

BALLINGHAM, BOLSTONE & HENTLAND

Minutes

**of Ballingham Bolstone & Hentland Group Parish Council Meeting
on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7.30 pm in Ballingham Village Hall**

Present: Councillors: Martin Soble (Chairman), Steve Barber (Vice Chair), Claire Geddes, Peter Pember, Valerie Lilwall, Nat Thomas, Henry Rudge, Pat Fitzpatrick, Phillip Watkins and Andrew McKersie.

In attendance: Clerk: Nicky Mackenzie and Ward Councillor: David Davies

1. Apologies were received from:

Councillor: Sherwood Keogh.

2. To receive declarations of interest and written dispensation requests.

A non-pecuniary declaration of interest was received from Councillor Soble re item 7.2.

Pecuniary declarations of interest were received from Councillors Nat Thomas and Henry Rudge re item 7.2. Councillors Thomas and Rudge will leave the room when the item is discussed.

3. To agree and sign minutes of PC meeting on 15th February 2024.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the above Minutes as a true record, and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Session - restricted to 10 minutes:

4.1 To receive a brief verbal report from the Ward Councillor.

The Ward Councillors gave the Councillors an update which included extra funding of £100m for highways over the next seven years, and an update on the recent Herefordshire Council budget meeting. He mentioned that as Balfour Beatty are quite stretched they would be bringing in other companies via the tender process. He also mentioned additional monies for drainage works which is in addition to the current Lengthsman Scheme, Clerk to send in expression of interest email. Herefordshire Council had also passed a motion on higher council tax charges for second homes, Councillor Rudge questioned this and asked if there would be any leeway for homeowners in exceptional circumstances i.e. flooding and Councillor Davies confirmed a consultation would take place on a case-by-case basis. Councillor Lilwall asked if he had inspected the road to Hentland Church as Balfour Beatty had been and repaired only two of the smaller potholes. He confirmed he had spoken to the Locality Steward who confirmed the road needed resurfacing. He will follow up.

4.2 To receive views of local residents on parish matters.

No members of the public were present.

5. Lengthsman and Footpaths:

5.1 To receive an update from the Lengthsman.

Apologies were received from the Lengthsman who had wanted to attend the meeting. There was no report, but Councillor Soble confirmed he had discussed Rocks Common North with the Lengthsman as it had to be done by the end of March. The drainage works at Hoarwithy would be carried out as soon as the weather improved. The Lengthsman was very busy at the moment and therefore it was agreed to consider an additional company to support the works required.

5.2 **To receive an update from Footpaths Officer.**

The footpaths officer had nothing new to report but confirmed that he and Councillor McKersie would be going to review HN19, the Clerk confirmed she had received an update from Herefordshire Council, they were waiting for the weather to improve and would review the potential badger setts. Councillor Thomas appraised the Councillors that there was a further tree down at BH5 (Ballingham Wood) Councillor Thomas will have another look and report back. Councillor Pember had received information from a parishioner that the grass at Quarry Bank is looking untidy, can we ask the Lengthsman to review. Councillor McKersie mentioned funding available for repair of bridges, as there is a bridge which is closed at HN12. He and Councillor Barber will investigate and report back. Clerk to complete Expression of Interest Form.

5.3 **To consider any further maintenance work for the Lengthsman.**

Councillor Soble confirmed that routine maintenance works are up to date and Grant Funded Drainage works are about to begin.

6. Finance:

6.1 Bank balance noted at £1,047.54 This was checked and confirmed by Councillor Fitzpatrick prior to the meeting.

6.2 The Reserve Account balance was £9,057.40. This was checked and confirmed by Councillor Fitzpatrick prior to the meeting.

6.3 **It was RESOLVED to make the following BACs payments:**

- a) Terry Griffiths TGC2589 - £440.00 (Plus VAT)
- b) Eyelid Productions – Website Support - £100.00
- c) Martin Soble – Screwfix (Steps BH5) - £62.44

6.4 **To note payments made to:**

- a) BOSH - £30.00 (Councillor Lilwall noted that the figure in the Agenda should have been £30.00 not £90.00)
- b) Clerk Salary
 - a) Amazon stationery - £23.76 (plus VAT)
 - b) D C Iron INV504972 - £309.55 (plus VAT)
 - c) Amazon stationery - £4.16 (plus VAT)
 - d) Information Commissioner's Office Renewal - £35.00

6.5 **To consider Draft Budget.**

The Budget was agreed with an additional £500 to be added to Defibrillator Maintenance.

7. To consider Planning Applications:

7.1 P/240328/F – Newton Farm, St Owens Cross, HR2 8LE - Proposed demolition of redundant farm buildings and erection of 10 dwellings.

It was RESOLVED to support the application with the following comments:

We would like to see a reliable drainage strategy included and we would prefer to see solar panels used on all roofs. As there will be an increase in pedestrians crossing the road we would like consideration made to decrease the local speed limit on A4137 and B4521 to 30mph.

7.2 P240411/FH – Court Cottage, Ballingham, HR2 6NH – Proposed two storey extension, new double garage.

It was RESOLVED to support the application with the following comments:

Support subject to a request for limited lighting to preserve dark skies.

7.3 P240452/F - Oak Barn, Little Dewchurch, HR2 6PS - Proposed conversion and change of use of a Grade II listed building into a dwelling (part retrospective).

It was RESOLVED to Support this application.

7.4 P240453/L - Oak Barn, Little Dewchurch, HR2 6PS – Proposed conversion and change of use of a Grade II listed building into a dwelling.

It was RESOLVED to Support this application.

8. Clerk's Report.

- a) Auditor instructed.

- b) Agreement sent to Solicitors re BH5.
- c) Progress made on moving Website to Cloud Next and away from HALC.
- d) Register of Interest update- most Councillors have completed new forms.
- e) Update HN19. Another site visit is planned once the weather improves.
- f) To receive update on speed limit extension on C1261 north of junction with U71001. Herefordshire Council have conducted the feasibility study and were unable to grant our request.

9. To consider purchase of Defibrillator Pads:

- a) Defibrillator Pads with cardiac monitor - £132.00 (plus VAT) It was RESOLVED that these were not necessary.
- b) Defibrillator Pads without cardiac monitor - £58.99 (plus VAT) It was RESOLVED to liaise with Councillor Keogh and purchase one or two of these replacement pads. It was further RESOLVED to allow the Clerk to purchase new Defibrillator Pads as and when required.

10. To consider the SID grant offer:

Councillor Thomas confirmed that the Grant request for 2 x Speed Indicator Devices had been successful. It was RESOLVED to accept this offer and Councillor Thomas will liaise with Clerk and complete relevant paperwork.

11. To consider Annual Parish Meeting event.

Councillor Soble confirmed that the meeting would be held at B.O.S.H on 9th May 2024 and that our local Member of Parliament (The Rt Hon Jesse Norman MP) and our Ward Councillor (Councillor David Davies) had confirmed they would attend. It was RESOLVED to provide refreshments and Councillor Rudge agreed to speak to B.O.S.H and make enquiries as to what they could provide and costs. He will report back at the next meeting.

12. To consider defibrillator signposting.

As Councillor Keogh was not present it was RESOLVED to defer this until next meeting. Councillor Fitzpatrick has agreed to check what signage is currently present and what would be required.

13. To raise matters for next Agenda – no discussion:

- a) Expression of Interest for PROW Funding Grant, (replacement bridge HN12)
- b) Recent Power cuts and outages.
- c) Bridge Funding re HN12.
- d) Annual Parish Meeting.
- e) Defibrillator Signposting.

14. Date of next meeting.

18th April 2024

Meeting Ended – 21.14

Signed

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Chairman

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Date