



Bartestree with Lugwardine Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7.00pm in the Bartestree Village Hall.

Minutes

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Parish Clerk - Richard James
Public - 1 member

1. To Welcome new Councillors.

The chair welcomed Cllr David Welton and Cllr Andrew Thomas to the Parish Council.

2. To receive apologies.

To Note – Cllr David Evans gave his apologies.

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

To Note – Cllr Paul Hodges & Cllr Polly Smith declared an interest in item 7.5 grant application for the Community Events Team.

Cllr Siobhan Green declared an interest in item 15.1 PTFA request to use the community field on the 22.06.24.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 07.03.24 & 21.03.24.

Resolution – The minutes of the meetings held on the 07.03.24 & 21.03.24 were adopted as a true record and then signed by the Chair.

5. Open Session. (20 minutes are allocated for this session)

- To receive a report from Cllr Ivan Powell (Ward Member)
- To receive representations from the members of public

To Note – There were No questions from the members of the public.

6. Planning Applications.

	Application No	Address	Permission sought
6.1	240422	Land to the East of Hereford,	Outline planning application for the demolition of existing, buildings and structures and the erection of up to 350 dwellings (including affordable housing), a farm shop and café, employment workspaces, and land for a

		South of Ledbury Road (A438), Hereford,	potential primary school, along with associated parking, access roads, walking and cycling routes, public open space, landscaping, sustainable urban drainage and other associated works, site clearance and infrastructure. All matters reserved except access, which is partially reserved, with detailed approval sought for the primary vehicular site access via the A438.
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Resolution – The Bartestree with Lugwardine Parish Council *OBJECTS* to this application for the following reasons.

- 1. There are no major infrastructure projects being planned like upgrading the highways network, new schools, new doctors & dentists etc.*
- 2. Additional pressures on the already struggling public services across Herefordshire.*
- 3. The NHS including the Hospital has no room for any expansion, due to the extra calls on its services. There is already a bed shortage, already having to wait longer for appointments and treatment.*
- 4. The housing planned, makes no provision for affordable market value smaller starter homes, thus retaining the youth within Herefordshire.*
- 5. It is a large site, all of which is very close to and part of which is adjacent to a SSSI nature reserve, the Lugg Meadows. SSSI is the highest level of protection a habitat can have.*
- 6. The adjacent land is rare, ancient Lammas Land that has never been divided by fences. A large part of it is owned by two wildlife trusts, the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and Plant Life. Lammas Land is so named because the landowners allow the grass or other crop to grow from Candlemas, 2nd February, until Lammas, 1st August, by which time the crop must have been harvested and removed. Then from Lammas until the following Candlemas, those people with grazing rights are allowed to let their livestock, such as sheep or geese, to graze the land. These are ancient traditions that go back to medieval times, so it is very important that the land is protected from contamination by a large, neighbouring housing development.*
- 7. The existing attenuation ponds and land designated for additional ones have been full and overflowing all Winter so will clearly not cope with additional water when the hillside above is covered with 350 new dwellings and associated buildings. If the ponds overflow, then the excess water and potential pollutants will flow on to the adjacent SSSI and then into the River Lugg. Environmentally, this would be a completely unacceptable situation.*
- 8. 350 new homes would give rise to at least 700 additional vehicles exiting on to the A438, with congestion, particularly during morning and evening periods. In addition, vehicles going to a farm shop and to a potential primary school would result in an unacceptable volume of traffic with its associated air and noise pollution.*
- 9. The site is in a remote part of Hampton Bishop Parish, with the result that its effects would intrude to a much greater extent on the residents of Tupsley and Lugwardine in terms of traffic congestion on the A438, and the increase in air, water and noise and light pollution, than those in Hampton Bishop. However, the latter might well find that the covering of such an extensive area of land with housing could result in more flooding in their village as the site borders a natural and very necessary flood plain.*

10. Planning application 240422 fails to comply with Hampton Bishop NDP Policy HB6 as it is a very large development, particularly when compared to the number of dwellings in Hampton Bishop, and it would be outside the settlement boundary by some considerable margin.
11. Planning application 240422 fails to comply with Hampton Bishop NDP Policy HB8 Part 6 as a locally very distinct landscape would be lost with no compelling reason to support the loss.
12. Planning application 240422 fails to comply with Hampton Bishop NDP Policy HB9 Green Infrastructure because a priority habitat, namely a wet meadow and its existing eco-system habitat could lose its protection and be at high risk of damage from water, air, noise and light pollution.
13. Planning application 240422 fails to comply with Hampton Bishop NDP Policy HB10 because it is a proposed development in an area of high landscape sensitivity on the urban fringe of the City of Hereford that must be avoided to protect both the rural and historic character of the parish and the visually unique approaches to Hereford from Lugwardine and Mordiford. It is very likely that the proposed buildings would break the skyline and would be more likely to extend the urban character and most certainly would not provide an appropriate transition from urban to rural character.

7. Financial Matters

Resolution –

- 7.1 - Unity Bank Main Statement - March 24 - £ 8,758.23.
 7.2 - Unity Bank Saver Statement - March 24 - £ 116,486.31.
 7.3 - Budget Monitoring - March 24 - was approved and signed by the chair.
 7.4 - Bank Reconciliation - March 24 - was approved and signed by the chair.
 7.5 - Grant Application - Bartestree and Lugwardine Community Events Team - £1000.00

Cllr P Smith was asked by the Parish Council to give a brief overview of the event they were asking funding for. Cllr Smith said it was to hold a Community Fete, they had learnt a lot since last year and have many more attractions and events, like trade stands, food stalls, children's games etc. there will be a large marquee in case of inclement weather.

Cllrs P Smith and P Hodges left the room whilst this item was being discussed. It was AGREED to offer a grant of £500.

8. To Approve Payments.

	Payment	Net	Vat	Total
9.1	Clerk Salary – Tax & NI - April 24	As per Contract		

Resolution – The payment was approved by the council for payment.

9. Footpaths Officer Report & consider actions.

Noted – A short verbal report was given by the footpaths officer (Cllr Andrew Thomas) he had been out installing footpath marker signs and continues to do on going PROW works.

10. Tree Wardens Report & consider actions.

Noted – No tree warden report received.

11. Play areas.

- 11.1 - Frome Park

11.2 - Village Hall

Noted – Cllr Wendy Soilleux reported a second tree had been broken off at the Frome Park Play area. Fortunately, Cllr Soilleux was able to stake the broken tree, the Parish Council hoped this is not going to be a new trend of vandalism within the village. Everything at the Village Hall play area was ok.

12. Allotments

Cllr Paul Wargent said that there had been a recent advert offering a small plot of land for an allotment. But unfortunately, it was not large enough for allotments the Parish Council would need. Several plots of land around the Parish had been investigated and the Parish Council were still awaiting a reply on one plot.

Noted – That the Councillors and the Parish Council would still actively look for possible allotment sites.

13. School Safety

Cllr Paul Hodges reported in the press, that a couple of the local schools had received a grant for road safety. But he had been unable to find out whether this was true. School safety continues to be a concern locally and within the Parish Council. The traffic chaos around the primary school at drop off and pick up times was dangerous. It was felt that there should be better warning SCHOOL signage should be installed along the A438 and especially around the pedestrian crossing area.

Resolution – The Clerk would contact the ward member and speak to the police and Herefordshire Council about signage and any safer route to school's programme.

14. Local Plan & Transport Plan

Several of the Councillors had attended the Local Plan presentation which was held in the Village Hall by the Herefordshire Council. It looks like they have allocated 60ish new dwellings for the Parish around the Crossroad area in Bartestree and due to the mineral rights on the allocated land this development would not be developed for many years. The Local Plan presentation is now on the Herefordshire Council website where a consultation questionnaire can be filled in. The Clerk also has a paper copy if any resident requires one.

Resolution – That the Parish Council should make as many residents as possible be aware of the consultation questionnaire and get them to submit a reply.

15. Community Field

15.1 – PTFA use request 22.06.24

The Parish Council had received a request for the PTFA to use the community field for their event on the 22nd June 2024.

Resolution – It was Agreed that the PTFA could use the community field on their preferred date.

15.2 – Name

Cllr Paul Wargent said now things were moving forward with regards to the community field and the fact the word community field had a negative response from some residents, it was about time it was named. The Community field is going to be an important part of the local community and any new name should reflect this. Cllr Wargent said that following the sad passing of Christopher Gibbons the field should be named after this remarkable young man.

Resolution – The Parish Council Unanimously Agreed to this, subject to the family's approval.

16. Youth Club.

There was no formal report, but Cllr Siobhan Green reported that things were still moving forward, and the local youth remained keen and supportive.

Noted – The verbal report was noted.

17. Clerk Report.

17.1 - Bus Shelter Glass repair.

Noted – The clerk is getting a quotation for replacing the broken panels.

17.2 - Ceremony Beacon

Cllr Siobhan Green reported that it was still on track to be made in time for the lighting on the 6th June 2024.

17.3 - Locality Steward

The Clerk reported that he was in contact with the Locality steward, and they were trying to work through the list of works within the Parish.

18. Hedgerow Repair

This work of clearing out and re-planting new hedging plants along the roadside hedge of the community field had taken place. The Chair on behalf of the whole Parish Council thanked the Councillors Paul Hodges, Wendy Soilleux and Ron Williams for their time and hard work in replanting this hedge.

19. E-Mail Storage

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council mailbox is at 95% of its storage capacity and emails need to be deleted before the mailbox stopped receiving emails. The Clerk was unable to save any of the emails digitally as he did not have access to do this. Any email would have to be printed off individually. It maybe time for the Parish Council to look at hosting its own email server. Cllr Fiona Harris said she has had to set up a new email server and if the Parish Council wished she would investigate the matter.

Resolution – The Parish Council agreed for Cllr Harris to do this and report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

20. D-Day Celebration

The Chair enquired if it was still the wish of the Parish Council to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D-Day on the 6th June. Several Councillors came up with ideas to help the celebration, there was already a youth sporting event going on at 6pm and would be nice to include them. The schools maybe interested and wish to take part, a food vender could be invited to supply food and teas and coffees would be done by volunteers. The beacon is going to be lit at 9.15pm along with other beacons around the world.

Resolution – The Parish Council agreed that it must support this special occasion.

21. Future Agenda Items

Noted – There was no items for future agendas on this occasion.

As the D-Day celebration was on the 6th June the same evening as our June Parish Council meeting it was agreed that the June meeting would start at 6pm and finish at 8pm any item still left for debate would be deferred until the July meeting.

The Chair said there will be an Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting on the 25th April following the Annual Parish Meeting to discuss some planning applications and in closed session the solicitors advice for making a decision.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting was meant to be on the 2nd May but due to a double booking by the Village Hall as elections are being held on this day, the Clerk asked if the next meeting could be moved to the 16th May as this would also give him time to do the end of year accounts.

Resolution – *It was agreed to move the Parish Council meeting to the 16th May 2024 at 7pm in the meeting room at the Bartestree Village Hall.*

*Annual Parish Meeting on **25th April 2024**
Date of next Council Meeting **16th May 2024***

The meeting was closed at 9.08pm.



Signed:
Chair of the Council

Dated 16th May 2024