



FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL



DRAFT AWAITING COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FOWNHOPE PARISH HELD AT FOWNHOPE PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2010 AT 07.00 PM

Present:

Parish Councillors:

D Colley Chairman
J Boothman
D M Clark
P Daines
J Hardwick
F Jolley
G Williams
M Williams

Acting Parish Clerk:

M Preedy

6 Members of the public were present.

Councillors H Mansell, J Jones, D Pascoe and A Corby had all expressed regret at being unable to attend.

1. Chairman's Opening Address.

The Chairman addressed the four issues which were raised at last year's Parish Meeting.

Signs had now been erected at the Pavilion car park indicating there is no vehicular access to the river.

A meeting had taken place with Herefordshire Council to discuss the possibility of improving the Hawkers Lane junction but, regrettably, they had not agreed to any significant changes. However, assurances had been given given that the road markings would be repainted.

The old Tourist Information board in the village had now been removed and a further use for it was being considered.

An overview of the Councils activities had been published in the Flag. The following items were of particular note:

Parish Footpaths – Councillor David Clark was commended for his very active and effective leadership of the footpaths group in progressing the care of the footpaths since direct control was handed over from the County. He had also managed to persuade the County to increase the funding for footpaths for this year which, amongst many other things, would enable the Lengthsman to carry out further work on improving gates and stiles.

Planning- Councillor John Hardwick and the Planning Group were thanked for the time and patience they had expended in dealing with 25 planning applications during the year. This

could be a frustrating task on those occasions when carefully considered recommendations to the County planning authority were not accepted.

Finance – The precept has been held steady again this year and the council held adequate reserves to fulfil its responsibilities. The recent financial crisis had effectively wiped out any interest earned on bank deposits so the Council's deposit funds had been moved into Government Bonds which have re-established a worthwhile return to supplement the precept.

2. Local Policing Issues. Regrettably, no member of the Police was in attendance.

3. Common Hill Lane Telephone Box. The Parish Council was in the process of purchasing the telephone box and welcomed suggestions for its use. The following comments were made and would be considered by the Council:

It might be possible to site the Box at the New Inn.

It was noted that there was currently a note inside the box advertising its sale but with the condition that it stays in situ. This would be followed up with BT.

It might be useful to have a working telephone at the Recreation field.

Relocation costs should be weighed against the benefits to the Parish.

The Box could be used to advertise tourist information such as local walks and local businesses.

A more secure location than its present location may be required.

If the Box were to be retained in Common Hill there would be maintenance issues and its use for any purpose might be limited.

4. Open forum for views on Parish issues.

A number of issues were raised, all of which the Council would consider:

An item could be put in the Flag reminding people not to take dogs into the play ground.

It was asked whether the Council had attempted to obtain improvements in the safety of Common Hill junction. Herefordshire Council had been asked for permission for mirrors to be used but had refused to allow this. Traffic safety in the village was very much an ongoing issue with the Council.

A request was made to extend the 30 mph speed limit beyond Hawkers Lane.

The state of the road in Hawkers Lane and at the bottom of Wye Valley walk on Woolhope Road was raised. Herefordshire Council had advised that the road through the village was scheduled to be resurfaced by Amey.

The Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator apologised for the Police not attending the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Jem Bateman

Clerk to the Council