

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT FOWNHOPE
PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 4 MAR 09 AT 07.30 PM**

Present:

Parish Councillors:

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

Parish Clerk:

J Bateman

Ward Councillor Pemberton had sent her regrets at being unable to attend.
Seven members of the public were present.

The meeting was preceded by a short talk by the 'Champions Manager' for the Earth Heritage Champions on a project to safeguard geological sites in Herefordshire.

Prior to the meeting a member of the public enquired if the Council was aware of any plans for the site recently vacated by the Mitsubishi Motors garage. The Council was not in possession of any facts.

1. Apologies for absence. An apology for absence was accepted from Cllr J Hardwick.

2. Declarations of interest. Cllr Jolley declared a non-prejudicial interest in Items 6a and 7. The Chairman declared a non-prejudicial interest in Item 7.

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. A representative from CRAG made the case for the project to encourage the planting of 350 trees within the parish next autumn. As well as being a worthy project in itself planting trees would be a symbolic act in support of the campaign to counter global warming.

5. Tree Planting. A request had been received from CRAG to fund the planting of trees on publicly owned areas wherever possible.

Decisions:

The Council gave its wholehearted support for the project.

The Environment Group would investigate and report back with specific

ACTION

Clerk

Hd Env Gp

recommendations to the Council.

6. Accounts:

a. FRFA Finances. A briefing on the current state of the FRFA finances was given. It was clear that the finances had diminished significantly over the past 2 years. Sums held in February amounted to:

Current account £533
Deposit Account £22
Margaret Williams Memorial Fund £ 1183
Skateboard Fund £ 100

Forecasts of income and expenditure were uncertain with fees from the Football Club, a major source of income, being a particularly woolly area. There was a possibility that increased financial support from the Council might be necessary.

Decision: The Finance Group would investigate further and report back.

Hd Fin Gp

b. Modifications to the Memorial Hall. A request had been received to give support for a bid for funding from 'Awards for All' to modify the ceiling in the Memorial Hall to enable it to be raised and lowered to allow the Hall to be used more flexibly.

Decisions:

The Council would support the bid..

The Finance Group would investigate further and report back.

Hd Fin Gp

Decision:

7. Recreation Field Lighting. A request had been received from the FRFA to add additional lighting to the existing gantry to enable more of the sports field to be used after dark. The original planning approval for the lights, given in Aug 00, had stipulated that, to protect the amenity of neighbouring properties, a light source should be visible outside the extremities of the application site or produce more than 1 Lux of horizontal or vertical luminance at any adjacent property boundary.

Decision: A letter would be sent agreeing to the request with the proviso that the planning approval stipulations should be adhered to.

Clerk

8. Pavements along the B4224. A letter had been received from a parishioner expressing concern over the condition of the pavements. Some improvements had been carried out but these appeared to be of poor quality and it was unclear whether more needed to be done.

Decision: A request would be sent to Herefordshire Council for a site meeting to review the pavements.

Clerk

9. Parking Spaces. A letter from a parishioner had been received requesting that consideration be given to the provision of car parking in the centre of the village to save people having to walk in from the Recreation Ground car park.

Decision: Whilst the Council had some sympathy for the proposal it felt that a solution lay outside its responsibility. A suitable response would be sent.

Clerk

10. Skateboard Ramp Repairs. It appeared that the undersides of the three damaged sheets on the top surface matched the uppersides and so a solution could be provided by turning them over. An estimate for the work had been obtained at a cost of £178.

Cllr Colley
Clerk

Decision: Approval was given for payment to enable the work to proceed.

11. P3 Report. A rolling programme of footpath improvements had been developed and was now being implemented. Improvements were in-hand to make good the boggy section of Ferry Lane. Under the terms of the P3 Grant there was a requirement to walk/inspect all paths in the Parish twice each year. Volunteers were being organised to ensure that this took place. There were problems in Haugh Wood where trees had been planted obstructing many of the paths and way marking was particularly problematic. Talks with the Forestry Commission, also involving neighbouring parishes, were taking place. A permissive path was being sought at Lea Brink for use until the issue of reinstatement of the official path was resolved. Improvements to the Bridle Way between Hope Springs and Paget Wood were being made to counter waterlogging and it was intended to position a post to restrict its use to walkers, horses and cyclists.

Decision: Property owners along the bridle way would be informed of the improvements being planned.

Clerk

12. Bus Services Review. A public meeting had taken place with 25 attendees. The survey of bus usage had been affected by the bad weather. A further meeting was planned and the Group would report back to Council again in May.

Decision: Approval was given for the sum of £14 to be paid for the hire of a room for each meeting.

Hd Transp Gp
Clerk

13. Interim Lengthsman Arrangements. The Lengthsman was temporarily incapacitated following an accident. The Lengthsman's son-in-law, Mr Darren Roberts, had offered to carry out work until the Lengthsman returned

Decision: Mr Roberts would act as temporary Lengthsman.

Cllr Colley

14. School Roof Solar Panels. A request had been received to support St Michael's School's application for solar panels.

Decision: A letter of support would be provided.

Clerk

15. Planning Application for Rudgend Cottage.

Decision: Planning Application DCCE2009/0272/L for a side porch & single storey extension to Rudgend Cottage HR1 4QY would be recommended for approval with no change to the comments made for an earlier application.

Clerk

Chairman 1 Apr 09