



Bartestree with Lugwardine Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7.00pm in the Bartestree Village Hall.

Minutes

Present:

Councillors: Siobhan Green, Paul Hodges, Wendy Soilleux (Chair), Paul Wargent, David Welton Jennifer Karayiannis & Polly Smith.

In Attendance:

Parish Clerk - Richard James
Ward Member – Cllr Ivan Powell
Public – 7 members of the Public

1. To receive apologies.

To Note – *Apologies were received from Cllrs David Evans, Fiona Harris, Andrew Thomas & Ron Williams.*

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

To Note – *Cllr Siobhan Green declared an interest in item 12.*

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 05.09.24.

Resolution – *The minutes of the meetings held on the 05.09.24 were adopted as a true record after the correction of a couple of small typo's and then signed by the Chair.*

4. Open Session.

Cllr Ivan Powell (Ward Member)

Cllr Ivan Powell reported that, I made reference to the fact that following the general election it was likely new government policies would emerge, which has proven to be the case.

The headline policies of our new government are likely to affect the way Herefordshire will develop and over the last 6 weeks or so we are considering the implications of the impact on the delivery of public services.

We have recently received information, which doubtless you will have seen in the media locally, from the Deputy Prime Minister indicating the Government will bring forward legislation in the parliament period to support universal coverage of strategic planning through 'Spatial Development Strategies'.

The Government will restore a revised calculation methodology based upon 'the Standard Method' for calculating housing targets (this was removed in the 'Levelling Up' Bill by the previous Government in Dec 2023). The revision to the calculation makes the target more ambitious and significantly increases the number of homes required. Councils will be required to review boundaries to release green belt and lower quality of the green belt land (Grey belt) to be brought forward for development if required to meet housing targets. 50% of all homes to be built on green / grey belt are to be affordable.

The UK Government also published a consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system on 30th July 2024. This consultation has come from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Herefordshire Council will be providing a comprehensive response to this consultation once all the wider implications are fully analysed.

The more immediate implication of this for Herefordshire is, that under the nearly completed Local plan where the Housing growth supply was potentially 16,000 new homes in the county by 2041, and new targets are 27,500 over the same period.

In context Herefordshire currently has around 85,000 houses in total. The impact will be significant by any standards our view being that County resources are already stretched.

To meet this increased demand additional investment will be required across a broad range of matters, not limited to but including the NHS, hospital, doctor, pharmacy and additional care facilities, economic drivers for attracting new investment in business and better job prospects, in cultural investment such as the new Shirehall library and associated services, Museum services, school investment and further education and training and the necessity to have another river crossing and roads, as our current infrastructure is unable to cope.

We are of course working on all of the above, however we do not underestimate the scale of the challenge.

Luston Wetland project.

Herefordshire's unprecedented Luston Wetland project has been acknowledged with a Local Government Chronicle (LGC) award for Environmental Services. The judges recognised it as a ground-breaking initiative that tackles the critical issue of nutrient pollution and its subsequent credits for 1112 new homes. High levels of Phosphate have long been known to damage our rivers including the Wye and Lugg. By 2019 Natural England advised Herefordshire Council that the levels of phosphate in the Lugg sub catchment meant that in order to protect the river, any new housing development must fully offset its phosphate load. Herefordshire Council has responded to this issue by developing the Luston Wetland to capture and remove phosphate and trade Phosphate Credits with developers to enable housing growth in the north of the county. The scheme ensures that more phosphate is removed from the river system than is returned to it through any form of development. The creation of the wetlands has the added benefit of boosting local biodiversity and wildlife. Similar projects are in the pipeline.

Capital budget.

In July, Cabinet approved the addition of £5m to the capital budget to provide and enable the cabinet to take decisions quickly if and when properties or land become available. We wish to use that funding to take up opportunities to buy land or suitable housing, for example, for those requiring temporary accommodation without delay. Each project will be subject to its own governance, a full business case will be presented for approval where required and compliance with the council's contract procedure rules as applicable. The overall aim of capital expenditure is to benefit some of our most vulnerable in society, for example those currently, or at risk of becoming homeless.

New Waste service.

HC has procured a new waste service for the county which started on 1st September and will operate with the previous supplier with little outward change for domestic properties. Some of the new vehicle fleet will be electric vehicles operating in Hereford city.

Public Rights of Way scheme.

Below is some headline information about the investment in PROW across the county.

Of the £250k that was made available, applications to date total approx. £205k which would see 576 assets improved across 62 Parish Councils.

We have approved 53 applications for a total of £142k to improve 477 assets and successful Parish Councils have been notified.

7 applications have been queried over labour costs with Parish Councils for a further approx. £28k of work and that would see 80 further assets improved. We have provided various options for how these works can be delivered at hopefully lower costs.

We are discussing a further 6 applications with Parish Councils that would see a further 19 assets improved for a further approx. £34k. These are applications where initial detail was limited.

Traffic calming and safer schools.

Parish council colleagues have been fully briefed by Herefordshire Council (Gregg Speller and Sameer Nadeem) on the proposals for traffic calming work along the A438 and safer schools work regarding Lugwardine Primary School, this being on the agenda for 5th September 2024 meeting.

I received a separate briefing regarding the traffic calming as I was unable to make the meeting scheduled with the parish. I remain available and committed to support the parish where required, my current sense is that progress continues with both.

To Note – The Council noted

Members of Public.

To Note – No members of the public had any questions.

5. Financial Matters

5.1 - Unity Bank Main Statement - September 24 - £55,747.01

5.2 - Unity Bank Saver Statement - September 24 - £118,097.92

To Note – The Council noted the bank statements.

5.3 - Budget Monitoring - September 24

5.4 - Bank Reconciliation - September 24

Resolution – The Council Approved and adopted (5.3) & (5.4).

5.5 - Reserve List

Resolution – The Council Approved the reserve list.

5.6 - Financial Regulations

Following the new Financial Regulations being reviewed by the Finance and administration working group the amended version was presented to Council for consideration and approval.

Resolution – The Council Approved the adoption of the new financial Regulations.

5.7 - Budget 2025/26

Cllr P Smith said it would be helpful to have a projected end of year figure and want to check if the new TV had been recorded in the correct budget line.

Resolution – The Council agreed to defer this until the November meeting and in the meantime send it to the Finance and Administration Working Group to come back with a recommendation.

6. To Approve Payments.

	Payment	Net	Vat	Total
6.1	Clerk Salary – Tax & NI - October 24	As per Contract		
6.2	D Squire - 78325	1425.00	285.00	1710.00

The Clerk reported that there were 2 additional invoices which need to be paid which were Pure Cleans at £72.00 for the cleaning of the bus shelters and Mr Richard Morgan the Lengthsman £92.00.

Resolution – All the payments including the additional invoices were approved for payment.

7. Footpaths Officer Report.

In the absence of the footpaths Officer the Clerk presented the report.

There's not much happening on the footpath front apart from dog poo not being picked up. LU 29 that runs along the back of village way I believe is now clear. The only other issue is LU5 where the stile is completely blocked. Where you are supposed to walk to the left of the hedge people have been walking to the right, I would have investigated personally but have not been well enough.

To Note – The Council noted the report.

8. Tree Wardens Report.

Cllr P Hodge's presented a verbal report on several trees which needs attention within the Parish.

The apples trees in the Frome Park play area need pruning.

The two Ash trees on the Glebe Land need cutting back to make safe.

Several smaller trees on the Glebe Land need pruning.

Resolution – The Council agreed for this work to be carried out, and for the Clerk to get several quotations.

9. Working Groups.

9.1 - Christopher Gibbon Field.

Cllr S Green presented the report to move this project forward, the following revised plan is proposed:

Entrance:

Confirm permission to move gateway by x m. Tarmac area to accommodate 3 disabled parking spaces, 1 cycle rack, turning area, 1 storage container 20' long, 8' wide, 8'6" high, painted dull, dark green.

Appropriate fencing and bollards to prevent vehicle access beyond.

Total depth of subbase, base and Tarmac: 400mm.

Multi-use Pathway:

Route adjusted slightly, 2m wide, 420m - 430m long. Some undulations to be included + some drainage at South end.

Four laps would provide the 'Daily Mile'.

Subbase, base & Tarmac depth: 350mm and 400mm at crossing points.

MUGA:

Either Hags Arena Golden State or Arena Phoenix, 26m X 16m, with rounded corners, tarmac base (spec. as above), sides 2m high, chicane access points on either side + goal-side access to provide multiple escape routes. Max height of goal 3.9m (complies with covenant).

All metal construction, standard colours blue or lime green/black.

Teen Play:

Items from Hags or Kompan or similar catalogue, exact choice to be specified + suitable for disabled, sited on tarmac or resin bound or resin bonded surface. Information: kompan.com or hags.co.uk or playdale.co.uk

Teen Pod: *Sheltered seat on tarmac base.*

Outdoor Gym: Items from Hags or Kompan or similar catalogue on tarmac or resin base as above. (e.g. Wet Pour: subbase 100-150mm deep for Wet Pour depth 40mm or more; BS EN 1177 & BS 7188)

Pétanque Court:

Contractor to dig out area 15m x 4m, surround with railway type sleepers, fill with coarser stone, then finer stone. (More details available).

Once these are in place, the following to be added: Seats, bins, picnic area, trees. wildflowers, additional entrance at later date.

Football pitch:

To be managed by the Football Club via appropriate lease with PFA.

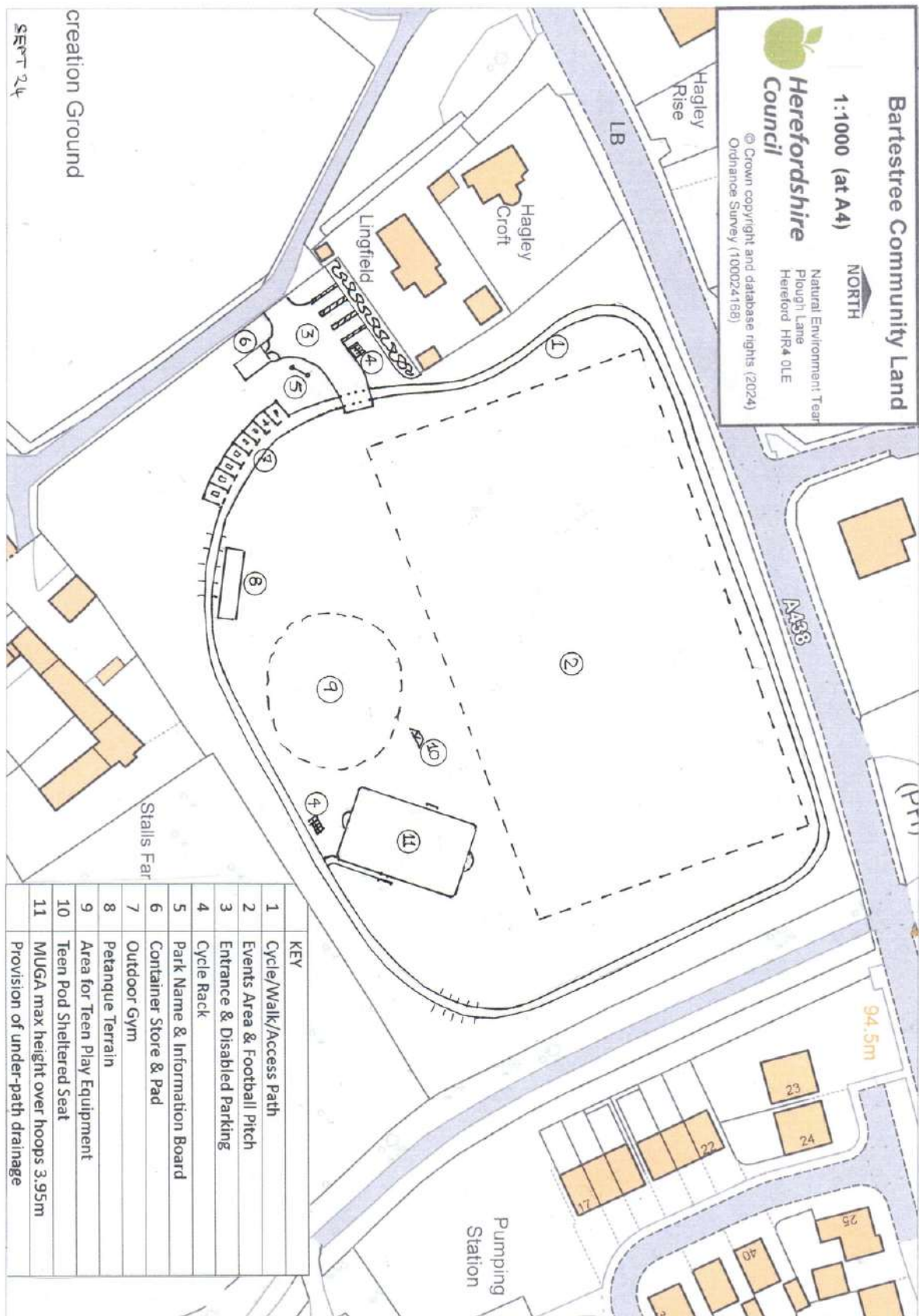
A new design was put forward which is below.

There were some concerns about the size of the football pitch as in the past at a previous meeting the now Chairman of the Football Club gave the Parish Council and local concerned residents, assurance that the football pitch would be used as a practice pitch for under 14s based on a FA approved size pitch of 82m X 50m.

The new plan shows a FA football pitch of 106m X 60m and that under 17s will be using it. This did not sit well with one Councillor after previous assurances were now being broken, and this was not what the residents wanted.

A Councillor asked for assurances that the football pitch, would not become hallowed ground so to speak, as the whole point of this pitch was as a general kick about pitch which could be used for overflow carparking and holding events upon, including the siting of marquees and food trucks. These assurances were given by Mr J Jackson of the Playing Fields Association (PFA) and Cllr S Green.

A Councillor said the ultimate control of the Christopher Gibbon Field must always lie with the Parish Council.



Resolution – The Council Agreed to move forward with this new outline design in principle, but the final decision will be with the Parish Council.

9.2 - Highways & Infrastructure.

Cllr W Soilleux presented the report in the absence of the lead of the working group.

The report was lengthy which included a power point presentation. But in short it was looking to implement the following Highway Traffic Calming measures.

- Removing the centre white line.
- Purchase of Speed Indicator devices.
- Speed roundels on the carriageway
- Gate way enhancements
- Better signage

A Councillor was concerned about the taking out of the centre line, but Herefordshire Councils Highway department have said that where this has been done previously, it has worked in reducing the speed of the traffic. Sadly, the removal of the white Line was a deal breaker, because if the Parish Council did not agree to this then none of the other works would be done.

Some concern was shown about the number of new signs, and this needed to be monitored.

Resolution – *The Council agreed to Approve this Highways Traffic Calming scheme but reserved the right to make further comments when the design work had been completed.*

9.3 - Environment.

Cllr P Hodges presented the report, in the absence of the led.

The members of the working group met and discussed a range of topics associated to the parish. Cllr Paul Hodges would be pricing up plant bulbs for the chosen locations which were to include the Glebelands, the verge near Lugwardine Court Orchard and possibly on the land at the Weston Beggard turn beyond the crossroads in Bartestree.

The exact sites were to be further refined. These would be planted up to produce a floral display which would be annual and recurring. However, the bulbs would be chosen to flower before the mowing started to ensure fewer problems with cutting down the planted areas.

Recycling bins were to be purchased in new colours to replace the dustbins for foil recycling as soon as possible. It was thought that the location of the bins and their associated signage would be altered to reduce the actions of a few villagers who still insisted on placing the wrong materials in these bins.

Pricing to be notified once confirmed. Self-watering troughs were to be priced from the Amberol catalogue and purchased to enable further planting in sites around the parish.

Recommended Promenade planters in black or stone finish. 1500mmx500mmx750mm. It was considered whether a clothing recycling bin might be obtained and sited at the village hall for use. This would be investigated further and reported back in due course.

The Environment Working Group met and discussed the cost of plants and seeds that we wished to purchase from the funds allocated in the budget.

Wildflower mix from previously used supplier.

1000 x Dwarf daffodils bulbs - £200 +VAT.

1000 x Crocus bulbs £105 +VAT

Resolution – *The Council Agreed to purchase the bulbs at a cost of £305 + vat and to put the purchase of the Planter on hold as these maybe funded via S106 monies.*

9.4 - Play Areas.

Cllr W Soilleux presented the report.

Bartestree Village Hall Play Area:

Three bolts on the mini climber were loose and were tightened.

The timber balance bar in the trim trail is worn and will need replacing.

Frome Park Play Area:

All equipment was in good condition.

We replaced three plastic caps on the frame supporting the swings.

We need to order some blue caps for the cradle swing.

The six cider apple trees will require pruning during the Winter months.

Quotations for the work are being obtained.

No problems have been reported by the weekly checker.

To Note – The Council noted the report.

9.5 - Finance & Admin.

To Note – The Council noted there was no report on this occasion.

10. Lengthsman Report.

- a) Work for October 24.
- b) Any other work.

Cllr P Smith gave a report

- Going to produce an Annual Work Plan
- Will look at the blocked drains before the weather changes.
- Look at meeting with the Lengthsman to go through works.

To Note – The Council noted the report.

11. Parish Matters.

11.1 - Leaders' Summit Update.

To Note – Council noted that the summit had not taken place yet.

11.2 - Remembrance Day Wreath.

- a) Cost £25 - £35.
- b) Representative to Lay the wreath on behalf of the Council.

Resolution – The Council Agreed from the Clerk to purchase a Wreath and either the Cllr D Welton or/both Cllr S Green will lay the wreath. Cllr P Smith or Cllr J Karayiannis will do a reading.

11.3 - Sandbags

- a) Storage Location.
- b) Quantity.

Resolution – The Council agreed that the best action was to ask the residents who have suffered flooding in the past if they require any sandbags.

11.4 - Bus Shelter Glass update.

The Clerk informed Council that he had authorised a contractor to replace the broken glass panel in the bus shelter at a cost of £290 + vat.

Resolution – *The Council had previously agreed for this work to be untaken.*

11.5 - Poles around Croft Close & Burton Drive.

Resident and Councillors were concerned about the ugly new BT poles which had been installed around the village, for the new fibre Optic broadband service.

The Clerk explained that sadly BT did not need to apply for planning permission or even inform residents that they were going to be installed.

Resolution – *The Council agreed for the Clerk to written to BT and express our dissatisfaction with the installation of these poles and many other Parish had underground ducting installed.*

11.6 - Vegetation around Roads Signs.

The Clerk informed Council that he had report overgrown signs within the village especially the School Sign.

To Note – *The Council noted this and the vegetation has now been cutback.*

11.7 - Trampoline – Glebe Land.

Resolution – *The Council agreed to get a contractor to remove the trampoline if it was still there.*

11.8 - Blister Pack Recycling Scheme.

a) Terracycle Bag - £39 – last 3-4 months

To Note – *The Council noted this request, but additional information was required, before Council could decide.*

12. PFA Request.

12.1 - Ball Stop Nets.

12.2 - Christopher Gibbons Field – Overflow Carparking – 5th & 6th October.

Two requests had been made by the Playing Fields Association the first to install Ball Stop nets to stop the balls going into neighbours' gardens. The second to use the Christopher Gibbons Field as overflow parking due to the Covid & Flu clinic.

Resolution – *The Council agreed both these requests.*

13. Planning Committee.

To Note – *The Council noted the draft Planning Committee minutes.*

14. Request for Key to Council office.

A request had been made by the Village Hall committee to have a key to the Council Office, in case of emergencies.

Resolution – *The Council Agreed the request for a key to the Council office.*

15. Future Agenda Items.

- Dog Poo Signs

The Chair exclude the members Public and Press from this part of the meeting to discuss items of a confidential nature.

16. Glebe Land Quotation.

- a) Pruning the trees on the glebe land.
- b) Clearing and taking away the overgrowth around the Gas compound.
- c) Cutting the side up the hedge on the glebe land right back to the boundary line and cutting it to a height of 1.5metres.

Resolution – *The Council agreed for the Clerk to get additional quotations for the work.*

The meeting was closed at 9.25pm.



Signed:

Cllr Wendy Soilleux
Chair of the Parish Council

Dated:

7th November 2024