



DORMINGTON & MORDIFORD GROUP PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th November 2015 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllrs David Lloyd (Vice Chair), Jan Ashton-Jones, Graham Finnigan, Richard Jones, John Litchfield

In attendance

Chris Bucknell – Clerk

1 member of the public

Item	Minutes	Action
641	To Receive Apologies for Absence – Cllr Ray Dickson, Ward Cllr John Hardwick	
642	Declarations of Interest a) There were no Declarations of Interest b) No written requests for dispensations had been received	
643	To accept minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st October 2015 Resolved: Minutes of meeting held on 21 st October 2015 were agreed and signed by the Vice Chairman.	
644	To receive brief verbal reports from: a) Police Representative No police representative was present and there was no update. It was noted that there had been little attendance by the local policing team and the Clerk was asked to write and invite them to attend the next meeting. b) Neighbourhood Watch Update A gold Vauxhall Corsa had been abandoned on the pavement outside one of the houses in Pentaloe Close. This was investigated by the local policing team and everything was found to be in order. It had now been removed. It was reported the telephone kiosk by The Moon was very dirty and the phone not working – the Clerk reported the phone and BT will repair it. It was felt cleaning would need to be a community activity. The NW Team also commented on the work planned for the Churchyard Wall and the suggestion for a Community event to celebrate the Queen's 90 th birthday. These would be dealt with under separate agenda items. c) Ward Member Cllr Hardwick was not in attendance but had submitted a report on the Council budget consultation to which approx. 2,000 responses had been received (last year's consultation received less than 200). Council Tax - many thought that a rise above the 2% trigger for a referendum was worth consideration if the additional funding was used to protect some services. Cllr Hardwick noted that it would cost £300,000 to hold a referendum and as no such referendum in any other part of the country had succeeded he felt that this option was unlikely to be taken up. The favourite option from the consultation was to sell the council smallholdings to lessen the debt thus reducing the council's interest charges. Cllr Hardwick felt these assets should be protected and added that he felt the consultation question had not been fairly presented as it gave no background information to allow a reasoned decision. He added that if the capital appreciation of the asset were taken into account the	Clerk

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	<p>council actually profited by half a million pounds per annum.</p> <p>645 Public Participation Session There were no comments from members of the public.</p> <p>646 To Consider Planning Matters a) To Consider any Planning Applications There were no new planning applications b) To Note and Decisions/Notifications Received</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="196 551 1414 734"> <thead> <tr> <th>Reference</th> <th>Application</th> <th>Decision</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>152832</td> <td>9 Sufton Lane, Mordiford. Proposed first floor side extension</td> <td>Awaiting Decision</td> </tr> <tr> <td>152286</td> <td>Rowan House, Checkley, Hereford. HR1 4ND.</td> <td>Approved with Conditions</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>647 Finance a) To receive a Finance Report from the RFO Bank balances: Business Current Account £30,967.62. Business Reserve account £4,306.90. One cheque for £84 has yet to be presented. A payment from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had been received (£15.00) – it is not clear what this related to and the Clerk will follow it up. <i>Post Meeting note: this payment relates to a war grave in Mordiford Burial Ground (S H Bacon – plot 28) and is paid once every 3 years to cover maintenance and upkeep.</i> An invoice for Q1 and Q2 Lengthsman and P3 Grant has been submitted (£2,472.50) but not yet paid. b) To agree payment of outstanding invoices</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="196 1207 1425 1393"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque</th> <th>Expenditure</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>905</td> <td>D C Gardening invoice 278. Grounds maintenance at the Churchyard and Burial Ground for October. £192.81 + VAT</td> <td>£231.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>906</td> <td>50% cost of Clerk's Annual Conference fees to Wellington Parish Council</td> <td>£34.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>907</td> <td>NALC Invoice 13429. Local Council Award Scheme Registration £25 + VAT</td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Resolved: All payments approved</p> <p>c) Update on 2016/17 Budget and Precepting Herefordshire Council is changing the way it pays the Lengthsman and P3 Grant in 2016/17 and may require as much as one third match funding from Parishes. This will obviously impact on the Precept request and the Clerk recommends that this is not submitted until Herefordshire Council publish the Lengthsman financial requirements. This was agreed. <i>Post Meeting note: It has now been confirmed that there will be no change to the Lengthsman Grant for 2016/17 but the intention is that it will be phased out over the coming 2 years.</i></p> <p>d) To Consider Renewal of Grass Maintenance Contract D C Gardening were issued with a 3 year contract in 2012 which has now come to an end. The current contract is for 7 cuts between April and October at a cost of £192.81 + VAT. D C Gardening have quoted £200 per cut – fixed for the next 3 years. They have also asked that the GPC consider having an additional cut so that an earlier start can be made (March) as it is being found that the grass is already high by the time the contract starts. There is no requirement to put this contract out to tender as it is below the threshold stated in the Financial Regulations. Resolved: To offer D C Gardening a 3 year fixed price contract based on £200 per cut for 8 cuts a year</p>	Reference	Application	Decision	152832	9 Sufton Lane, Mordiford. Proposed first floor side extension	Awaiting Decision	152286	Rowan House, Checkley, Hereford. HR1 4ND.	Approved with Conditions	Cheque	Expenditure	Amount	905	D C Gardening invoice 278. Grounds maintenance at the Churchyard and Burial Ground for October. £192.81 + VAT	£231.37	906	50% cost of Clerk's Annual Conference fees to Wellington Parish Council	£34.50	907	NALC Invoice 13429. Local Council Award Scheme Registration £25 + VAT	£30.00	<p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p>
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648	<p>Highways, Footpaths and Commons</p> <p>a) Mordiford Traffic/Pedestrian Safety Proposals There was no further news on this. Cllr Hardwick had forwarded the current list of TROs and their proposed implementation dates. Cllr Finnigan mentioned the potential for Hampton Bishop Section 106 grant to be used to provide car parking for the school. This would be followed up with Cllr Hardwick.</p> <p>b) Highways and Footpath Issues The Brook at Checkley – a resident had reported that the Brook at Checkley was silted up and there was a high risk of flooding. Balfour Beatty had been to inspect it and had said that it was the riparian responsibility of the landowners and would not be within the remit of the Council. They referred to their document Ditches and Drainage in Herefordshire – Guidance on Landowners Responsibilities. Cllrs Jones, Ashton Jones, Lloyd and Litchfield had been to inspect it and reported that there was a short length which was blocked with vegetation and mud which would require a small amount of digging out. It was not known who was the landowner for that stretchy of the Brook. Resolved: It was felt that it was not the responsibility of the GPC to clear the ditch and Balfour Beatty would be asked to liaise with the landowner. Cllr Lloyd agreed to contact John Lee, a former Checkley Parish Councillor to confirm the details of the landowner.</p> <p>Signage at Backbury View - Cllr Dickson had visited the resident at Backbury View who had confirmed that the sign proposed would be acceptable. A quotation would be obtained for this work. As there was to be no meeting in December costs would be emailed to Councillors for their approval before progressing. It was agreed to ask for a quote for installation but that this may be arranged by GPC.</p> <p>c) Checkley Common Helen Beale (HC Estates Management Surveyor) had confirmed that there was no legal responsibility on the part of the Group Parish Council to mow Checkley Common and had provided a copy of 1899 Act Scheme of Management to support this view. Cllr Litchfield confirmed that not mowing the Common would not pose a risk for the community as there was access around and also a footpath running across the Common. He also mentioned that not mowing the Common would be beneficial to the wild flowers which were valued by the local community. Resolved: Not to mow Checkley Common in 2016 and to keep the situation under review.</p> <p>d) To report any defects to the Clerk Two potholes were reported. 1 by The Mill on the bend of the road (Mordiford) and one by Ann’s Cottage (Checkley). It was not known if these were in scope for the Enhanced Lengthsman Scheme. It was agreed the Clerk would contact the Locality Steward and arrange for a site visit. Mordiford Green – the nettles were very high on the Brook. 2 hazel trees, and 1 Alder stump needed attention on the banks of the Penteloe at Mordiford Green. Cllr Finnigan would talk to Fred Davies about carrying out this work. The Clerk was asked to arrange for another £50 voucher to be purchased for Fred Davies as agreed at the May 2015 meeting.</p> <p>e) Lengthsman Update Scheme of Work for Lengthsman – this was still work in progress and would be reported on at the December meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>DL</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>GF</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>J A-J, DL, RJ</p>
649	<p>Neighbourhood Planning Cllrs Dickson and Lloyd had met to discuss Neighbourhood Planning. It was proposed that they would make contact with Data Orchard, the consultants for the first stage, to ascertain their view as to the way forward. This was agreed. The Clerk reported that a member of the Steering Group had contacted Herefordshire Council and Data Orchard about Neighbourhood Planning with specific reference to proposals regarding medical facilities being developed in the Parish. Data Orchard had subsequently contacted the Clerk and it had been agreed that they would produce a short feasibility report. This would be at no cost to the GPC.</p>	

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	<p>of Councillors should have access in order to ensure maximum flexibility when posting information.</p> <p>656 To Note the Information Sheet (November 2015) and any other Updates Resolved: The Information Sheet was noted.</p> <p>657 To Raise Items for the next Scheduled Parish Council Meeting Community Event to celebrate HM Queen's 90th birthday</p> <p>658 To Note Date and Time of the next Regular Meeting of the Group Parish Council Wednesday 20th January 2016 at 7.30pm in Mordiford School (note there is no meeting in December)</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.10 pm</p> <p>Signed Date 20th January 2016 Chairman of Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council</p>	<p>J A-J</p>