

BIRLEY WITH UPPER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting at 6.00pm on Wednesday 18th November 2020

In view of government legislation re the Coronavirus Pandemic this was a remote meeting by zoom and telephone.

Present:

Councillors: Mrs A Pendleton, Mrs I Stokes, Mrs S de Rohan, Mr J Gough, Mr A Last and Mr M Pytka.

In Attendance:

M Jones (Ward Cllr) and Mr M Hopkins (Clerk).

Members of the public: One member of the public.

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mr R Grayburn.

2. To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30th September 2020.

Resolved: The Minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. To Receive Declarations of Interests and Applications for Dispensations

Resolved: None

4. To Receive Brief Reports from:

4.1 Herefordshire Councillor (Cllr M Jones)

Cllr Jones reported on:

Covid 19 figures to date - 1,894 cases and 135 deaths. Case numbers have been rising over the last few weeks with 245 cases last week. There is now a new covid testing station operating in Broad Street, Leominster from Friday 13th November. This makes 3 testing stations in Herefordshire with 4,530 people tested last week.

Hereford Council will reimburse the costs to schools who provided free meals over the October half term. This is also being looked at for future school holidays. Currently there are 3,200 pupils eligible for free school meals in the county which is up 25% on October 2019 figures. This is concerning to the council which are checking to verify this worrying statistic.

Hereford Council had a visit from Essex local authority in September carrying out a diagnostic visit assessment looking at "Looked after Children" and "The Fostering Service". This is carried out annually and concluded how far the council had improved with this service in the last year highlighting:

Lower caseloads	Changing culture
Good morale	Clear vision and approach by managers
Fewer children supported by child protection plans	

At the full council meeting on the 9th October it was voted unanimously to pay £504,239 to repair and fix the flood damage to the electrics at Hereford Leisure Pool. This was closed in November 2019 and will not be re-opened until March

2021. Long term the council are looking for a new site as it is situated on a flood zone and as flooded numerous times over the years.

The Hereford Transport Strategy, which was scrutinised by the General Scrutiny Committee on the 9th November, is to be reviewed by the Cabinet on the 3rd December, This Transport Strategy contains such items as active travel measures of walking and cycling and the East and West by pass options.

Hereford Council legal team is currently reviewing its process to serve notice on land owners and farmers who are not willing to undertake and maintain the ditches on their properties. This current review is focussed on drainage and enforcement under the land drainage act. Hereford Council and Balfour Beatty will advise and assist landowners of their riparian responsibilities.

Resolved: Report noted and to be circulated. Cllr Jones thanked accordingly.

4.2 Westhope Common Management Association (Cllr Mrs I Stokes)

Cllr Stokes reported that the Management Association had not met since her report at our May meeting.

Resolved: No report on this occasion.

5. Open Time

No items raised.

6. To Receive the Clerks Report, General Updates and Note the Information

All updates since the meeting on 30th September 2020 are included in the Information Sheet which had been circulated.

Resolved: Reports, Updates and Information Sheet noted. A copy of Information Sheet is attached to these minutes.

6.1 Update on Broadband within the Parish –from Sarah:

Birley/ Aulden and part of Upper Hill are hoping for a Stage 5 Fastershire Grant. As many houses as possible in the area need to register their interest before December 2nd as the grants are awarded on both need (not in doubt) and demand for super-fast broadband, which nearly all the rest of the County receives. www.fastershire.co.uk.

This is our last chance to improve our appalling broadband speeds.

Update on the Community Risk Management Plan & Community Resilience Plan

To date we have two members on the proposed subcommittee – Cllrs Angela Pendleton and Mario Pyke. One more person would be ideal.

Resolved: Updates noted.

6.2 To Consider the Future use of the Telephone Box at Upper Hill

After discussion it was agreed that the first priority was to restore the phone box to an acceptable condition. How the phone box would be used could then be discussed including input from the parishioners.

The restoration could be undertaken by a group of volunteers or using a professional company.

Resolved: It was agreed to obtain quotes on restoring the phone box also to enquire within the parish if there are any volunteers to undertake the work with the cost of the materials being covered by local businesses or the Parish Council. Cllrs Pendleton and Pytka suggested they approach Wind and Sun and the Clerk would contact Canon Pyon Shotblasting Ltd.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 To Receive a Report from the RFO

Bank Balances as of 15th October 2020: Community Account: £7,424.14 and Business Premium Account: £985.63.

Resolved: Report noted.

7.2 To Consider the following Payments

7.2.1 Payments Made since the last Meeting:

Resolved: No payment made.

7.2.2 Outstanding Payments: Canon Pyon RBL (1 wreaths) £16.00 (611), Clerks salary (October/December) £130.10 (612), HMRC (PAYE) October/December) £32.40 (611).

Resolved: The above payments were agreed.

8. To Consider and Agree the Budget for 2021/22

The proposed budget was circulated and discussed.

Resolved – The Budget spend of £3,000 was agreed and approved (copy attached to these minutes).

9. To Consider and Agree the Precept for 2021/22

Resolved – It was agreed to keep the Precept at £3,000.

10. Planning Matters

10.1 Planning Applications Received:

Resolved: No planning applications received.

10.2 To Note Planning Decisions Received:

Resolved: No planning decisions received.

11. Highway Matters

11.1 To Receive Updates on the Appointment of a Public Footpaths Officer (PFO)

Confirmation received from Molly Walters, Locality Liaison Coordinator for Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty, that Mrs Karen Morris is empowered to act as the Public Footpaths Officer for the Parish for a period of 2 years from the 4th November 2020. Herefordshire Council guidelines for PFOs has been supplied to Karen.

Resolved: As soon as the Covid restrictions permit a meeting with Karen and Philip Pankhurst (Locality Steward) will be arranged. With just over 6 weeks to the new year this would probably be early in the New Year so that Karen can start work on PROW towards spring.

11.2 To Receive any Issues for Herefordshire Highways.

Resolved: No items raised

12. To Raise Items for the next Scheduled Parish Council Meeting - No Discussion

Resolved: All items referred from this meeting

13. To Confirm the Date of the next scheduled Parish Council Meeting

Resolved: Assuming that the Function Room at The Bush Inn is open then Tuesday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23th or 30st March 2021 at 7pm. Otherwise by zoom at 6.00pm (*to be confirmed*).

Meeting concluded at 7.05pm

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Signature of Chair

22nd March 2021
Date