

UPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Upton Bishop Parish Council

Held at Millennium Hall
Tuesday 2 July 2019 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors: Keith Cornwall (Chairman), Alison Feist, Paul Newman, Chloe Rusby, Brian Spencer, Hazel Strange.

In attendance: Lynda Wilcox – Acting Clerk (HALC), Ward Councillor Barry Durkin, 21 members of the public

1. **Apologies** – Councillor Mike Robins
2. **Declaration of interests** – there were none.
3. **Minutes of previous two meetings ... 4th June and 19th June.**
 - 3.1 Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to adopt both sets of minutes
4. **Open Session**
 - 4.1 Ward Councillor Barry Durkin gave a verbal report which included:
 - 4.1.1 £9m was being invested in infrastructure for Cyber Security facilities at Rotherwas.
 - 4.1.2 Funding from the Herefordshire Council recycling scheme at the Crematorium was support a local charity for stillborn children.
 - 4.1.3 The new Herefordshire Council administration was reviewing whether to go ahead with the proposed by-pass. If it did not go ahead, around £10m of funding would need to be returned.
 - 4.1.4 Herefordshire Council had an emergency out-of-hours telephone service for noise pollution (e.g. dogs barking, DIY, loud music etc) which could result in the presence of an Environmental Health Officer on Friday and Saturday nights.
 - 4.1.5 A flag was raised in support of Armed Forces Day the previous week and the Courtyard Theatre had pledged its support for the Armed Forces.
 - 4.1.6 The Herefordshire Council car park near the railway station was now closed, pending construction of student accommodation.
 - 4.1.7 A large fine had been imposed on the perpetrators who had left a large tanker with oil on the A49.
 - 4.1.8 Planning application 184493/F ... Councillor Durkin had spoken to the Planning Officer and asked that the application go before the Planning Committee because the application had indicated that the land was in level one for flood risk whereas it was actually in level three. Paul Newman requested that Councillor Durkin attend the Referral meeting prior to the Committee which included the Chairman of the Planning Committee and the relevant Planning Officer.

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- 4.2 The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the Balfour Beatty Locality Manager about outstanding work to be undertaken around the parish. It was agreed that the Chairman and Paul Newman would meet with the Locality Manager.
- 4.3 A local resident asked if the Lengthsman could tidy the beds at The Cross. It was noted that a local volunteer was cutting the grass

5. Planning

- 5.1 Application 191972 ... Land to the South of Upton Crews. Erection of 5 no. dwellings and associated works. Following detailed discussion, it was RESOLVED to make the following comments:

5.1.1 ADVERSE IMPACT ON LANDSCAPE The proposed development is in open countryside and does not take into account the intrusive and overpowering effect on the adjacent bungalow, Melrose, which was required to be sunken into the ground so as minimise its visual impact. The application is not considered to be RA2 i.e. adjacent to the built-up area of Upton Crews, but RA3 – open countryside. The character and setting of the proposed development would detract from the compact rural nature of Upton Crews and would certainly not contribute to the social well-being of the settlement.

5.1.2 ROAD SAFETY The proposed access is on a narrow stretch of road with restricted visibility due to a blind bend. Walking along the local narrow country lanes with no footpaths, only grass verges in places, is a very hazardous experience and a further five dwellings in this location would exacerbate the situation. Access to both the Moody Cow and St John's Church is via a steep, narrow hill with no street lighting. Cycling along the narrow, steep and windy lanes of the parish is also a dangerous experience as motorists commonly travel at higher speeds than is safe in such a rural location. It is understood that within the last twelve months, two children have been hurt in the parish, one crossing the B4221 and the other in a car accident at Phocle Green.

5.1.3 DRAINAGE Property holders backing on to the proposed site have been in discussion with Welsh Water since 2016, concerning the stench from a septic tank which has had to be emptied on a weekly basis. Several test holes have been dug but it is understood that Welsh Water have informed local residents that there is no suitable land for a septic unit.

5.1.4 TRANSPORT The bus service has been the subject of cuts over recent years and the timetable is not conducive to work hours for those travelling to nearby Ross on Wye and there is no service to Hereford City.

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The applicant's statement that traffic flows are very light and speeds only modest are at variance to recent surveys undertaken by parishioners which indicate a high and increasing usage of local roads, in part due to the commercial activities of Blue Sky, which is the subject of a separate planning application. It is noted that the traffic surveys referred to in the application were undertaken a year ago. The suggestion that five properties would only generate around six journeys per day is unrealistic when you consider the number of cars that five properties could generate for work/shopping/school runs/leisure trips etc, which are all in addition to service vehicles for rubbish collection, septic tank servicing, oil deliveries etc. Furthermore, it is understood that the two local schools are at capacity, therefore children from the development would need to travel outside the area. The validity of figures contained in the travel plan is questionable – appendix D does not even appear relevant to Herefordshire, quoting other areas of the country. Whilst there are employing bodies within the parish, current work patterns suggest that employees are not local residents walking to and from work but car drivers from outside the parish, thus adding to the increasing level of traffic on the narrow lanes.

5.1.5 GENERAL COMMENTS There is no shortage of 3-4 bedroom houses in the area and the application would represent a 10% increase on the current 47 properties. The proposed development is not in keeping with neighbouring properties. Should permission for this development be minded, the parish council requests that the matter be referred to Committee for decision.

5.2 It was noted that the following matters were still under consideration by Herefordshire Council: Blue Sky Transport Plan, Windy Hollow and Leeward House planning applications.

6. Finance

6.1 Brian Spencer gave a financial report which included a budget update & VAT recovery.

6.2 It was RESOLVED to pay the following outstanding invoices:

6.2.1 UK2 current website hosts ... £8.34.

6.2.2 Welsh Water re data on sewers and water mains for NDP ... £20.00.

6.2.3 Millennium Hall hire ... £60.00.

6.2.4 HALC clerk cover invoice for 22.5.19, 28.5.19, 4.6.19, 19.6.19 and 2.7.19.

6.2.5 External Audit Process 2018/19:

a) Members considered the internal audit report and RESOLVED to address all matters raised within the current financial year. It was noted that the new Clerk/RFO would be responsible for preparing financial papers and initial discussion would possibly take place through a Finance Working Group.

b) Members considered and completed the AGAR Governance Statement which related to the processes of the outgoing council.

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c) It was RESOLVED to adopt the 2018/19 accounts which had been compiled from the figures available to the new council.

d) It was RESOLVED to set the dates for public inspection between Friday 5th July and Friday 16th August inclusive. Alison Feist volunteered to be the local point of contact for those wishing to view financial records

7. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

7.1 It was noted that the following new members had volunteered to join the Steering Group: Christine Bowes, Andy Church & Jean Haines.

7.2 In the absence of a written quotation it was RESOLVED to postpone the appointment of the favoured planning consultant, Dave Nicholson, until the next meeting.

7.3 Members were shown the proposed settlement boundary discussed by the Steering Group and it was RESOLVED to formally adopt that boundary.

7.4 Members considered a photographic competition for the NDP and RESOLVED to defer discussion until the August meeting.

8. Footpaths Officers – Andy Parr & Jack from Cottage Garden Services

8.1 It was noted that the Footpaths Officers were responsible for reporting footpath problems and proposed improvements direct to the parish council via the new Clerk/RFO and a brief written report to each parish council meeting would be welcomed.

9. Lengthsman

9.1 It was RESOLVED that the Lengthsman would discuss his current duties with the parish council so as to enable a works schedule for the current financial year.

10. Highways

10.1 Subject to finances, it was RESOLVED to pursue the white-lining quotation that the previous council had obtained from Balfour Beatty for Crow Hill.

10.2 A local resident reported on the benefits of setting up a Speed Watch Group but further information was required from the local Road Safety Partnership.

10.3 The Chairman had held discussions with the Locality Manager concerning local signs and the need to cut back hedges

11. Defibrillator

11.1 It was RESOLVED that a ten minute presentation would be given at the August meeting of the parish council, together with discussion on possible grants.

11.2 It was noted that the Church did not feel it would be appropriate for a defibrillator to be sited on their property

12. Working Group to consider parish events for 2020 and possible grants

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Alison Feist offered to organise a local working group and report back to the parish council on possible events

13. Parish Action Sheet and recruitment of volunteers for specific tasks

Brian Spencer outlined the above and encouraged volunteers to assist with the items already specified on the action sheet. Local residents suggested that they may like to submit new/alternative items for the action sheet.

14. Date of next scheduled meeting

noted as Tuesday 6th August at 19.00. NB: Remaining 2019 dates noted as: 3.9.19, 1.10.19, 5.11.19, 3.12.19.

A resolution was passed to exclude the public from the following confidential item

15. Employment matters

15.1 Members considered interview dates for the new Clerk/RFO.

SIGNED R K Cornwall

DATE 6 August 2019