



FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT FOWNHOPE PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 07.30 PM

Present:

Parish Councillors:

- G Williams Chairman
- D Clark
- D Colley
- A Corby
- P Daines
- J Hardwick
- F Jolley
- J Jones
- D Pascoe

J Bateman Parish Clerk

Six members of the public were present.

CSO Smith had sent his regrets at being unable to attend.

Ward Councillor Pemberton was in attendance prior to the start of the Meeting and advised the Council:

The new system for dealing with planning applications appeared to be working without problems and at a significant financial saving.

A complaint had been received about the siting of one of the bus stops at the Lucksall Caravan Site. Discussions had already taken place between the Parish Council and Amey over re-siting the Stop and there was dissatisfaction over the tardiness shown by Amey in taking action. The Parish Council would be sending a hastener to Amey.

Councillor Pemberton informed the meeting that she would not be seeking re-election in May 2011.

Prior to the meeting members of the public praised the excellent work carried out by Cllr Colley on refurbishing the old Tourist Board notice board.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Decision: Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs J Boothman, H Mansell and M Williams.

2. Declarations of interest. Cllr Hardwick declared a non-prejudicial interest in Item 7c.

3. Minutes of the last meeting.

Decision: The minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed as an accurate record.

ACTION

Clerk

4. **Public Consultation.** Members of the public were invited to comment on, or ask questions about, any of the agenda items. Support was given for proposals to switch off street lighting at night to be discussed it Item 13.

5. **Finance.**

Decision: Payment of £158.62 to Mazars for the External Audit was approved.

Clerk

6. **Planning Applications.** An update on the Planning Group's activities since the last Council meeting was given. This included planning applications for Wye Valley Leisure Health Club, The Green Man Inn, Highland Cottage, 3 Manor Court and Lucksall Caravan Park

7. **Footpaths.**

a. **P3 Projects.** The update on current, past and planned P3 work summarised in **Annex A** was given. The Footpath Group were looking at ways to provide a viable footpath between Lucksall Caravan Park and the centre of the Village. In the past a large number of footpath leaflets had been printed and it was clear that most of these had been picked up by members of the public on a whim rather than for their intended purpose. Rather than print more leaflets the Group was seeking a publisher to produce a booklet of walks which would be funded through sales. Details of all walks would continue to be available on the village web-site.

b. **Boardwalk at Ferry Lane (FWD6A).** The issues of vehicular access and Health and Safety were discussed.

Decision: Whilst it was clear that these issues had been considered in the design and construction of the Boardwalk final confirmation would be sought from the landowner and from Amey that they were content.

Clerk

c. **Lea Brink.** For years the footpath alongside the river at Lea Brink had been impassable. The Rights of Way Office appeared to have been consulting other bodies over plans to rationalise this, and other footpaths in the area, but had failed to include the Council.

Decision: The Rights of Way Office would be asked to attend a meeting with all other interested parties to reach a consensus on the actions to be taken.

Clerk

d. **Lucksall Footpath Project.** The brief summarised in **Annex A** was given.

Decision: A letter would be sent to Mr Garry Williams thanking him for his assistance.

Clerk

8. **Lengthsman Projects.** An update on current, past and planned Lengthsman work was given. Most work had been minor and involved weeding, ditch clearance and cleaning signs. Future activity would include highlighting the speed bumps on the Recreation Field track and drain clearance at the Venture playground. The recent RoSPA inspection had found the swings at the Venture Play area to be unsatisfactory.

Decision: RoSPA would be contacted to determine what measures could be taken to make the swings safe.

Clerk

9. Pedestrian crossing on the B4224. The provision of a pedestrian crossing on the B4224 near to the West End Stores was considered. Due to siting difficulties and cost the proposal was considered to be unviable.

10. Parish Walk To review highways issues. Amey had offered to come to the Parish to inspect highway issues in situ with the Council.

Decisions:

Arrangements would be made with Amey for a 'Parish Walk' during September.

Cllr Colley

The date would be circulated to councillors.

Cllr Colley

Councillors would forward details of any issues which they wished to be raised.

All

11. QE2 Fields in Trust Scheme.

Decision: An application would be made to register the Recreation Field under the Scheme.

Clerk

12. West Villas Pavement Project. Cllr Jolley was commended for his action in bringing the warring factions together to achieve a consensus on how the pavement could be widened. The way now appeared to be clear for the Highways Dept to proceed with the Project. They had acknowledged this and had confirmed that they would commence action within a 'few weeks'. Pressure would be maintained on them to ensure this.

13. Street Lighting.

Decisions:

A request for measures to be taken to switch off all street lights in the Parish after midnight would be sent to Herefordshire County Council.

Clerk

The proposal would be publicised again in the Flag to allow any parishioners who wished to register their dissent to the proposal.

Clerk

14. Common Hill Telephone Kiosk. Ownership of the Kiosk had been transferred to the Council

Decision: The condition of the kiosk would be inspected and regularly monitored pending its move to a more appropriate location.

Cllr Daines

15. Notice Boards.

Decision: The sum of £50 was approved for the refurbishment of the Council's notice boards.

Cllr Jolley

16. Minor items and Announcements.

The new bus shelter in Nover Wood Drive, whilst very welcome, had no glass in its window. Action was being taken in an attempt to get Amey to remedy this.

The firm which had taken over from the Council's previous solicitor had revealed that it held the deeds to a parcel of land owned by the Council known as 'Green

Lane'. These deeds had been recovered and the question of suitable storage for them would be considered at the next meeting. The land was being added to the 'Terrier' Register of Council assets.

After a long period of lobbying by the Council, the Highways Dept had finally carried out road improvements at Nash Pitch.

Jem Bateman

Clerk to the Council

Annex to Fownhope Council Meeting Minutes 1 Sep 10

FOOTPATHS

The Parish Council has been busy getting local footpaths into good shape as a part of the countywide P3 scheme. Eight worn out stiles have been replaced with new gates near to Lea Brink, on the path to Mansell's Ferry and at Caplor Farm, and more are planned. Vegetation and overhanging branches has been cleared on several paths on Common Hill, on the path from Scotch Firs towards Rock House, and behind the sewage works, as well as on several stiles. There are new posts and waymarks around the parish to help walkers and riders find their way. We have built a boardwalk to get over the wet land between Ferry Lane and Lockenstock, removed an obsolete stile by Nupend Mill, repaired a bridge at Rudge End and removed the bar in Baynhams Alley whilst keeping the low stone-stile. Where we have had reports of trees across paths we have arranged with landowners to have these removed. Our thanks to the team of volunteer waywardens who walk our paths and report any problems, and to the parish Lengthsman, Michael Dyer, who does most of the repair work. If you spot problems on public rights of way then let Maurice Spratt (860572) or David M Clark (860017) know.

FOWNHOPE PARISH FOOTPATH GROUP

ANNUAL FOOTPATH TOUR Aug 2nd – 10 attended – apologies AC, JH
P Daines, D Colley, D M Clark, PFO Maurice Spratt, Hilary Mansell, Fred Jolley, clerk Jem Bateman, walkers Rodney Hill, Pam Colley, Margaret Clark

Inspected new gates, Lockenstock boardwalk, leaning bridge on Meer's Meadow, route thro Lea Brink, new and planned gates at Lea Brink and on Tump Farm, sewage work stile, Baynham Alley

FOOTPATH GROUP MEETING at 2 Ringfield Drive 4pm Monday August 9th 2010

All present - PD, DC, JH, AC, DMC, PFO Maurice Spratt

To note

1. considerable work done on P3 – paths inspected regularly – have only used one contractor so far this year – within budget
2. Rolling programme of future work – work to deal with two sections of bridleway on Common Hill on the Wye Valley Walk which get waterlogged in winter – agreed that DMC and DC would look at the options for filling and/or French drain in the autumn – Amey had material available for filling – and will also consult horse-riders
3. series of gates to replace stiles –
4. to recommend to Council
5. support for a solution to the long-running efforts to find a safe walking route from Lucksall to the village which would involve two or three new self-closing gates and access from FWD8A by way of a short dedication from the road onto the Badcroft path, FWB9

6. Definitive Map changes – Lea Brink - concern at lack of progress - seek meeting with Amey – and meeting with all relevant parties
7. Stocks of Leaflets (2500) printed last year and funded from P3 budget now depleted. View that Council should not pay to print more free leaflets at £200 a time but should seek to get a booklet produced which could incorporate these and other walks, funded in part through sponsorship and/or advertising, and sold through local outlets

FOOTPATH FROM LUCKSALL TO HOLME LACY BRIDGE – Summary Brief

Cllrs Colley and Daines together with Mr Gary Williams, owner of Lucksall Caravan and Camping Park, recently met Mr Steve Thompson of HFDS Ccl Highways Dept. to discuss ways in which it might be made safer for the many walkers who use this part of the B4224 road. Movement along this stretch of road has long been a concern of Fownhope Parish Council. Residents and the many park users find it difficult to access the bus stop sited by the bridge and to walk to Mordiford. The meeting was most productive. It was agreed that with a minimum of effort and expense walkers might be encouraged to step off the road and use the verge instead. At present this grass verge is in an overgrown state. Mr Thompson acknowledged that there had been a short path back from the bridge to the bus stop and offered to check this and tidy up that section so that walkers might get off the road. Nearer to Lucksall and alongside the old coal yard the verge needs to be mown and levelled. Mr Williams was asked if he could assist and sportingly offered to undertake to do this without charge. Regrettably, there is a B.T. pole in the middle of the verge at the Caravan park end necessitating walkers having to step round it. FHFDS Ccl are unwilling to engineer a permanent path, with hand rails et al, unless the pole were to be moved. This could be problematic and expensive and it is not proposed to pursue this. Instead, after gaining approval from other land owners with frontages along the road, Mr Williams is mowing the grass and tidying up the area to create a de facto path for walkers to use.