

BIRLEY WITH UPPER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting held at The Function Room, The Bush Inn HR4 8EH
7.00pm on Tuesday 11th November 2021

Present:

Councillors: Mrs I Stokes (acting chair), Mr J Gough and Mr A Last.

In Attendance:

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

Members of the public: One member of the public – Mr J Hanson.

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mrs A Pendleton, Mrs S de Rohan JP, Mr M Pytka and Mrs K Morris (PROW Officer)

2. To Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th October 2021.

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

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

Mr Johnny Hanson of Park Gate Cottage, Ivington, Leominster HR6 0JX who owns land within the Parish and had already declared an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council was present

Resolved: The Council agreed to co-opt Mr Johnny Hanson to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council. Mr Hanson was present and took his seat as a Parish Councillor. The relevant paperwork supplied by the Electoral Registration Office was completed by Cllr Hanson and countersigned by the Parish Clerk.

The Clerk also reported that he had today received the resignation of Cllr S de Rohan JP. Cllr de Rohan is to be appointed High Sheriff in March 2022 and she is prohibited from holding the office of a councillor prior to and during her term of office as High Sheriff.

Resolved: Cllr de Rohan's resignation was acknowledged with grateful thanks for her support and contribution since being appointed as a Parish Councillor.

4. To Receive Declarations of Interests and Applications for Dispensations

Resolved: None received

5. To Receive Brief Reports from:

5.1 Herefordshire Councillor (Cllr M Jones)

Cllr Jones report included:

- The council are trying to recruit in all areas and are looking to appoint 4 new directors by December. One of the main areas of concern is planning causing delays in allocating planning applications to officers.
- The Interim Director of Children's services left with immediate effect in October following a whistle blowing enquiry. Daryl Freeman has taken over the role until a new Director has been appointed in December.
- Paul Walker the chief executive has been looking at potential sites for a new bridge to cross the river Wye and form an Eastern Link Corridor.

- The Council had a £1million pound under spend on revenue for the year ending 30th March 2021. Adult social care came in under budget and considering the growing costs in this sector, this was a great achievement.
- Over £9 million pounds is currently available in section 106 money. This money is for local projects where building developments over 10 houses have been provided by the developers and will be released in December.
- At the full council meeting on the 8th October 3 motions were put forward:
 1. To change the model of Children’s Scrutiny with 3 dedicated councillors. Motion lost
 2. Declare that Belmont Abbey surroundings and Breinton become a cultural Heritage. Motion passed
 3. Areas of the River Wye and Lugg officially identified as swimming water. Motion passed
- The Council have been looking where the main complaints have been coming into the council from the public, with planning issues the main concern. Lots of complaints about enforcement and planning issues especially where work was agreed to get planning and has not been carried out by the developer.

Resolved: Cllr Jones thanked and full report to be circulated.

5.2 Westhope Common Management Association (Cllr Mrs I Stokes)

Cllr Stokes reported that the Management Association hoped to resume their meetings with an AGM on the 14th December 2021 at a venue to be confirmed.

Resolved: Comments noted.

5.3 Parish Footpaths Officer (Mrs K Morris)

I organised a parish walk on Sunday 16th October, attended by approximately 20 people of all ages. Jane Carr of Cwm House, Westhope very kindly hosted our stop-off, supplying us with lovely views, drinks and home-made scones. On this occasion there was no money collection; being primarily a walk to encourage healthy exercise, for socialising and to promote the use of the parish footpaths.

Resolved: The report was noted and the Chair thanked the PROW officer for the report.

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 5th October 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 15th November 2021: Community Account: £7,258.21 and Business Premium Account: £985.71.

Resolved: Report noted.

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: Canon Pyon RBL (2 wreaths) £36.00 (634 & 635), David Ogilvie Engineering (2 Silent Soldiers) £1,318.80 (636), The Bush Inn (hire of room) £20.00 (637), Clerk's salary (October/December) £130.10 (638), HMRC PAYE (October/December) £32.40 (639).

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

Resolved: The proposed budget (attached to these minutes were accepted and it was agreed to keep the 2022/23 Precept at £3,000.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 Planning Applications Received: No

Resolved: No applications received.

9.2 To Note Planning Decisions Received:

211239 – The Lodge, Upper Hill HR6 0JZ – Granted with conditions.

213067 – Rose Cottage, Upper Hill HR6 0JZ – Application withdrawn.

21334 Lodge Barn, Upper Hill HR6 0JZ – Granted with conditions.

213547 – Swing Gate, Middle HR6 0JZ. – No objections.

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.

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: March 2022 date to be arranged at 7.00pm in the Function Room at The Bush Inn.

Meeting concluded at 7.50pm

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Signature of Chair

30th March 2022
Date