



been opposed by the Council in 2002 and expressed his hope that this new order would be similarly opposed.

**4a Definitive Footpaths Map Modification Order.**

This Item was added to the agenda in accordance with Council Standing Order 9: 'Urgent business may be discussed at the meeting, subject to the agreement of the majority of the councillors present.'

Notice of a Definitive Map Modification Order to add Footpaths FWB12, 13, 14 and 15 to the Map had been received. This appeared similar to an order which had been opposed by the Council in June 2002.

**Decision:** The Rights of Way Office would be informed that the Council saw no reason to lift its original objections to the Order and, in any case, would require more time to fully investigate the justification for the Order before it could agree to its implementation.

Clerk

**5. Finance.**

**a. invoices for payment.**

**Decision:** Payment was authorised for the following invoices:

Clerk

- Clerk's salary (£795.31) and expenses (£82.76)
- Ink Cartridges (£12.46)
- Playground seesaw replacement seats (£82.80)
- Slide platform woodwork (<£50)
- Freighter (£120)
- Notice board repairs £47.34
- Biggs Lane signs (£188.60)
- Grass cutting (£60)
- Playground safety inspection (£50.85)

**b. Picnic Area**

A request had been received from the FRFA for financial assistance to create a picnic area between the Pavilion and the Boules area. The FRFA had budgeted £1400 towards this project but the actual cost might be in excess of £2,200.

**Decisions:**

The project was supported in principle.

Up to £1,000 was authorised for expenditure on the project with any monies released to be approved by the Council's FRFA representatives.

Cllrs Jolley & Pascoe

The FRFA would be asked to provide:

Cllr Jones

- A detailed plan of the proposed area.
- Firm costs for the project.
- Details of how the area would be supervised and kept clean.
- Confirmation that any extra insurance cover necessary would be made.

**c. Insurance Cover for FRFA Workers.**

A request had been received from the FRFA for the Council to insure the operators of field maintenance equipment. It was unclear who was operating the equipment, what safety training they had been given, who was supervising them and what health and safety measures were in place. All these were the responsibility of the FRFA.

**Decision:** It would be inappropriate for the Council to accept responsibility for the insurance of FRFA workers.

**d. General financial assistance to the FRFA.** An investigation had been carried out, in conjunction with the FRFA, to establish a complete picture of the FRFA's past financial performance. Work was now under way to determine a future operating budget.

**6. Stocks.**

A meeting had taken place with the senior buildings conservation officer at Herefordshire Council and a way ahead determined:

Vegetation would be cleared using suitable weed-killers and manual labour - ivy and brambles need to be removed. This work would be done soonest either by Lengthsman or by volunteers.

The iron frame would be moved from the wall. This might require road cones, traffic lights and an approved contractor with experience of working on the highway verge. The contractor might have to cut the metal bolts from the wall. The PCC as owners of the church wall (also listed) should be consulted but it would not need listed building consent

The cage should be moved to a suitable safer location and the ironwork and corrugated roof repainted with a long-wearing paint. Work could be done either by a local contractor or by volunteers

Soil from around and below the stocks would be removed and the bed refilled with suitable gravel or granite chippings to provide a better setting and reduce the need for future vegetation clearance. This work could be done by the Lengthsman or any contractor with suitable insurance for working on highway verge. Cones and warning signs would be required.

The cage would then be reinstated.

Ideally the work should be completed by November 2009 to coincide with centenary of the erection of the iron cage.

It was likely that grant aid would be available, particularly if any applications were made jointly with the Local History Group.

**Decisions;**

All measures were approved.

Detailed costs for the project would be established.

The availability of grants would be investigated.

**Clerk**

**Cllrs Jones &  
G Williams**

**Chmn  
Cllr Clark**

**Cllr Clark**

**Cllr Clark**

The PCC and Local History Group would be liaised with.

**7. P3 Scheme.** Work on a number of outstanding projects was now being resumed following the long-delayed delivery of gates and posts by Herefordshire Council.

**8. Signs for Visitors.**

**Decisions:**

A sign informing visitors 'Car Park for River. No vehicular access beyond' and a finger post identifying the path to the river would both be provided. <£200 was approved for the project.

**9. Tourist Notice Board.** Ongoing. Notification would be given when this item could next be placed on the agenda.

**10. FRFA Update.** The FRFA had met on 10 June. Their cash flow appeared to be improving and they were investigating electricity costs, particularly those of the showers, to ensure that charges were being set at an appropriate level. The skateboard ramp and fire escape were being repainted. They had accepted the proposals for tree planting around the Field.

**11. Planning.** An application to demolish a single-storey building and establish a new 2-storey extension & porch at The Horns, Woolhope had been considered and approved by the Planning Group. A planning application for a mobile storage unit at Lucksall Caravan park (DCCE0009/1361) was considered.

**Decision:** The application would be supported.

**12. Maintenance of Pavements.** Extensive maintenance work had been completed on the pavements at Scotch Firs to a good standard. There was considerable frustration at the failure of the Highways Department to further the West Villas pavement project or respond to any communications requesting an update.

**Decisions:** A different desk at Herefordshire Council would be approached in an attempt to make some progress.

**13. Field Hedge Opening.**

The FRFA had alerted the Council that part of the newly planted hedging around the field had been damaged due to people walking through the hedge instead of using the footbridge.

**Decision:** The FRFA would be asked to liaise with the adjacent land owner. Assuming no problems arose from this a second "official" opening in the hedge at the opposite end of the field to the existing footbridge would be created to avoid more damage being done to the new hedge.

**14. Correspondence.** The current arrangements for dealing with correspondence were working well. Councillors were able to bring themselves up to date on, and discuss informally, correspondence in the half hour before each meeting. Any items requiring attention not already on the agenda for that evening could then be notified either directly with the Clerk or during 'Minor

**Chmn  
Clerk**

**Cllr Jones**

**Clerk**

**Chmn**

**Cllr Jones  
Chmn**

Items' at the end of the meeting for placing on the next agenda.

**15. Minor items and announcements.**

Traffic speed and tree planting would be placed on the next agenda.

Many of the roads in the area had deteriorated and were in a poor condition. A number of individual letters of complaint might assist to get them mended.

Trees for the tree planting scheme should be ordered soonest.

An update on the recent Regional Spatial Strategy meeting was given.

Most of the Smartwater signs had been installed. There were 2 remaining and suggestions for where they should be located were invited.

An initial, favourable, response had been received from Herefordshire Council on the Bus Services Report. A meeting to discuss it further was scheduled.

The next meeting was scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**Jem Bateman**

**Clerk**

**23 Jul 09**