

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT FOWNHOPE
PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY AT 07.30 PM**

Present:

Parish Councillors:
M Williams Chairman
J Boothman
D M Clark
D Colley
P Daines
J Hardwick
F Jolley
H Mansell
G Williams

Parish Clerk:
J Bateman

Ward Councillor Pemberton had expressed her regret at being unable to attend.

Five Members of the public were present.

Prior to the Meeting CSO Smith gave an update on local crime. He also highlighted a Smartwater Presentation Evening scheduled to take place at Marden Primary School on 19 Feb at 7.30PM. Considerable effort had been made to organise the evening, which would include free tea and biscuits, and as many councillors as possible were urged to attend to show support.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs A Corby, J Jones and D Pascoe.

2. Declarations of interest. None given.

3. Approval of the last Minutes of the last meeting.

Decision: The minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.

4. Public Consultation Session on Agenda Items. Members of the public present were asked if they wished to comment on any of the agenda items. A number of safety issues were raised concerning the B4224 on the approaches to the village from the Ross direction. These were considered further during Item 8.

5. Biggs Lane Signs.

Completion of the transfer of Biggs Lane into the ownership of the Council had been delayed whilst the final design of signs was being agreed with the current owners. The owners had put forward their preferred option for signs from 'Signs and Labels Hereford Ltd' at a cost of £82 exc VAT.

Decisions:

The signs would be viewed at the manufacturer's workshop to confirm that they would be acceptable.

ACTION

Chairman

The current owners would be invited to place an order for the signs with the invoice sent to the Council for payment.

Clerk

The signs would be installed by the Lengthsman.

Cllr Colley

6. **Accounts:**

a. **Invoices for payment.** Field maintenance equipment had been added to the Council's insurance policy with an attendant increase in the premium.

Decisions:

Approval was given for payment of the following invoices:

Clerk

Pavilion Hire £14.00
Scotch Firs Grass Cutting £350.00
FRFA Tractor repairs £450.70
Allianz Insurance £125.33

Mr S Lynch would be invited to continue to cut the grass at Scotch Firs during 2009 at the same rate.

Clerk

b. **Tractor Repairs.** An invoice had been received from the FRFA for repairs in Dec 08 to one of the tractors.

This followed a similar £500 invoice received in Nov 08 for repairs to the same tractor. Council had agreed to pay that invoice but had informed the FRFA that in future prior approval should be obtained for such expenditure and that receipts for parts should be forwarded in order for VAT to be reclaimed. Both of these requests had been ignored

Decisions:

Payment of the £180 element of the bill for labour costs would be made.

Clerk

Payment of the £270.70 element of the bill for parts would be made once receipts had been produced.

Clerk

A further letter would be sent to the FRFA detailing the procedure which must be followed before the Council would pay any future invoices.

Clerk

Cllr Daines registered his dissent from this decision.
As he was a FRFA Committee member, Cllr Jolley abstained.

c. **Internal auditor.**

Decision: The Council would accept Mrs Lois Newman's kind offer to act as Internal Auditor for the current year.

Clerk

d. **FRFA Finances:** A report was received summarising the FRFA's financial position. There was disquiet that it's funds appeared to be uncomfortably low and that they appeared to have diminished significantly over the past 2 years. Some assistance from the Council might be required to enable the FRFA to manage it's finances more effectively.

Decision: Further details would be obtained on the FRFA's income, expenditure and current financial holdings together with its forecast activity for the next 6 months.

Cllr Jolley

7. Dog Control Orders. Dog mess had been an ongoing issue with the Council since 2002. There were only 3 dog wardens for the whole of the County, with limited powers, and they had proved unable to respond to requests from the Council for action to improve the situation in the Parish. The Environment and Culture Directorate had sent a consultation document to determine the level of support at PC level for its intention to implement new legislation to enable covering dog faeces, dog leads and the establishment of dog exclusion areas.

Decision: The Council would write in support of all the Directorate's aspirations.

Clerk

8. Traffic Calming. Herefordshire Council's 'Regeneration Directorate' had conducted a survey of traffic volumes and speeds along the 30mph zone approaching the Village from the North. Approximately 2,500 vehicles per day were recorded at speeds of up to 70 mph. Despite the clear need for action it had determined that a Speed Indicator Device (SID) could not be sited along this stretch of road as it would obstruct the view and access from properties alongside the road.

There were similar concerns over the volume and speed of traffic, and the effectiveness of the signs and street furniture, approaching the village from the South.

Decision: A letter would be sent to the Directorate covering the following points:

Clerk

The Survey had highlighted a dangerous situation requiring positive action.

An extension of the 30 mph zones at either end of the village should be considered, both for their own merit and as a means of enabling the establishment of SIDs.

The use of speed alerting signs other than SIDs should be considered.

The bollards on the Ross road should be replaced and the positioning of the warning signs at the brow of the hill reviewed.

9. Planning.

Decision: The following planning applications were recommended for approval by Planning Services:

Clerk

Application DCCE2009/0076/F for a new conservatory at Oldway Lodge.

Application DCCE2009/0104/F to replace a lean-to woodshed with a 2 storey building at the Folly, Common Hill Lane.

Application DCCE2009/0088/F for alterations and extensions at Clear View, Common Hill Lane.

Application DCCE2009/0029/F for reinstatement of pitched roof over 2-storey structure, construction of a pitched roof to a single storey structure, construction of new 2-storey extension, reinstate timber windows and form additional windows in existing buildings for Orchard House, Hawkers Lane.

10. Ongoing projects:

a. Alternative to the 'Freighter' Skip Scheme. The basic costs of hiring a skip commercially would be:

General waste material - charged at £65 per ton
Fridges £30 each
Tyres £5 each
Asbestos £200 handling fee
Skip size - 18 by 8 by 4 £120 flat fee plus weight and the above tons per skip range 1-20 tons

Decision: Obtaining a commercial replacement for the Freighter skip-hire was not financially viable. A notice would be placed in the Flag.

Clerk

b. Repairs to the skateboard ramp.

Decision: The damage to the ramp was so slight that it was not worth spending a great deal of money on it. The possibility of refitting the top, damaged, layer of planking upside down would be investigated together with filling in the damaged areas with resin.

Cllr Colley

c. Improvements to West Villas pavement. Pressure was being maintained on the Highways and Transportation Dept to reach a decision on the project. Once it had an early meeting would be sought to plan it in detail.

d. Dredging underneath Tan House Bridge. Some dredging of the stream had taken place but the area underneath the Bridge had not.

Decision: Highways and Transportation Dept would be written to expressing dismay that, after all this time and all the promises given, it still had not taken effective action. Another copy of the results from the Council's own survey and the course of action would be included.

Clerk

e. Preservation of the Stocks. The issue of relocating, or preserving the Stocks had been ongoing since at least 2002 and, despite best efforts it was clear that there was no clear solution available to the Council.

Decision: No further action would be taken by the Council but English heritage would be invited to determine the a course of action.

Clerk

**Chairman
4 Mar 09**