



FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT FOWNHOPE PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 3RD MARCH 2010 AT 07.30 PM

Present:

Parish Councillors:

- D Colley Chairman
- J Boothman
- D Clark
- A Corby
- P Daines
- F Jolley
- H Mansell
- D Pascoe
- G Williams
- M Williams

J Bateman Parish Clerk

CSO Smith and PC James sent their regrets at being unable to attend.

Four members of the public were present.

Ward Councillor Pemberton was in attendance for discussions on current issues before the start of the meeting. Briefings on Herefordshire Council’s tax and budget forecast for the next financial year and the measures being taken to repair the recent frost damage to roads were given. Recent changes to the planning system were outlined. Planning applicants were encouraged to discuss their applications with Cllr Pemberton in the first instance to ensure that they proceeded as smoothly as possible.

	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies for Absence.</p> <p>Decision: Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Jones and Hardwick</p>	Clerk
<p>2. Declarations of interests. Non-prejudicial interests were declared as follows:</p> <p>Cllr Clark in item 5 - Footpaths. Cllr Mansell in Item 5 – Footpaths. Cllrs G and M Williams in Item 7 – Pavilion wind Turbine.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the last meeting. .</p> <p>Decision: The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.</p>	Clerk
<p>4. Public Consultation on agenda items. Members of the public were asked if they wished to comment on any of the agenda items. None responded.</p>	

4a. Playground slide. This item was placed on the agenda by the Chairman with the agreement of the Council as being of an urgent nature. The platform of the slide had been damaged by vandals and there was now a safety risk.

Decisions:

Warning tape would immediately be placed on the slide.

The sum of £50 was approved to cover repairs.

The Chairman was thanked for his prompt action in spotting the problem and for carrying out the repairs.

5. Footpaths.

a. In the Jul 09 meeting Council had considered a Definitive Map Modification Order to add Footpaths FWB12, 13, 14 and 15. Two of the paths concerned were on Cherry Hill and 2 were from Court Drive. The order had first been applied for in 1992, at which time the Council had objected to all 4. Last July the Council decided to stand by its objections because it had insufficient time to consider the County Council's research. It was expected that the applications would now be dealt with at a public inquiry at some future date. Following further examination of archival evidence and current usage of the paths the Council's objections had been reconsidered.

Decision: Objections to the two Court Drive paths would remain. Objections to the two paths on Cherry Hill would be lifted.

b. A meeting with local horse riders was being planned to determine the best means of improving opportunities for riding within the Parish

c. The report on P3 activities summarised at **Annex A** was given. Cllr Clark was commended for his work, which had resulted in the Scheme being a great success.

Decision: The Council would continue to participate in the P3 scheme during FY2010/11.

6. Parish Clerk Appointment. This item was deferred pending a meeting of the Employment Group. **Ongoing.**

7. Pavilion Wind Turbine. The possibility of installing a wind turbine to generate electricity to power the Pavilion was discussed. Planning was likely to be a significant hurdle as the site was in an AONB and close to a SSSI. The installation of photo-voltaic roof cells appeared to present a better option.

Decision: The installation of photovoltaic cells would be investigated.

8. Internal Auditor.

Decision: Lois Newman's offer to audit the Council's accounts at the end of the Financial Year was accepted with gratitude.

9. Non-Motorised Route Project. The possibility of Fownhope forming a joint Rural Service Centre Hub (RSCH) with Holme Lacy as part of plans being formulated under 'Shaping our Place 2026' as means of furthering the Non-Motorised Route (NMR) Project was discussed. The decision to apply to

**Chairman
Clerk**

**Cllr Clark
Clerk**

**Cllr Clark
Clerk**

**Cllrs G & M
Williams**

Clerk

become a RSCH was not one which could be taken lightly as there were disadvantages as well as advantages. The decision would form part of the Council's overall response to the 'Shaping Our Place' which was being considered separately. There were no perceived benefits in becoming a joint RSCH with Holme Lacy albeit the Council would always co-operate fully in any joint endeavours such as the NMR.

10. Herefordshire Village Hall Energy Challenge. Parish councils had been invited to participate in the Herefordshire Village Hall Energy Challenge with opportunity of winning £5,000 to further improve the energy efficiency of the Memorial Hall. The maximum number possible of parishioners would be required to complete forms detailing their energy use to win the prize.

Decisions:

The Council would confirm its participation with the organisers.

The Council would liaise with CRAG and the Memorial Hall Committee on the Project.

Chairman

Cllr G Williams

11. Biggs Lane Ramp Access. Access from Biggs Lane into the Memorial Hall car park would be enhanced by modifying the existing ramp, which was too steep.

Decisions:

Three tenders would be obtained for the work, with the lowest being accepted.

The sum of <£1,500 was approved for the Project, using underspends from the Lengthsman Supplementary and Miscellaneous Charges funds.

Chairman

Clerk

12. Minor items and Announcements.

An update on current projects had been provided with the calling notice.

A summary of recent Lengthsman activity was given.

An extra bus stop, to be situated between Court Garden and the Church, had been requested. A site meeting to establish the best location was being arranged.

The Tourist Information Board was being refurbished by the Lengthsman. A suggestion was made that it might be possible to replace it by the redundant phone box from Common Hill Lane.

The amount of mud on the road surface in Common Hill Lane was causing problems. Much of it was as a result of traffic driving over the verges when passing oncoming vehicles. Herefordshire Council were being asked to install a surfaced passing place.

The FRFA AGM was scheduled to take place in the near future and Council FRFA representatives would need to be re-appointed.

(Clerks Note: The appointments of councillors as representatives to other agencies and to working groups is scheduled for the Annual Meeting in May.)

Cllr Jolley indicated his willingness to attend the next meeting of the Finance Group.

Cllr Jolley would be attending a County Emergency Co-ordinator's meeting.

A problem with overhanging shrubbery impeding the pavements along the B4224 was reported.

Mr Geoff Newman had taken over as Natural England's Land Management advisor and wished to discuss plans to tidy up the two SSSIs on Common Hill. This would be discussed at the next meeting. His attendance at both that and, possibly, the annual Parish Meeting were being considered.

**D Colley
Chairman
7 Apr 10**

Annex A: Footpath Report.

**ANNEX A TO
FOWNHOPE PC MINUTES
MEETING DATED 3 MAR 10**

Footpath Group Report to Fownhope PC - 3 Mar 10

The Group has considered the Herefordshire Council report on the claim for 4 new paths on Cherry Hill and Court Drive. It recommends that the PC withdraws its objection to the claims for two paths on Cherry Hill but does not consider that the research as presented is sufficient to overturn the PC's objections to the claims for rights of way on Court Drive and into Nover Wood.

The Group intends to invite local horse-riders to consider whether it can help to improve facilities for riding within the parish.

A team of volunteer 'waywardens' has been established to walk the network of paths in the Parish at least twice a year and report any problems. This scheme is modelled on the scheme first introduced by the Parish Council in 1896! Good progress is being made in improving local paths to a good condition. The Group, with local contractors, has now cleared overgrown paths on Common Hill, by Scotch Firs, above the Warehouse and by the sewage works. The steps opposite Tump Farm have been repaired, new signposts and way marks have been erected around the parish and, with the landowners' agreement, several stiles have been replaced with new self-closing gates. A full list of work completed to 6 Feb 10 is shown below. Maintaining and improving our paths is a never ending task and much more activity is planned for the future. Talks with the Amejshire Rights of Way Office have left us optimistic that, in recognition of this, the P3 grant for the next financial year will be substantially increased. The PC is being asked to give formal approval for a proposal to an application to remain in the P3 scheme for the next 12 months.

FOWNHOPE PC FOOTPATH WORK to 6 Feb 2010

no	place	grid	Job done
d8	Lucksall	568363	Replace finger post
b8	Scotch Firs	576348	f/post onto badcrofts
d9	Capler Foot	586327	erect fingerpost
e2	Moorview	583337	replaced missing f post

b8	Woolhope Rd	578347	erect fingerpost into scotch firs
x	Parish-Wide	z	walk leaflets 2500
e4	Caplor To Rise Fm		improve waymarking
e5	Caplor Farm	597332	improve waymarking
b2	Hope Springs Fm	575369	investigated obstacle - treat as low priority for P3 spend
a5	Mt Pleasant	595338	new f post requested - pfo checked - not reqd
	Scotch Firs	575350	clear vegetation south end -
b10			
a4	Paget Springs		improved waymarking
a7	Ash Cottage	593345	veg trimming
a8	Eastwoods	593348	clear veg from stiles
	Scotlands	593348	clear veg from stiles
a8b			
	Scotland C Hill	592347	veg trimming
a8e			
a9	Morning Star	589347	annual veg trimming
d2	Garlands	569367	reported path blocked by water mains
a6	Lea Wood	600343	fallen tree from pathway -moved by owner, HNT
b7	Hill View		post erected
b3f	Horns	586352	reinstate fingerpost
d5	Chapel Cottage	576345	new fingerpost
c2c	Nr	599366	improve waymarking
	Haughwoodgate		
e1	Opp Tump Farm	582338	re-set steps
	Ring House	581341	replace fingerpost
e1a			
b6	Fownhope Park	575359	move fallen tree
	Fownhope Park	576355	reinstate existng post, improve waymarking
b6a			
	Speeds Meadow	584345	replace defect stile w gate, culvert stream, rebuild steps, reinstate post
a10			
d5	Crimes/ Lowerhouse	576345	replace 3 stiles w gates
e1	Beggars Stool	582338	damaged by tractor - m williams repaired
	Sewage Works	577340	clear overhanging shrub
d3b			
	Caplor Farm Drive	598333	path straddles parish boundary - reinstate post
w15			
a3	E Of Hawkers Lane	593347	cut fallen tree by bridge, leave timber on site
	Scotch Firs	575350	clear vegetation north end - check fence
b10			
e1	Beggars Stool	582338	re-set steps in field, and lower steps and post
	Scotch Firs	577347	reinstate fallen finger post
b10			
	Haughwoods	586365	new post at road crossing
b3c			
	Warehouse	569365	Short post above warehouse where path joins FC forest path
b5a			
	Warehouse	569367	clear brambles from road to FC path at 569365
b5a			