

BARTESTREE WITH LUGWARDINE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a parish council meeting held on
Tuesday 12th September at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall**

Present:

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

In attendance

Acting Clerk ... Lynda Wilcox (HALC), 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Paul Wargent.
2. **Declarations of interest and written dispensation requests ...** There were none.
3. **Open Discussion**
 - 3.1 The Chair read out items from Ward Councillor Ivan Powell's report:
 - 3.1.1 Works on the Lugg Bridge had been delayed but were starting now.
 - 3.1.2 A local resident had been asking about 30mph repeater signs throughout the village – it was noted that street lamps were indicative.
 - 3.1.3 Vetting for the CSW (Community Speed Watch) scheme was being chased.
 - 3.2 Views of local residents on parish matters:
 - 3.2.1 In response to a query about permanent traffic lights on the bridge, it was suggested that the Highways Working Group would look at the suggestion again, because it had previously been suggested that there was a problem in accommodating the necessary cables for permanent lights.
 - 3.2.2 Village Hall:

It was noted that the 2022/2023 accounts had been prepared and the AGM would either be held on 26th October or early in December.

Work to convert the old nets site to an overflow car park would commence the following week and would necessitate temporary fencing to close off the footpath. It had been agreed to put surplus soil and gravel to the east of the Village Hall and then to grass.

The draft constitution for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation had been approved by the Committee and would be submitted to the Charity Commission. It had been agreed to have one Trustee representing each of the PC, PFA and Dormington Parish Council.

Electric Car Charging points were being explored but 24-hour access could be an issue and there was no 3-phase electricity.

The Committee was grateful for the 3-way sharing of the Biffa Bin cost.

The Food Bank is being well used.

There were a couple of spaces for new Trustees, and these would be advertised.
4. **Footpaths Officer ...** There was a gate which was difficult to open on FB BJ3 from the A438 to Weston Beggard.

5. Tree Officer ... A brief verbal report included:

- 5.1 The Tree Officer gave a brief verbal report and there was discussion concerning a potentially dangerous Ash tree suffering from die back, as it wasn't clear whether it was on parish council or Village Hall land. The PFA believed it to be on Village Hall land. It was therefore suggested that the Village Hall be informed that the tree could be a safety hazard and suggest that they inform the Football Club to cease the informal football sessions of youngsters in the vicinity of the Ash tree, for health and safety purposes.
- 5.2 It was agreed that the Council would obtain three quotes for the work on trees at the entrance to the Village Hall driveway.

6. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th July 2023.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.

7. Finance

- 7.1 Members considered the recommendations of the Finance Working Group notes of 14th August (attached as appendix a) and it was RESOLVED to adopt Item 1 Expenses and Item 2.2 Play area inspections, as well as 5.2 Grants Budget subject to further discussion on the amount.
It was RESOLVED to defer all other items for discussion at a future meeting, following further research to clarify matters.
It was agreed that councillors would come to the next PC meeting with precept recommendations.
- 7.2 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:
 - 7.2.1 Daniel Squires Ground Maintenance – August + hedge-cutting ... £1,998.00.
 - 7.2.2 HALC meeting cover 12.9.23 ... £220 + mileage and postage stamps £8.80.
 - 7.2.3 Remembrance Day wreath (£24.99) as previously agreed.

8. Planning

- 8.1 Applications for determination by Herefordshire Council ... There were none.
- 8.2 The following planning approvals (with conditions) determined by Herefordshire Council, were noted:
 - 8.2.1 Application P223852 The White House, Bartestree: 2-storey dwelling.
 - 8.2.2 Application P232552 Orchard Lea, Lugwardine: Non-material amendments to plots 6, 7 & 8 and in design to plot 4.
- 8.3 It was noted that the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been adopted by Herefordshire Council and would be reviewed on an annual basis. The Chair would post notices on the noticeboards.
- 8.4 A public consultation session had been organised (in Tupsley) by developers of 300+ houses on land adjoining the Lugg Meadows. Several members had attended, and a formal planning application was awaited.

9. Section 106 monies

- 9.1 Members considered a report from an online meeting with Herefordshire Council officers which confirmed the following allocations:
 - 9.1.1 Play facilities/infrastructure within Bartestree of £58,584.

- 9.1.2 Public open space and public footpaths identified by Herefordshire Council in consultation with the parish council £9,055.
- 9.1.3 It was suggested that the £9,055 could be used towards a disabled access into the Community Field.

10. Play Areas:

- 10.1 The resignation of a local resident undertaking Play Area checks was noted, and it was RESOLVED to pay the outstanding fee of £90 for July/August.
- 10.2 Frome Park Play Area ... Members considered the request for Wayleave Consent but noted that the proposed trench may interfere with five newly planted trees. The Tree Officer offered to look at root protection for the trees.
- 10.3 Village Hall Play Area ... It was RESOLVED to refund the purchase of black bags for the frog bin ... £7.98.

11. Lengthsman

- 11.1 Identification of work:
 - 11.1.1 It was noted that the land adjacent to Hagley Hall had not yet been tidied up and there were brambles over the footpath.
 - 11.1.2 Kerbs on Wilcroft and other areas were in need of attention.
 - 11.1.3 The Locality Steward would be informed about the need to clear out gutters.
 - 11.1.4 No outstanding payments were identified.
- 11.2 Update & action on joining Lengthsman Scheme for 2023/24 ... It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the new Clerk to progress the matter.

12. Community Field

- 12.1 Documents identifying the voting numbers from the community consultation, together with community comments, were handed to councillors and would be displayed on the parish council website by Thursday of that week.
- 12.2 Quote for temporary fencing on boundary with A438 ... no further quotes were available.
- 12.3 Setting up a Community Field Progress Working Group ... It was RESOLVED to form such a Working Group which would be open to councillors only at the present and would meet at the HALC office where the consultation responses were being stored.

13. Employment of Clerk/RFO

- 13.1 It was RESOLVED to pass a resolution to exclude the public from this confidential employment item.
- 13.2 Members received a report from the Interview Panel & RESOLVED to support their recommendation to employ Richard James as the new Clerk/RFO.
- 13.3 Members considered aspects of the Clerk's contract and RESOLVED to employ Richard James from 18th September 2023 on SCP26 for 13 hours per week.

SIGNED  DATE 11th October 2023