



DORMINGTON & MORDIFORD GROUP PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th November 2016 at 7.30pm

Present

CLLrs Ray Dickson (Chair), Jan Ashton-Jones, Cllr Joanna Kippax, David Lloyd, Mel Preedy, Chris Bucknell (Parish Clerk)

In attendance

Ward Cllr John Hardwick

5 members of the public were present

Item	Minutes	Action
1.0	To Receive Apologies for Absence – None	
2.0	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>a) To Receive Declarations of Interest Cllr Dickson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6a Planning Application 163491. The Clerk confirmed that in line with Stranding Orders he could remain in the room but not take part in any discussions on this item.</p> <p>b) To Consider Requests for Dispensations There were no requests for dispensation.</p>	
3.0	<p>To accept minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Group Parish Council held on 19th October 2016 Resolved: Minutes of meeting held on 19th October 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
4.0	<p>To receive brief verbal reports from:</p> <p>c) Police Update The SNT Newsletter had been circulated to all Councillors. There were no incidents reported.</p> <p>d) Neighbourhood Watch Update (NHW) There is lack of representation from Sufton and Dormington and the NHW group asked the GPC to support them in getting representatives from these areas. GPC Response – It was felt that there was little that could be done other than to increase publicity about the NHW Group. It was suggested that a notice was put in the County Times section of the Hereford Times and it was also suggested that a note could be put on Fownhope website and Facebook page. (NHW) A final cut to be made along the roadside bank of the Pentaloe Stream between The Steppes and The Moon as the vegetation left at the end of the summer will create difficulty when cutting starts next season. GPC Response – The Lengthsman would be asked to do this. (NHW) A lot of leaves and debris remain on the path between the back of The Moon and the Burial Ground. Bearers had difficulty guiding the bier through the dead leaves and debris as they carried a coffin for a recent burial in the graveyard GPC Response - Cllr Dickson is in contact with the Moon about this area of ground. NHW - The Lengthsman spoke of the need to do some dredging along the Pentaloe. Some residue has collected through runoff from the road and from the old track which used to cross the stream at Lower</p>	RD

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	<p>Rock Cottage, but in the past, this has always been washed away by the Pentaloe. Dredging is therefore not deemed necessary.</p> <p>GPC Response – this has already been dealt with. The banks of the Pentaloe come under riparian responsibilities and as such are the responsibility of the landowner. The Lengthsman has been notified of this.</p> <p>(NHW) No complaints were made about the noise and emissions from the large generator which was sited on Pentaloe Close whilst the 50 year old transformer was being replaced. It was interesting to hear that the transformer was replaced with one of greater capacity to enable further development to occur and Residents wonder where this development will take place.</p> <p>GPC Response – There is no information known about this</p> <p>(NHW) Residents have received letters from BT informing them that high speed fibre broadband is now available. We have all noticed a big improvement in broadband speeds over the last couple of months without changing our broadband packages.</p> <p>(NHW) The planning application for development at Stoneleigh has been withdrawn. It is a point worth making that a sewerage tanker has recently been required to deal with the continuing problems concerning Stoneleigh's and The Stream's sewerage system.</p> <p>GPC Response – Cllr Litchfield noted that this was merely a routine visit on behalf of the Landlords.</p> <p>(NHW) A dog was attacked by a deer on Tuesday night as it was being walked by its owner from Sufton Rise. There is no further information about the dog's welfare.</p> <p>Other Issues Reported by Brian Dukes (NHW Co-ordinator)</p> <p>Post Office - Services are up and running on Tuesday afternoons in The Moon of Mordiford but there is no signage to let residents know of these services.</p> <p>GPC response – Cllr Dickson would discuss this with the Proprietor of the Moon. <i>Post Meeting note – The Moon has this is in hand.</i></p> <p>Fownhope Bus Services - There is no up to date information about the bus service to Ross on Wye and the service to Ledbury. Parishioners are anxious about the Wednesday service which runs from Much Marcle via Checkley, Shepherds Orchard, Mordiford Village, Pentaloe Close and on to Hereford. New comers to the area will not know about these services unless they are publicised.</p> <p>GPC Response – The Clerk has contacted Fownhope PC on several occasions asking for information on the bus services but so far there has been no response.</p> <p>Telephone Kiosk by The Moon - It was stated in the October minutes that the phone was used just four times over the past year. What wasn't stated was the fact it had been out of operation for the first eight months of the year and before that, for at least three years. A request is made to delay closure for at least another year to see if usage increases.</p> <p>GPC Response – The decision was made at the October meeting to agree to the decommissioning of the phone box based on the information provided by BT. Residents are urged to attend the meetings if they wish to influence decisions rather than wait for the minutes to be published by which time the decision will have been made.</p> <p>e) Ward Member – Councillor Hardwick</p> <p>Cllr Hardwick reported that the recent Budget Consultation had only had 280 responses (241 online and 39 paper copies). A summary report is on the Council website. Cllr Hardwick reported there was a new Section 151 Officer, Mark Taylor, who is looking after the Council finances and that that the Council budget, (excluding schools etc) was in the region of £139.5 million with borrowings currently costing £17.7 million per year. Cllr Hardwick also reported that 15 NDPs had now passed referendum stage. Turnout at these referendums had varied from 58% - 22% of the electorate with acceptance of the plan varying between 67.1% (Fownhope) and 97.4% (Breinton). The Planning Committee had raised the issue of the Court Farm, Hampton Bishop driveway/access road which would affect the traffic flow towards Mordiford. The proposals were due to be signed off soon.</p>	

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5.0	<p>Public Participation Session</p> <p>A member of the public brought up the issue of engaging young people in the Parish, specifically those currently undertaking the DOE Award, in Parish projects. This was generally thought to be a good idea but due care needed to be taken to ensure the projects were supervised and those young people taking part needed to be covered by insurance. It was suggested that maybe young people could help to deliver the newsletter but it was noted that generally longer term projects would be preferable. This would be kept in mind if projects came up.</p>																
6.0	<p>To Consider Planning Matters</p> <p>f) To Consider any Planning Applications</p>																
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	<p>ClIr Dickson, having declared an interest in this application, did not take part in the discussion. Cllrs Lloyd and Litchfield had undertaken a site visit and reported that the renovation work proposed would enhance the building and the area around it and on this basis, the GPC agreed to support the application.</p>	Clerk															
	<p>g) To Note any Decisions/Notifications Received</p>																
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	<p>h) Neighbourhood Development Plan</p>																
	<p>Resolved: Not to move forward with the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The NDP Team would be advised of this decision.</p>	Clerk															
	<p>i) Other Planning Issues</p>																
	<p>21 The Maltings Dormington (note there was an error on the agenda which showed 23 instead of 21). The Planning Department had been contacted regarding whether this development needed planning permission and the query acknowledged by Steve Davies, Development Supervisor / Enforcement Officer. When followed up Steve responded to say he has not been able to contact the landowner to arrange a site visit. It was not clear on whose side the issue was but this would continue to be followed up and a site visit arranged.</p>	Clerk															
	<p>Planning Applications 163288 and 16300 Land Adjacent to Pump Orchard – ClIr Dickson noted development was taking place but the applications had not come to the GPC for discussion. The Clerk did not think the GPC had been notified of these applications but would check her records.</p>																
	<p><i>Post meeting note: due to a clerical error the notification of these application had been missed. The Planning Group would consider them and notify the Clerk of any comments. The Clerk would request an extension to enable these comments to be submitted and taken into account.</i></p>	Clerk															

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	<p>On the advice of the Locality Steward the Clerk had contacted Robin Quant who was the Traffic Officer who dealt with speed management issues. He had not been positive about the suggestion of picket fences, saying he felt they did not affect speed. Robin said that before the fences were installed there would need to be plans drawn up by a qualified person and, following this, installation needed to be done by someone who was qualified and insured to work on the highway. Balfour Beatty could undertake both tasks but at a cost. The Clerk was asked to set up a meeting with Parish Councillors, Ward Councillor Hardwick and Robin Quant to meet on site and discuss the issues.</p> <p>Community Speedwatch – There was no further progress on this.</p> <p>SIDS – The planned meeting between Cllr Dickson and John Tallis had not yet taken place. Cllr Dickson would continue to pursue this.</p> <p>b) School Car Parking This issue was ongoing. It was noted that the Headteacher was very supportive of a solution being put in place. Cllr Hardwick and Andy Hough (Herefordshire Council) were to meet with the Headteacher but a date for this meeting had not yet been arranged.</p> <p>c) Speed Data Collection As agreed at the October meeting, the Clerk had contacted Ian Connolly, Traffic Management Advisor Warwickshire Police & West Mercia Police, regarding the suggestion to put speed detection wires in Mordiford. He had responded saying that he didn't see any benefit in collecting speed data in the Mordiford area, adding that at the site meeting he had explained that there was no suitable location to enforce either in the 30mph section by the school or going out into the national speed limit sector. Ian felt that speed issues would be better addressed by some form of traffic engineering, also citing the problem of car parking at school times. Councillors were disappointed with this response and the Clerk was asked to contact Ian Connolly to say that it was the speed of traffic outside of school times which was the issue, also asking for his advice on the effectiveness of speed tables.</p> <p>d) Highways and Footpath Issues Update on Footpath Maintenance Cllr Litchfield outlined maintenance that had been done to footpaths. Two stiles were removed and two gates together with a signposts had been installed on the path between Morrells Well and The Pound, and the path had been cut back and made more accessible. A ditch crossing, consisting of 3 planks and a handrail had been installed. The section of footpath in Haugh Wood had been strimmed and re-waymarked, this had re-opened one path which had become semi-blocked. It was the intention to build steps and install a handrail on the footpath by the derelict cottage at Scutterdine in Mordiford. Footpaths in Dormington had also been strimmed and cleared.</p> <p>M32 Footpath Mapping – Cllr Litchfield noted that this would be linked to the trig point at Backbury Hill and needed someone with a GPS to walk the legal line so that it could be spray marked before it was cleared. It was felt that Rupert Foley should be communicated with to remind him of the new listing.</p> <p>e) Work to be carried out and any Other Issues Checkley Brook - The resident of Brookside, Checkley had contacted Cllr Kippax about the Council's response to clearing Checkley Brook, which, in bad weather, flooded covering the road and blocking her drive. She reported that the Lengthsman had visited the site and informed her that it was too big a job for him and needed the attention of the Highways Department. It was noted that this issue had been investigated in November 2015 when Cllrs Dickson, Ashton Jones, Lloyd and Litchfield had been to inspect the Brook, reporting that there was a short length which was blocked with vegetation and mud which would require a small amount of digging out. It was agreed that this was the landowner's responsibility but it was not known who was the landowner for that stretch of the Brook. The Clerk was asked to contact the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward and arrange for him to meet the resident concerned. <i>Post Meeting Note: The Locality Steward asked that the issue be re-reported on the</i></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>RD</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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9.0	<p><i>electronic system and this would generate a request for him to visit the area and investigate the problem. Herefordshire Council Ref: CAS-606440-V1Y1N4. Balfour Beatty Ref: 11037936</i></p> <p>Roadsigns – the Lengthsman was to be asked to clean the 30 mph roadsigns coming into Mordiford and to clean and cut back any other roadsigns.</p> <p>f) Lengthsman Update 2016/17 Lengthsman and P3 Grant Update The Clerk reported that a claim had gone in for expenditure in quarter 1 and quarter 2 to the value of £1,887.40, leaving, at that stage, grant of £2,899.60 and match funding of £1,560 – total £4,459.60. In quarter 3 (to date) there had been expenditure of £1,089.33 (including invoices shown under Item 7c). There has also been costs of £997 related to the PROW materials ordered from Balfour Beatty. The Clerk noted that these figures needed to be confirmed by Balfour Beatty but there was in the region of £2,373,27 (grant and match funding) remaining up until the end of March 2017. The Clerk noted that all expenditure from now on would incur 50% match funding.</p> <p>2017/18 Lengthsman and P3 Grant update The Clerk outlined that the levels of Lengthsman grant would reduce considerably in 2017/18, with the grant finishing completely after that. The P3 grant would remain at £50 per Km and would run an additional year, finishing after 2018/19. There was a mandatory requirement for £60 match funding (per km) for Lengthsman and £15 (per km) for P3. The Clerk reported that if the full level of grant were applied for this would result in the following position for 2017/18.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="165 925 1430 1189"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grant entitlement</th> <th>Parish length - Km</th> <th colspan="2">Max grant available</th> <th colspan="2">Parish Contribution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lengthsman – U & C roads</td> <td>15.6 Km</td> <td>@£30/km</td> <td>£ 468.00</td> <td>@£60/km</td> <td>£936.00 (200%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P3 – PROW</td> <td>27.1 Km</td> <td>@£50/km</td> <td>£1,355.00</td> <td>@£15/km</td> <td>£406.50 (30%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>£1,823.00</td> <td></td> <td>£1,342.50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Clerk noted that overall this was considerably less than 2016/17 where there was a total of £4,787 grant available across the 2 programmes. It was also very likely (given that the levels of match funding differed between grants), that more rigid monitoring will be done about which work fell into each category which, in turn, may mean that more of the Lengthsman work would need to be funded through the precept.</p> <p>Resolved: To apply for the full level of Lengthsman and P3 Grant in 2017/18.</p> <p>Cllr Litchfield left the meeting at this point</p> <p>Allotments</p> <p>a) Update from Allotment Working Party Cllr Ashton Jones noted that there were still 5 allotments vacant. Enquiries had come in from 3 people interested in taking on an allotment but these had come to nothing. Daniel Squire was still mowing the vacant allotments although Cllr Preedy noted that not all the vacant allotments appeared to be cut back and the Clerk was asked to check this with Daniel Squire. It was mentioned whether the Hereford Allotment Society or Robert Owen Academy would be interested in taking on any of the vacant allotments and this would be followed up.</p> <p>Spraying Vacant Allotments - Two quotations had been received for spraying the vacant allotments, one from Daniel Squire (£200 which included cutting the allotments before spraying – net £100 for the spraying) and one from a local contractor (via Cllr Lloyd for £60). It was agreed to wait until spring to spray the vacant allotments but to continue to cut them back.</p> <p>Standpipe Tap – it had been reported to Cllr Ashton Jones that there was a fault and the tap was not turning off after use. Cllr Ashton Jones had turned the water off at the stopcock and had arranged for a plumber to repair the faulty tap.</p>	Grant entitlement	Parish length - Km	Max grant available		Parish Contribution		Lengthsman – U & C roads	15.6 Km	@£30/km	£ 468.00	@£60/km	£936.00 (200%)	P3 – PROW	27.1 Km	@£50/km	£1,355.00	@£15/km	£406.50 (30%)	TOTAL			£1,823.00		£1,342.50	Clerk
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	<p>b) Update on Lease Agreement Cllrs Lloyd and Preedy had been to meet David Campion regarding a query about public access at Shepherds Orchard. They confirmed that the drawings showed the parking, path borders and allotments. The advice given was for the GPC to take the path within the lease and David Campion would talk to WM Housing about the parking areas. Resolved: To proceed with the Lease Agreement on this basis</p> <p>c) To Approve Expenditure on Legal Fees These were not yet known</p> <p>d) To Consider any Expenditure Resolved: To approve expenditure on the repair of the standpipe.</p> <p>10.0 Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard a) To Consider any Costs related to the Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard There were no costs</p> <p>11.0 Anti-Social Behaviour in Shepherds Orchard Cllr Dickson had received several reports of anti-social behaviour in Shepherds Orchard, with particular reference to tenants being threatened by the partner of another tenant. The Clerk was asked to contact WM Housing to see what the procedure should be for reporting such activity. There also needed to be 'No Dog' signs put up in the playground and the Clerk would follow this up.</p> <p>12.0 To Note the Information Sheet (November 2016) and any other Updates Resolved: The Information Sheet was noted.</p> <p>13.0 To Raise Items for the next Scheduled Parish Council Meeting Lengthsman Contract for 2017 onwards, 2017 Newsletter</p> <p>14.0 To Note Date and Time of the next Regular Meeting of the Group Parish Council Wednesday 18th January 2017 at 7.30pm at Mordiford School. Note there is no meeting in December.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.35 pm</p> <p>Signed Date 18th January 2017 Chairman of Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>