



DORMINGTON & MORDIFORD GROUP PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council held on Wednesday 17TH November 2021 at 7.30pm at Prior's Frome Chapel

Present:

Cllrs Julia Cotton (Chair), Derek Hughes, Marcus Billig, Mel Preedy, Rob Cannings, Wendy Tolley

In attendance:

Ms Clare Preece – Clerk, Cllr John Hardwick – Ward member

REF	MINUTES	ACTION
171121/01	To Receive Apologies for Absence Cllrs Jones sent apologies. Cllr Euan Grant present on Zoom	
171121/02	Declarations of Interest <i>(a) to receive declarations of interest</i> – none <i>(b) to approve any written requests for dispensation</i> – none received.	
171021/03	Public Forum: The Chairman invited the two members of the public to contribute to items on the agenda as they proceed. Cllr John Hardwick updated the Council on matters surrounding the nitrate and phosphate levels in the County's rivers. Hereford Councillors are undertaking "Learning visits" to farms to gain insight into individual problems posed solutions and identify best practice in prevention of pollution and flooding issues. He discussed the shortage of labour to pick soft fruit on farms since Brexit. The new Cyber centre in Hereford has won an award and the Chair thanked Cllr Hardwick for the heartening news.	
171121/04	To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 20th October 2021 Minutes APPROVED and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.	
171121/05	To receive the Information sheet (Chair's report) The information sheet containing background information on all items below was circulated prior to the meeting.	
171121/06	Planning: To comment on the following planning applications: 6.1.i 213618 Old Rectory Barn, Mordiford, HR14LW Proposed installation of photovoltaic panels: Resolved: Councillors supported this application. 6.1.ii 213693 Land to the west of Clay Hill pit, Dormington, HR1 4EP, Solar panels: Resolved: Councillors support this application and the Chair noted that an enquiry into Section 106 payments would be made in respect of the development.	Clerk/Chair

	6.2 To consider the response to Herefordshire Council housing priorities: Cllr Cannings will bring this back to the next meeting.	RC
	6.3 To receive an update on the progress of the NDP: The Chair reported that quotes from prospective planning consultants had been received and that Louise Kirkup from Kirkwells has been appointed. Assistance is required to produce information leaflets, newsletter article. Mordiford School is the agreed location for the Public meeting, the date will be 2nd December 2021 at 7pm. Refreshments will be provided; Coffee/Tea, Non alcoholic spiced punch and mince pies. 6.4 To receive the Draft Rural Parish survey for submission: The draft has been completed and it was AGREED that the Chair is to submit after adding further comments. 6.5 To consider the adoption of Herefordshire Council's Climate Change checklist and the update of the Parish Environmental and sustainability policy: It was noted by Cllr Hardwick that it is not possible to enforce the checklist unless supported by legislation. Cllr Cannings noted that it would be an important game changer if it was. Cllr Hardwick added that it will be a positive move if the measures proposed are voluntarily accepted and although Herefordshire Council's policy isn't written yet it will be brought in as soon as is feasible. It was AGREED to adopt it and to add it to the web page.	JC JC/Clerk
17112021/07	Finance: 7.1 To note bank balances: £39,650.11 Current Account. £74,568.58 Savings account. 7.2 To consider the following payments: Tom Hughes – Website maintenance - £40.00 D C Gardening services – SI-1110 £330+£66 VAT Cllr Preedy – reimbursement for Teak Oil for benches for Dragon project - £20.50 Cllr Cotton – reimbursement for Conference Cam, cables, router and sim - £342.59 Cllr Cotton – reimbursement for carry bag - £26.90 Swift Ecology – 50% of Checkley Common management plan - £922.50 + 184.50 VAT HALC – H1367 In house training - £305.40 + £61.08 VAT HALC – H1374 CiLCA training Planning - £400 +£80 VAT Priors Frome Chapel Hall hire - £20 All payments were APPROVED by Councillors. 7.3 To consider the Dragon project and approval of M H Law quote for fencing work: The quote was APPROVED by Councillors. 7.4 To consider JACS quote for village gates etc. It was AGREED to meet again with Mike Day to have a site survey and quote for 3 possible gates at Mordiford too, as well as 1 in Dormington. Although 2 gates would	MP/Clerk MP JC/RC/JH/MJ

	be logical in Dormington, there is insufficient road to verge clearance (600mm) to install these safely. BB need to undertake safety surveys of all such sites, before work can go ahead, but have not yet responded to a request for a cost, which needs to be followed up with them. 7.5 To consider the formulation of a Grants policy for community projects: Councillors AGREED in principal to a Grants policy; and it was agreed that parish feedback on spending priorities was also needed. 7.6 To consider insurance for the children's playground at the Maltings: It was noted that if the Council were to apply for asset transfer of the playground from Herefordshire Council then a quote to cover replacement of any children's play equipment installed would be needed from the insurers. 7.7 To consider an increase in the Clerk's working hours: It was AGREED that the Clerk's working hours will be increased to 50 hrs per month. 7.8 To approve the precept and Budget for 2022-2023: The precept will not be raised in the next financial year and it is appreciated that times are hard. The Council wishes to do more for the parish. The budget was APPROVED by Councillors. 7.9 To receive an update on the laptop for the Clerk: The order has gone through and the Clerk is liaising with Herefordshire Computing with regards to installation.	JC/MP/Clerk JC/Clerk Clerk
17112021/08	Footpaths/Commons/Rivers: 8.1 To consider the Footpaths report from the Working group: A new footbridge has been installed in Checkey on MF/15 The complaint regarding footpath MF10A - It was AGREED that there should be a site visit before visiting the landowner. Cllr Hughes and Cllr Grant AGREED to meet with him. Cllr Jones is going to spend the winter looking at more reactive work ie replacing rotten waymarker posts and some rotten handrail on some of the older ditch crossings. 8.2 To consider the footpath at Mordiford school – Safeguarding: The closing of the footpath at Mordiford school during school hours was mentioned. Cllr Jones has emailed David Hough at Herefordshire Council but no reply has been received to date. These issues come under the Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. Cllr Hardwick was asked to comment and he said that in the short term the footpath could be closed during school hours but in the long term the diverting of the footpath would have to be considered. Cllr Tolley expressed the urgency of the problem. It was	MJ DH/EG JC/MJ

	AGREED that the matter would be taken forward by Cllr Hardwick. 8.3 To consider flooding due to Checkley Brook: It was AGREED to proceed with the quote of £80 plus VAT from Adam Jones. Works would not start until discussions had been held with the riparian landowner. This is intended as a one-off good-will gesture by the PC and as the work is needed urgently to prevent local residents from being flooded again. 8.4 To consider the adoption of the River Action plan put forward by Hereford City Council. There are no areas used for swimming in the parish and it was AGREED to notify the Council of the PC's support. 8.5 To consider the pavement along the main C road from Mordiford and Dormington. It was noted for information that Cllr Jones is in the process of obtaining a quote from Adam Jones to undertake the clearing of plants from the pavements surface. 8.6 To consider the footpath at Sufton and the overgrown hedge: It was noted that enforcement had been served some months previously but not yet complied with. An officer at BB has only recently been appointed to deal with this. 8.7 To consider the Checkley Common management plan update and a date to commence the work/plans for a stakeholder meeting: It was AGREED that the Chair would arrange a site visit with herself, Cllr Grant and Swift Eco.	MJ EG/DC JC MJ MJ EG/JC
17112021/09	9. Highways/Rural Roads/Bridges 9.1 To consider Mordiford Bridge – implications and request for flood risk assessment report: It was AGREED that the Cllr Cannings, Cllr Hardwick and the Chair would meet with Toby Whitehouse from the Environment Agency. Cllr Hardwick suggested the PC liaise with Hampton Bishop (Lynda Wilcox) from the neighbouring parish. 9.2 To receive an update on the Mordiford school carpark: It was noted that the school are happy for people to use the carpark. A new school caretaker will be in place soon which will make security easier. There may be some issues around which gate is used and Cllr Cannings said the carpark and playground are separated by a gate. 9.3 To receive an update on the Dormington Bus stand: The PC is awaiting structural approval from BB. Cllr Jones is liaising with Louise Prosser at BB 9.4 To consider the case to Balfour Beatty regarding the evidence for a SID: BB require £600 for a speed survey. The Police carried out a survey which met the criteria for speedwatch and are free. More progress should be possible once the B4224 MOU is signed. It was AGREED Cllr Cannings is to liaise with Cllr Jones and find a way forward.	JC/RC/JH/Clerk MJ JC/MJ/RC

	9.5 To receive an update on the B4224 strategy meeting: The meeting was postponed due to Covid	
17112021/10	10. Health Safety and the Environment: 10.1 To consider the adoption of the Maltings Green/Community asset transfer policy: It was AGREED that the running costs going forward should be explored before a decision was made. DC Gardening services are to be contacted for a quote. 10.2 To receive an update on the tree work and play equipment at Maltings Green: The tree work is going ahead on 22nd December, provided by Acer Trees. To remove, make good and provide new play equipment will cost approx. £10K-£15K. Kerry Diamond has reported that she has received positive feedback following an application for a community foundation grant of £3,300. It was suggested that the Council match fund this and DCAT will put £1000 of their own money into the project. It was AGREED that the viability of the project needs to be ascertained and more information will be provided at the next meeting. 10.3 To consider Wilder Herefordshire/Mordiford school, and the restarting of the Health and safety working group under a new umbrella heading of Health Safety and the Environment: It was AGREED to contact Sarah King to get the parish put on the map. 10.4 To receive a brief report from Citizens climate and to nominate attendees for 16th Nov 7-8.30pm: The Chair has been nominated to sit on the board and will report back on relevant items.	JC/Clerk JC JC
17112021/11	11.Communications/Newsletters/Social media/Website 11.1 To receive an update on Broadband provision: No update available. Issues are still being experienced with the infrastructure. Completion has now been put back to January or February. Anyone who is without fibre should register an interest. 11.2 To receive updates on the Dragon Newsletter: Cllr Preedy reported that it will be going to the printers next week. 11.3 To consider boosting Facebook for advertising purposes: It was RESOLVED not to boost facebook as analytics prove the achievements are minimal.	EG
17112021/12	12. To receive and consider any other business: (Matters arising from the minutes omitted on the agenda) i) To consider CiLCA (England) training for Clerk. The Clerk reported that she is still awaiting an update from the SLCC. ii) To consider Election costs and case for amalgamation of charges: The Clerk	Clerk Clerk

	reported that the person dealing with this at HCC was no longer in post and the matter had been forwarded on. There has been no response to date. iii) To consider the flooding due to Checkley Brook: It was AGREED that the Council would carry this work out as a gesture of goodwill and that the Landowner be reminded of his Riparian Rights. iv) To consider anti social behaviour at Swarden Quarry: There is a homeless man on the land at present and the decision on action is dependent on the landowner. v) To determine a date for a visit to the Clerks Office – Date to be agreed upon at the beginning of December. vi) To note that a risk assessment regarding the Deer on the A438/C1292 needs to be arranged with Balfour Beatty. Cllr Jones to arrange. vii) Cllr Preedy asked for the matter of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations to be discussed at the next meeting. viii) Cllr Cotton asked for matters surrounding Dormington Community Space on the Maltings/the funding for/grant application and a discussion surrounding the combining of the Schools 200th anniversary with the Dragon Trail launch. ix) Cllr Cannings asked for the Mordiford Church wall to be added to the next Agenda	DH/EG/MJ/JC JC/Clerk MJ
17/11/2021/13	Date and time of the next council meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 th January 2022.	

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21.03pm

SIGNED.....

DATED.....