

## BIRLEY WITH UPPER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held at The Function Room, The Bush Inn HR4 8EH  
7.00pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### **Present:**

Councillors: Mrs A Pendleton, Mrs I Stokes, Mr J Gough and Mr A Last.

### **In Attendance:**

Mrs K Morris (PROW Officer) and Mr M Hopkins (Clerk).

**Members of the public:** One member of the public.

#### **1. To Accept Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Mrs S de Rohan, Mr M Pytka and M Jones (Ward Cllr).

#### **2. To Approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

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

#### **3. To Consider the Co-option of a Parish Councillor**

**Resolved:** Although there are two possible contenders no confirmed nominations were received and so item deferred to the November meeting?

#### **4. To Receive Declarations of Interests and Applications for Dispensations**

**Resolved:** Cllr A Pendleton declared an interest in planning applications 213067 – living in the vicinity.

#### **5. To Receive Brief Reports from:**

##### **5.1 Herefordshire Councillor (Cllr M Jones)**

Cllr Jones written report included:

Councillor Liz Harvey wants more Herefordshire residents to come forward and join in the consultation financial budget for 2022 to 2023. People can still give their suggestions and contribute on line up to the 4<sup>th</sup> October. The council are looking to make savings of £11 million pounds on one scale but to borrow £20 to £40 million pounds at low interest rate over 50 years to make essential road surface improvements around the county.

There is a free bus service running at weekends since the 4<sup>th</sup> September throughout Herefordshire. You can travel free of charge as long as you stay within the county. Extra buses have been laid on to travel to Ledbury, Leominster, Kington and other Herefordshire towns. This free weekend service will run for 12 months and is being funded by a covid recovery grant from central government to Herefordshire Council.

Herefordshire Council Children's Services is still experiencing difficulties. The Offsted visit in July acknowledged that there was a New Management Team in place and that home visits to vulnerable children still took place throughout the pandemic lock down. But were critical that case-loads for social workers were

too high. There is an improvement board set up with representatives from all parts of the council children's services with an improvement plan to get agencies working closer together especially with legal services to prevent escalation occurring.

The Interim Director of Children's Services, Catherine Knowles who joined the council six months ago has resigned with immediate effect. There was a whistle blowing enquiry triggered from a member of staff some five weeks ago about the Interim Director of Children's Services. Darryl Freeman has now taken over as Interim Director until a new permanent Director is recruited. The council legal service team has currently lost three members of staff which like all sectors is struggling to find replacements leading to using more agency lawyers.

Hoope have now taken over the running of Maylord Orchards which the council purchased some 12months ago, recognising the specialist nature to run and support this retail business into the future.

Hereford city centre old bridge re-opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> October for vehicles to travel over and ease some of the congestion. Parking restriction white lining will also be removed on Bridge Street to bring back some normality and improve trading to those businesses that operate in that area.

Full council meeting will take place at the Three Counties Hotel on the 8<sup>th</sup> October which can be attended by the public or watched on line.

**Resolved:** Report noted and already circulated.

**5.2 Westhope Common Management Association (Cllr Mrs I Stokes)**

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

**Resolved:** No report on this occasion.

**5.3 Parish Footpaths Officer (Mrs K Morris)**

Karen reported:

1. A successful Walk and Tea was held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September with approximately 20 people going on the walk and 50 people joining them for tea. A total of £212.00 was raised.
2. A broken/rusty gate on footpath HD16 (between Upper Hill Cottage and Lion Cottage needs replacing. Balfour Beatty will supply a galvanised steel gate but the Parish council will need to pay for the installation at a cost of approximately £120.
3. The approximate cost of 3 gates would be £1,224, £105 delivery, £360 labour and £175.50 materials. Approximate total cost would be £1864.50.
4. Rowan Cairns-Wade, Marketing Manager with Wind & Sun had agreed to make a donation of £571.50 towards the cost of installing gates.
5. She was holding a Walk and Tea at Upper Hill on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Meet at 2.30pm at the bottom of Chapel Lane.

**Resolved:** The report was noted and the Chair thanked the PROW officer for the report and acknowledged the hard work she had put into it.

It was agreed to pay for the £120 installation cost of the gate on footpath HD16. Also, for the purchase and installation of 3 further gates.

**6. Open Time**

No items raised.

**7. To Receive the Clerks Report, General Updates and Note the Information Sheet**

All updates since the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 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.

**8. Financial Matters**

**8.1 To Receive a Report from the RFO**

Bank Balances as of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021: Community Account: £7,590.50 and Business Premium Account: £985.71.

**Resolved:** Report noted.

Cllr Pendleton suggested that we consider purchasing and placing a 'Silent Single Soldier' at the war memorial in Upper Hill.

The Silent Single Soldier is made from steel, galvanize for weather and corrosion protection, then painted in a colour of our choice (except Luminous & Metallic/ Pearl colours).

They are virtually vandal proof, maintenance free and come with our 25-year guarantee against rust and corrosion. All our products come fully fabricated, CE and ISO 9001 certified and IPR (intellectual Property Rights) protected.

Underground fixing only is £487.00 +VAT + delivery. Full quote to follow.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that Cllr Pendleton could go ahead and order two 'Silent Single Soldiers' (for Upper Hill and Birley Church) as per the above information.

**8.2 To Consider the following Payments.**

**8.2.1** Payments Made since the last Meeting:

**Resolved:** No payment made.

**8.2.2** Outstanding Payments DC Gardening (3 footpath swing gates) £1,329.00 + £265.80 vat (630), The Bush Inn (hire of room) £20.00 (631), Clerk's salary (July/September) £130.10 (632), HMRC (PAYE (July/September) £32.40 (633), Canon Pyon RBL (2 wreaths) £32.00 (634)

**8.3 To Consider and Agree the Budget for 2022/23**

It was considered that the proposed budget of £3,000 would be acceptable for 2022/23.

**Resolved:** The proposed budget to be circulated and discussed at the November meeting.

## 9. Planning Matters

### 9.1 Planning Applications Received:

**213067** – Rose Cottage, Upper Hill HR6 0JZ (proposed steel framed, steel clad workshop and garage).

**Resolved:** The applicant confirmed today that he is withdrawing this application

**213334** – Lodge Barn, Upper Hill HR6 0JZ (alterations and extensions)

**Resolved:** No objections.

**213547** – Western Power Distribution (Swing Gate, Upper Hill – upgrade of 5 spans of existing 11KV overhead wood pole line to 3 phase – approx. 320m)

**Resolved:** No objections.

### 9.2 To Note Planning Decisions Received:

**211011** – Land to the south of The Yard, Birley – withdrawn application.

**211519** – Land adjacent to Cedar House, Bush Bank (Proposed application for variation of conditions 3, 6 and 7 of planning permission 192784 (Proposed development of up to 6 dwellings and new access drive) - in order to facilitate the plots to be sold individually) – Approved with Conditions.

**212700** – Meadow View, Upper Hill, Hereford HR6 0JZ. - Proposed single storey extension and hip to gable loft conversion – Approved with conditions

**Resolved:** Decisions noted.

## 10. Highway Matters

### 10.1 To Receive Updates on Speeding Issues at Bush Bank and Knapton

**Resolved:** Confirmation that the mobile speed cameras are in operation in the area. Application made to Ian Connolly (West Mercia Safer Roads Team) for ‘Slowdown in our Community’ stickers’.

### 10.2 To Receive any Issues for Herefordshire Highways.

**Resolved:** No issues raised.

## 11. To Receive Update on the Community Resilience Plan and Discuss the ‘Neighbourhood Matters’ website.

First draft of the Resilience Plan circulated with this Information Sheet. Can you please confirm which of your contact details you are content to be published?

**Resolved:** To agree at a future meeting when the plan is updated and all Cllrs are present.

## 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 Parish Council Meeting

**Resolved:** On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm in the Function Room at The Bush Inn.

**Meeting concluded at 8.20pm**

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**Signature of Chair**

30<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
**Date**