

BALLINGHAM, BOLSTONE & HENTLAND

GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ballingham Bolstone & Hentland Group Parish Council held on
Thursday 20th June 2019
At St Catherine's Church Hoarwithy 7.30pm

Present: Chairman Cllr John Lyons, Vice chairman, Cllr Dave Suffins, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr Mike Lowe, Cllr Vincent Mercer, Cllr Peter Pember, Cllr Henry Rudge, Cllr Martin Soble, Cllr Valerie Lilwall & Cllr Phil Watkins

In Attendance: Kath Greenow Parish Clerk

1. To receive apologies for absence

None

2. To receive declarations of interest on agenda items and consider dispensation requests.

Cllr Phil Watkins declared a NDPI on agenda item 7. Planning application for Biddlestone Farm & Orchards

3. To agree and sign the minutes of The Annual Parish Council Meeting on 16/05/2019

It was **RESOLVED:** to agree and sign the minutes of The Annual Parish Council Meeting on 16/05/2019 and the Chairman signed the minutes

4. Public forum: Members of the public may raise matters they wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council (this period will be restricted to 10 minutes. Please note that decisions cannot be made at this meeting on items raised that are not on the agenda)

No members of the public present

5. Lengthsman & Footpaths

5.1 To consider lengthsman & Footpaths work to be undertaken by the Lengthsman in the parishes.

The lengthsman had not carried out work previously identified and minuted

The clerk was asked to contact the lengthsman and advise that the work needed to be attended too urgently. Cllr Soble & Cllr Dave Suffins will carry out a parish walk with the lengthsman regarding routine maintenance work required. Clerk to Action

5.2 To consider clearing excess shrub growth on the green at Ballingham

It was **RESOLVED:** to monitor the pond vegetation growth, with a view to attending to it in due course if required.

5.3 To consider Mowing of the green at Ballingham, and removal of grass

clippings.

It was **RESOLVED**: that the clerk contact the contractor who attends to the mowing of the green at Ballingham, and asks that grass cuttings are taken to Cllr Rudge's farm to be disposed of.

5.4 To consider verge protection scheme

It was **RESOLVED** to note the information on The Vegre Protection Scheme, and that the clerk would put a link on the Parish Council website about the scheme.

6. Highways

6.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

Cllrs reported that some potholes in the parishes had been attended to including the ones along Hentland road. The clerk was asked to contact the locality

6.2 To consider response from Highways re white gate at St Owens Cross

The clerk advised that she had not had a response from Herefordshire Council and would chase them up.

The Clerk advised that ADL had been commissioned to carry out a review of the 40mph speed limit at St Owens Cross to determine whether a lower speed limit maybe more appropriate and would like to meet with some of the Cllrs.

It was **RESOLVED**: that The Chairman Cllr John Lyons, Cllr Mike Lowe & Cllr Peter Pember would meet with ADL. The preferred date Cllrs could meet with them was 5th July at 11am

Clerk to Action

6.3 To consider speed issues from Sellack to Hoarwithy

It was **RESOLVED**: that the clerk contacts balfour Beatty to request a speed survey is carried out in the area concerned and that she contacts the local Police to request speed monitoring is carried out.

Clerk to Action

7. Planning

7.1 To consider commenting on the flowing planning consultations received:

7.2 173774 Biddlestone Farm Llangarron -Ross- On -Wye Herefordshire

Description: To erect up to 28 hectares of fixed (i.e. nonrotating) Spanish polytunnels over arable (soft fruit) crops

7.3 173775 Biddlestone Orchard, Llangarron, Ross- On – Wye Herefordshire

Description: Excavation and ground profiling to form 3 no. surface water balancing ponds

7.4 173776 Biddlestone Orchard Garrenhill Road Ross- On- Wye Herefordshire

Description: The retention of 6 existing caravans/ replacement residential demountable modular pods and the installation of 6 demountable modular welfare (on- residential) buildings (toilets, mess, etc)

7.5 173777 Biddlestone Orchards, Llangarron Ross- On -Wye Herefordshire

Description: Erection of profiled- steel- clad portal frame pumphouse building and 2 no water tanks

7.6 173778 Biddlestone Orchards, Llangarron, Ross- On- Wye Herefordshire

Description: Erection of profiled – steel – clad- portal frame general purpose agricultural building.

7.7 173779 Biddlestone Orchards Llangarron, Ross – On – Wye Herefordshire

Description: Covered elevated lorry dock/ loading platform

7.8 173780 Biddlestone Orchards Llangarron Ros- On-Wye Herefordshire

Description: Upgrading existing vehicular access/ egress to/from the A4137 Garrenhill Road and laying out of upgraded access track

It was **RESOLVED**: to Object to applications 173774,

173775,173776,173777,173778,173779 & 173780 and submit the following comments

Following submission of amended applications under the above references, the Group Parish Council maintains its previous objection and makes the following additional comments:

- 1) Full representations cannot be made until the applicant submits planning applications for the entire development so that they can be considered together. We ask that the Council defer consideration of the above applications until the entire proposal can be properly assessed and representations sought.**

The true scale and impact of the proposed development cannot be fully assessed until the applicant resubmits plans for accommodation of seasonal agricultural workers (SAWs). Previously, the applicant submitted plans for on-site accommodation for SAWs, thus acknowledging the interdependency between the polytunnel development and the need for SAWs; you cannot have one without the other.

No application has been submitted for the SAW accommodation. However based on the information available to us at this time we have severe reservations with the applications failure to address a number of issues particularly the location for the workers

- 2) The original proposals as submitted were environmentally damaging and the amended applications worsen the situation.**

. The use of fossil-fuel buses to move SAWs to the proposed polytunnel site, together with the use of vehicles to move picked strawberries some 3.5 miles for processing would increase pollution, noise and traffic density on the busy A4137 and yet busier A49 – a strategically important road in the Herefordshire Transport Plan. The proposal to operate on every day of the week would be disturbing and disruptive to residents who live along and adjacent to the A4137 and A49. Slow moving agricultural vehicles and buses already use the road but the density of these types of vehicle would increase to the detriment of tourists and the general public who use the road.

There are clear, negative, implications for road safety. Part of the proposed route for the transport of strawberries along the A4137 includes the crossroads at St Owens Cross acknowledged as an accident blackspot.

Within the last few months, a cyclist was seriously injured on the A49 when a tractor driver failed to see him. Herefordshire attracts cyclists and walkers who contribute to the local economy. This proposal, if accepted, is likely to cause reputational and consequential economic damage to Herefordshire's tourist trade

- 3) The amended proposals would cause harm to the tourist economy in Herefordshire.**

The additional pollution, density of traffic and visual impact would deter cyclists and walkers who contribute to the local economy. This proposal would, eventually, cause reputational damage to Herefordshire's tourist trade

Were the Council minded to grant planning permission, it would be advisable to ensure that screening was already in place and established prior to construction of the polytunnels.

8.Finance

8.1 To note finance report

The finance report was noted, and the bank balance was noted as £16280.18

8.2 To consider payments to:

It was **RESOLVED:** to pay
Will Clift Invoice E576 £120.00 +vat
Clerks June salary as per contract & paye due
Came and Co – Annual Insurance £346.40
H Roberts Internal Audit Fee £50.00

8.3 To consider quotes re first aid training

Discussion took place regarding first aid training, and Cllr Fitzpatrick had spoken to The Resus Officer for Hereford Hospital about defib training. He as happy to do some training (FOC).

It was **RESOLVED:** that Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick would liaise with the resus officer see what dates he could do defib training session at Ballingham Hall and a training session at St Catherine's Church.

9. Correspondence

9.1 To consider correspondence relating to Ballingham Churchyard

Discussion took place concerning cutting of the grass at the churchyard and the PC would Speak with the lengthsman to see if he would be able to cut the grass. Clerk to Action

9.3 To consider correspondence from Aconbury PRU re support of charity activities

It was **RESOLVED:** that the Clerk would contact Aconbury PRU to advise that the Parish Council have no objections to you collecting driftwood or brushwood from common land for the activities specified on a sectioned of area of Tresseck Campsite to do this

Clerk to Action

10. Matters raised for consideration for placing on the next meeting's agenda (no discussion)

Schedule for future verge cutting

Common Land

11. To note date of the next Parish Council Meeting as Thursday 18th July at 7.30pm at St Catherine's church

Signed: J Lyons
Chairman

Dated 18/07/2019