs. Also to generally clear up the area and remove old fencing.

The fee for the Planning application was £55.00. The Village Hall paid £480.00 for removing the original hedge. There is a sum of £2,000.00 in Restricted Funds allocated for the signs and playing fields entrance.

Resolved: It was agreed that GJ Williams be instructed to supply and install the boards. Signs & Labels are to prepare the 2 signs and Daniel Squire to carry out groundwork. The Parish Council will be responsible for any balance in excess of that in Reserved Funds. Cllr Wargent was thanked for dealing with this matter.

13. To consider work done/required under the Lengthsman Scheme

Comments: Details of the work done was circulated prior to the Meeting.

Resolved: The Clerk will write to Chris Good to advise that his details will be kept on file for future reference. It was agreed that the Parish Council are happy with the existing Lengthsman, Mike Dyer. The Clerk will request Mr Dyer to clear all lanes of litter.

14. **To consider and discuss the position and installation of the Cycle Rack at the Village Hall**
Comments: Cllr Wargent advised that the Village Hall Committee were happy with the suggestions made by him and Cllr Shore as to the location of the cycle rack at the eastern edge of the covered area at the entrance to the Village Hall building.
Resolved: Noted
15. **To consider and discuss the condition of the pavements in Wilcroft Park, Bartestree**
Comments: Cllr Williams advised that the pavements were deteriorating and in a very poor state of repair. There is one young resident who uses an electric wheelchair and Cllr Williams is concerned that he may suffer an accident if something is not done soon.
Resolved: Cllr Williams will arrange for residents to compile a series of photographs showing the defects and the Clerk will then write to Balfour Beatty to request that repair work be undertaken.
16. **To consider and discuss the position regarding the potential sale/change of use of The New Inn**
Comments: Mr David Matthews gave a presentation and felt that it would be a loss to the community if no effort was made to try and retain this Grade II building for community use. He asked that the Parish Council agree to register the building as an Asset of Community Value. This will give some breathing space to allow him to consult with other local residents with a view to making some proposals as to how the building may be retained by the community.
Resolved: The Parish Council agreed to register the New Inn as an Asset of Community Value.
17. **To discuss action required regarding the foundation hole between the main football pitch and car park**
Comments: The foundation hole has been filled and the Chairman of the Football Club has been thanked
Resolved: Noted
18. **To consider and discuss possible contribution to Village Hall towards collection and management of litter**
Comments: There is already someone dealing with collection of litter in the Play Area although it is likely he will cease in the not too distant future.
Resolved: A decision on this item will be deferred until the situation becomes clearer.
19. **To Note the Information Sheet**
Resolved: Noted
20. **To Raise Items for the next Scheduled Parish Council Meeting [no discussion]**
21. **To Note the Date and Time of the next Scheduled Parish Council Meeting**
Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 7:30pm

Meeting concluded at 9.30pm

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Signature of Chair

Date: 12 May 2015