



Minutes

**of Ballingham Bolstone & Hentland Group Parish Council Meeting
on Thursday 20th February 2025 at 7.30 pm in Ballingham Village Hall**

Present: Councillors: Martin Soble (Chairman), Steve Barber (Vice Chair) Phillip Watkins, Sherwood Keogh , Henry Rudge, Claire Geddes, Peter Pember, Val Lilwall and Andrew McKersie.

In attendance: Clerk: Nicky Mackenzie and Councillor David Davies (Ward Councillor).
14 members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies were received from:

Councillors: Pat Fitzpatrick.

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

Councillor McKersie declared a pecuniary interest in Item 10 and it was agreed he would not participate in this item and would leave the room.

3. To agree and sign Minutes of PC Meeting on 12th December 2024.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the above Minutes, with three amendments which were agreed by Councillors, as a true record, and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

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

4.1 The Ward Councillor had provided a written report ahead of the meeting and updated Parish Councillors on agenda items.

4.2 To receive views of local residents on parish matters.

A number of members of the public were present to share their concerns about the closure of C1261 following the landslip, and the increased traffic on Laskett Lane, where the poor condition of the road surface in places is deteriorating further. Ward Member Councillor Davies explained that he has been pushing the Highways department to have Laskett Lane repaired and to resolve the landslip issue, which is awaiting the landowner's response. There were also concerns about general road safety in the village of Hoarwithy and the Chairman explained that this has been discussed previously by the Parish Council, and a meeting with Highways Safety was held on site recently and a report was awaited.

5. Lengthsman and Footpaths:

5.1 To receive an update from the Lengthsman.

The Lengthsman had previously provided a report on his regular works and Councillor Soble confirmed he had been working locally. It was also confirmed that the steps at the bottom of BH5, by Sheepwash Cottage, had now been completed.

5.2 To receive an update from Footpaths Officer.

There was no update from the Footpaths Officer

5.3 To consider any further maintenance work for the Lengthsman.

Councillor Watkins confirmed that the silt in Hoarwithy had been removed. There was still a little left which Councillor Barber confirmed he will deal with. It was RESOLVED to ask Clerk to confirm the Lengthsman go ahead with two GFD projects S1 and S3. Councillor Soble confirmed we are booked up with the Lengthsman until end of March and suggested we book in our summer schedule. It was RESOLVED to book in same schedule as last year and add more if required. Clerk to action.

- 5.4 **To consider works for Lengthsman under Match Funding Scheme.**
Clerk to investigate.
- 5.5 **To consider Verge Cutting.**
It was RESOLVED to confirm first cut with Herefordshire Council. Clerk to action.

6. Finance:

- 6.1 Bank balance noted at £1,713.78 This was checked and confirmed by Councillor Lilwall prior to the meeting.
- 6.2 The Reserve Account balance was £12,178.73. This was checked and confirmed by Councillor Lilwall prior to the meeting.
- 6.3 **Arrangements for BACs payments to the following:**
 - 6.3.1 Terry Griffiths – TGC3063 - £466.00 (plus VAT)
 - 6.3.2 Terry Griffiths – TGC3062 - £300.00 (plus VAT)
 - 6.3.3 Terry Griffiths – TGC3075 - £760.00 (plus VAT)
 - 6.3.4 Eyelid Productions Ltd (website support) - £100.00 (no VAT)
 - 6.3.5 Information Commissioner's Office Renewal - £47.00 (due by direct debit 10th March 2025)
- 6.4 **To note payments made to:**
 - 6.4.1 BOSH - £30.00
 - 6.4.2 Clerk Salary
 - 6.4.3 Open Spaces Society £45.00 (no VAT)
 - 6.4.4 Terry Griffiths – TGC3002 - £300.00 (plus VAT)
 - 6.4.5 Will Clift – E2021 - £55.00 (plus VAT)
- 6.5 **To consider Ear Marked Reserves:**
Suggested Ear Marked Reserves were agreed.
- 6.6 **To consider Final Budget**
It was RESOLVED to accept budget with amendments.

7. To consider Planning Applications:

- 7.1 P243209/F – Planning Permission and P243305/L - Listed Building Consent for Land at and near New Inn St Owens Cross Hereford HR2 8LQ.
Proposed application for variation of condition 2 of planning permission 193728/F & 193729/L (Proposed erection of five dwelling houses together with associated reordering of the public house car park to facilitate vehicle access) and subsequent planning permission 210426/F & 210841/L (amendments to proposed site layout revision to include additional car parking for the New Inn public house staff members) - Revisions to the approved scheme.
It was RESOLVED to continue our support for this application.

8. Clerk's Report.

- 8.1 Confirmation of funding from Herefordshire Council.
- 8.2 Email received from West Mercia re our Meeting dates.
- 8.3 OSS membership – have welcome pack.
- 8.4 Sewage discharge storm drain update.
- 8.5 Flood Group online meeting forwarded.

9. To receive update on Ross Road/C1261 road closure due to landslip.

Covered in item 4.2

10. To consider request to reclassify footpath at HN11.

Councillor McKersie left the room. 20.24 The footpath location was confirmed. It was RESOLVED to comment as follows: We have no knowledge of such usage and are not minded to make such an application. However it is possible for anyone to make an application providing they have suitable evidence. Councillor McKersie returned 20.33.

11. To discuss suspected sewage discharge into storm drain.

Councillor Soble updated the Councillors, it was RESOLVED to keep chasing. Clerk to action.
Ward Councillor returned 20.37.

12. To receive update on fallen tree at BH5.

Councillor Rudge confirmed he had been in discussion with landowner and all now clear.

13. To consider Hoarwithy Village Road Safety.

Ward Councillor and Councillor McKersie confirmed outcome of Hoarwithy Site meeting. It was RESOLVED to write to representatives from Herefordshire Council. Councillor McKersie to draft email and Clerk to action.

14. To consider instruction to employ an internal auditor.

It was RESOLVED to employ Paul Russell who conducted last year's Audit.

15. To consider Annual Parish Meeting event.

It was RESOLVED to hold the meeting at The New Inn at St Owen's Cross and invite residents to come and hear our Speed Indicator Device findings and receive a presentation from a member of West Mercia police re speeding and road safety. Clerk to contact Councillor Thomas re availability and report back.

16. To consider review of Financial Regulations.

Defer until next meeting.

17. To consider adoption of Code of Conduct.

Approved for Adoption.

18. To receive an update on Llanfrother Lane.

Councillor McKersie updated Councillors on progress. Ward Councillor will investigate further.

19. To discuss SID traffic reports and consider relocation.

Councillor Soble confirmed that a movable base for the SID is being planned .

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

20.1 Road signage in Hentland.

20.2 Update on HN19.

21. Date of next meeting.

20th March 2025

Meeting Ended – 21.29

Signed

.....
Chairman

.....
Date