

Hentland Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes

Thursday 18th May 2017 at 7pm St Catherine's Church Hoarwithy

Present: Chairman Martin Soble, Frank Probert, Peter Pember, Dave Stuffins Henry Rudge, Sally pike, Pat Fitzpatrick, Henry Rudge & Phil Watkins

1.To accept apologies for absence

Frank Probert, & John Lyons

2.To agree and sign the minutes of the Annual Group Parish Meeting 26/05/2016

It was **RESOLVED**: to approve and sign the minutes of Annual Group Parish Meeting 26/05/2016

3.To receive Chairman's Annual report

The Chairman's gave his annual report

The Group Parish Council met 12 times in the last year, monthly on the third Thursday except August, with one extra-ordinary meeting to consider planning in Hentland Parish. We co-opted a new councillor, Philip Watkins, after the resignation of Peter Rees who has moved away. Over the last year the Parish Council has commented on 16 Planning Applications in the parishes.

Funding for parish council activities for minor road maintenance and the parish footpaths is increasingly from the precept rather than grants from Herefordshire Council as in the past. The Parish Council has resolved to maintain the budget which is one of the main reasons the precept will increase about £13 per Band D household this year. Footpaths are generally in good order and a number of stiles have been repaired or replaced with gates where we can. There is a short section of the riverside path at the bottom of Altbough Lane (HN2) that is becoming difficult to maintain due to erosion of the riverbank.

Lorries getting stuck in Altbough Lane continues to be a problem but the parish council has bought signs to hopefully redirect HGV's along the lower route, as County Council Highways department have been somewhat unresponsive.

Flooding in the village centre has not been a problem for the last couple of years but is still a risk. The PC has brought in the county drainage specialist for advice and is awaiting a meeting with the Duchy agent to seek agreement to deepen the flood ditch across their land. This would be followed by cleaning out the stream beside the New Harp Inn car park and possibly removing silt from the culvert under the road. Meanwhile the parish council

has provided a top up to the sand bag stock in Hoarwithy and St Owen's Cross in case they are needed.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan, started some time ago, has completed the Regulation 14 consultation stage and each household in the group parish will have received a copy in the post. The main impact is for the villages of Hoarwithy and St Owen's Cross as the Herefordshire Council Core Strategy determined that provision of our allocation of 27 new homes has to be in these "sustainable" settlements. There will be one further six week consultation period and then a referendum later this year before the NDP is final. So far all the expense for developing the NDP has been funded by grants from Lottery funding and Locality.

Our lengthsmen, John Round, is retiring after many years of good and reliable service much appreciated in the Parish. The Parish Council has appointed Paul Wright who is an experienced contractor who already looks after Little Dewchurch and Holme Lacy.

Potholes are again causing problems and we fight continually for our share of repairs. Unfortunately, county wide budget is so inadequate that road repairs don't happen in good time, if at all. The Parish Council has contracted some repairs from its own budget this year, but we need prior permission from Balfour Beatty and can only fix certain categories of minor holes. Please do continue to report potholes on the Herefordshire Council website where you can see which ones they have already registered.

The Parish Council has funded work on the willow trees on Ballingham Island and Biblets Island particularly so that the footpath along the river bank is kept clear. Local residents have cleared and seeded the area by the car park on riverside common.

4.To receive ward Cllrs annual report

No ward Cllrs Report – The ward Cllr was not in attendance at the meeting

5. To note matters raised by the electors of the parish

No parishioners present

Signed - Martin Soble

Dated

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Chairman Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group Parish Council