



FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT FOWNHOPE PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 07.30 PM

Present:

Parish Councillors:

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

J Bateman Parish Clerk

CSO Smith and PC James both sent their apologies for not being able to attend.

Ward Councillor Pemberton was in attendance prior to the start of the meeting.

Eight members of the public were present.

Prior to the Meeting:

A member of the public requested action to improve conditions on the pavement running alongside the school playground. An assurance was given that the Lengthsman would attend to this.

The Council's attention was drawn to a long drawn-out struggle by a parishioner to improve road verges, markings and bollards on the B4224 approaching the village from the south. Ward Councillor Pemberton offered to assist and the Council would continue to be updated on developments.

Councillor Pemberton discussed current issues including the 'Walking for Health' scheme and forthcoming changes to the organisation for dealing with planning applications. Councillors were encouraged to attend the forthcoming HALC seminar on planning on 11 Nov.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Decision: Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Corby and M Williams.

2. Declarations of interest. The Chairman declared a non-prejudicial interest in Item 7. Cllr Jolley declared non-prejudicial interests in Items 7 and 11.

3. Minutes of the last meeting. .

Decision: The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true

ACTION

Clerk

Clerk

record.

4. Public Consultation on agenda items.

The Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee made the statement summarised at Annex A.

5. Finance.

invoices for payment.

Decision: Approval was given for payment of room hire for public transport consultation meetings (£17) and up to £60 for HALC training courses.

Clerk

Investment of Deposits. Action to purchase Government Bonds was still ongoing and should be completed before the next meeting.

Budget for FY 10-11. Consideration was given to the next year's (2010-11) budget and the need to maintain reserves at an appropriate level. It was intended to adopt the draft budget at **Annex B** at the next meeting and to retain the precept at £16,000. This would be publicised to allow parishioners time to comment before a final decision was made

Clerk

6. **Planning.** Attendance at the HALC planning seminar on 11 Nov was encouraged.

Decision: Planning Application T0009/2326 - DMCE/092289/FH for the erection of a detached garage with storage facilities & home office at Rudge End farm was supported.

Clerk

7. **Memorial Hall Refurbishment Project.** The Vice-Chairman took over the meeting for this item. A report had been received from the Memorial Hall Management Committee on its project to refurbish the Tesco Room and install a new ceiling. A breakdown of the finances required had been submitted together with a request for assistance from the Council.

Decision: It was approved that the sum of £2,000 would be donated to the Management Committee for the Project.

Clerk

8. Non-Motorised Route From Hereford.

Decision: Councillors Daines and Jolley would act as the Council's representatives to the Project.

Cllrs Daines &
Jolley
Clerk

9. **West Villas Pavements Project.** The West Villas property owners had both shown willing, for suitable compensation, to cede a strip of land along the front of their properties to allow the pavement to be widened. The Highways Dept was negotiating with them on compensation and was prepared to go ahead with the project, which would be funded from within their own budget. However, the owner of the adjacent Hairdressers had stated his unwillingness to allow the existing pavement in front of the business, which he technically owned, to be incorporated in the Project. Negotiations with the owner by the Highways Dept were continuing.

10. **Stocks Refurbishment Project.** The cost of the lowest tender which had been received for the project so far was £2,146. Obtaining grants was proving to be less straightforward than the Council had been earlier lead to

expect and this might delay the project until the new year.

Decision: It was approved that the sum of up to £1,500 would be spent to make up for any shortfall in grant funding.

**Cllr Clark
Clerk**

11. FRFA activities. An update was given on the most recent FRFA Committee Meeting. The Council was concerned that over the past few years the FRFA's income had been steadily decreasing whilst over the same period the Pavilion running costs had risen. A number of ideas for increasing the use of, and income from, the Pavilion were discussed, including increasing the number of bookings by picking up the overflow from the memorial Hall and improving the facilities. There was a concern that a 'them and us' attitude appeared to have developed between the Council and the FRFA Committee.

Decision: The FRFA would be approached with a view to holding a meeting at the earliest opportunity to discuss matters of common concern. The meeting would be open for all councillors to attend

Cllr Jolley

12. Annual Parish and Council meetings. Item deferred to an unspecified future date.

11. Minor items and announcements.

The next meeting would be on 2 Dec. The Clerk would be distributing the agenda on 13 Nov 09. In the absence of the Clerk, cover would be provided by the Clerk from Dormington. Councillors were requested to give her every assistance.

Councillors were invited to attend a free CRAG lunch in the Memorial Hall at 1330 on 28 Nov as part of tree planting day.

A stream bank in Common Hill Lane had been eroded by manoeuvring buses. The Linesman was being tasked to take any immediate actions to improve matters and the Highways Dept was being requested to implement a more permanent solution.

Any local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators were requested to make themselves known to Councillor Jolley who was co-ordinating the Scheme.

The Lengthsman would be undertaking a number of tasks to clean signs and cut back shrubbery in the near future.

**D Colley
Chairman
2 Dec 09**

Annex A: Memorial Hall Chairman's statement.

Annex B: Draft budget for 2010-11.

Address by the Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee to Fownhope PC

Mr Chairman, Councillors, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words regarding item 7 on your Agenda: To consider support for the Memorial Hall ceiling project. Unfortunately, I will be unable to stay for the rest of the meeting due to another commitment.

My letter to the Clerk gives full details of the variable ceiling project currently in progress at the Hall, so I don't intend to reiterate any of that information. However, I would like to put this project into a broader context. The Hall Trustees realise that, because of the times we are in, we must do what we can to reduce the Hall's energy usage and reduce its carbon footprint. The variable ceiling is the first part of an ongoing programme, the importance of which will increase greatly as fuel costs rise, which they surely will.

In addition to the variable ceiling project, which should be completed within the next couple of months, we are considering the following:

1. Installation of a photo-voltaic electricity generating system, using PV panels mounted on the roof of the Hall. Selling the unused electricity back to the grid should initially generate an annual income to the Hall of up to £1000 pounds per annum and, in addition, significantly reduce our electricity bills. In order to achieve this, we need to access grants covering most of the installation costs. This does seem possible, as my friends at Weobley Village Hall achieved exactly this about a year ago. One of our volunteers is currently carrying out feasibility study on the project and will report to our Trustees later this month.
2. Refurbishment of the Tesco room and stairs, including improvements to ceiling insulation, double-glazing and lighting are badly needed and we hope to start these early in the new year.
3. Later next year, we also intend to double-glaze the main windows in the Hall to improve both thermal and sound insulation and ventilation.

The total cost of these essential improvements, including the variable ceiling project, is likely to be in the region of £55k and the outcomes will only be achieved with the help of our many superb, hard-working volunteers, some of whom are here tonight.

The total amount raised already, from grants and local fundraising, is in the region of £20k. So our ability to fund these important improvements will be entirely dependent on our success at securing additional funds, both locally and from various grant funding bodies.

The Trustees of Fownhope New Memorial Hall would be very grateful for any financial support that Fownhope Parish Council can provide. Your donation would certainly be used wisely and would be a great contribution to our programme, which should benefit all users of Fownhope New Memorial Hall. I commend our request to you.

Ian Quayle Chairman

4 November 2009