



## FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL



### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT FOWNHOPE PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2009 AT 07.30 PM

#### Present:

##### Parish Councillors:

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

##### Parish Clerk:

J Bateman

Ward Councillor Pemberton and PC James both sent regrets at being unable to attend.

Six Members of the public were present.

Prior to the Meeting the Chairman gave tribute to Gerald Powell, a past councillor whose sad death had been reported.

The Chairman also commended Councillor Hardwick, who had just recorded 30 years of service to the Council.

#### 1. **Election of Chairman/Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman/Chairwoman.**

##### **Decisions:**

Cllr D Colley was elected as Chairman for the next 12 months.

Cllr G Williams was elected as Vice-Chairman for the next 12 months

Cllr D Colley took over from Cllr M Williams as Chairman for the remainder of the Meeting.

#### 2. **Apologies for Absence.**

**Decision:** Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Jolley and Pascoe.

#### 3. **Declarations of interest. None**

#### **ACTION**

4. <b>Minutes of the last meeting.</b>	<b>Decision:</b> The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.	Clerk
5. <b>Public Consultation on Agenda Items.</b> No items were raised.		
6. <b>Appointments</b>		
<b>Decisions:</b>		
The appointments to Working Groups and Representatives to Outside Agencies detailed in Annex A were approved.	<b>All</b>	
Cllr Colley was appointed to represent the Council at a site meeting with Herefordshire Council to review the condition of the pavements.	<b>Chairman</b>	
Cllrs Clark and Boothman would represent the Council at a site meeting with Herefordshire Council to review the provision of a bus shelter at Church Croft.	<b>Cllrs Clark &amp; Boothman</b>	
Mr G Haskell would be asked to act as Emergency Co-ordinator for the Parish.	<b>Chairman</b>	
7. <b>Accounts:</b>		
Approval of the Annual Statement of Accounts was deferred to the next meeting to allow the Internal audit to be completed first.	<b>Clerk</b>	
<b>Decisions:</b>		
Payments were authorised for HALC Subscription £235.78, Insurance £1,101.09, Smartwater signs £60.00 and Rec Field Mower spares £30.83.	<b>Clerk</b>	
The skateboard ramp would be added to the Council's insurance policy at a value of £5,000.	<b>Clerk</b>	
Approval was given for expenditure on Lengthsman and P3 projects up to the value of the grants received. Approval for supplementary Lengthsman projects funded directly by the Council would continue to be given on a case-by-case basis.	<b>Clerk</b>	
8. <b>Bus Services Working Group Report.</b> The report summarised at Annex B was received. A copy of the full version of the Report was lodged with the Clerk.		
<b>Decisions:</b>		
The Report was approved and its recommendations endorsed. It would be forwarded to Herefordshire Council. Copies would be sent to neighbouring parishes.	<b>Clerk Clerk</b>	
9. <b>Weed Killing on the Recreation Field.</b> The FRFA had requested financial assistance in meeting the cost of applying weed-killer to the Recreation Field.		
<b>Decision:</b> The sum of £250 exc VAT was approved for weed-killing on the Recreation Ground to include the children's play area.	<b>Clerk</b>	

**10. Minor information points.**

Councillors were requested to review their entries in the Interests Register to ensure they were up to date.

Herefordshire Council had decided after all to continue with the Freighter Scheme, at least for a period. A booking for a monthly skip at Fownhope would be made at the earliest opportunity.

The FRFA had adopted the proposed revised Constitution at its AGM.

Repairs to the Skateboard ramp were still outstanding.

A suitable no-parking sign had now been placed in the school car park.

The Lengthsman would be attending to weed-killing along the pavements in advance of the Heart of Oak walk.

Biggs Lane signs were still awaited from the suppliers, who were not proving to be very efficient.

The following privately run activities on the recreation field were notified:

- May 22-25 young canoeists
- June 20-21 6 a side football tournament
- June 26-28 caravan club
- July NCB parachute drop
- July 18-19 dog show.

*Jem Bateman*

**Clerk**  
**7 May 08**

**Annexes:**

- A. Appointments
- B. Bus Services Report.

**Councillors Appointments**

**Cheque signatories:**

To be the Chairman, vice Chairman and Head of Finance Group:

D Colley  
M Williams  
G Williams

**Finance Group:**

M Williams  
H Mansell  
D Colley  
Peter Daines  
David Clark  
Gareth Williams  
John Hardwick  
(Head to be reviewed)

**Planning**

John Hardwick  
Ann Corby  
John Jones  
Hilary Mansell  
Gareth Williams  
David Pascoe  
Jean Boothman  
(Head to be reviewed)

**Employment**

Martin Williams  
David Clark  
Ann Corby  
Derek Colley  
John Hardwick

**Minor Highways**

G Williams  
Derek Colley  
Peter Daines

**FRFA**

Philip Payton (co-opted)  
D Pascoe  
F Jolley

**Venture Area**

David Pascoe

**Children's Play Area**

John Jones

**Memorial Hall**

Peter Daines

**Environment**

Ann Corby

Jean Boothman

Gareth Williams

Fred Jolley

Martin Williams

**Footpaths**

David M Clark (Ldr)

John Hardwick

Peter Daines

Ann Corby

Derek Colley

Maurice Spratt (co-opted)

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Fred Jolley

**Common Hill Management Committee**

P Daines

G Williams

J Boothman

**Parish Plan Steering Group**

Boothman

Clark

Jolley

M Williams

**United Charities**

Cllr Hardwick

Christopher Whitmey (co-opted)

Stuart Symington (co-opted)

**Annex B to  
Fownhope Parish Council Minutes  
dated 6 May 09**

**FOWNHOPE BUS USERS REPORT**

The bus user group set up by the Parish Council conducted a thorough survey of passenger numbers, and held two well attended open meetings of bus users . Seven volunteers helped with the bus count of some 80+ trips . The results show that there at least 51,000 trips per year on the 453/454 service, 34% more than calculated by the County Council when they let the contract in 2008. Fownhope accounts for more than half the passengers. Numbers from Woolhope and Hampton Bishop are very low, Holme Lacy has as many passengers as Hampton Bishop despite having very few services. The Fownhope bus costs no more than £1.31 per passenger trip in subsidy, compared with the county's target ceiling of £2.50.

Time	7.45	9.45	11.54	13.15	Back 15.25	16.25	17.55
Passengers	28	16	11	15	24	19	13
From/to Fownhope	16	13	9	5	12	11	11

Fownhope deserves a better bus service but Herefordshire Council is currently talking about cuts to some services . Our proposals for improvements which can be achieved within the Council's current budget regime , particularly if services to Holme Lacy College can be absorbed within the timetable and budget, are

- ❑ Installation of a bus shelter at Church Croft
- ❑ Run the 15.25 bus from Hereford on Saturdays and holiday periods. This bus only runs on schooldays ie on 190 days per year. On Saturdays and school hols there is a two hour gap between 14.25 and 16.25 . The county's annual contract has paid for the vehicle and driver so the only additional costs are fuel and wear and tear . The operator will get some additional fare income so the variation in contract costs should be minimal
- ❑ Re-jig the timetable to provide an hourly service from Fownhope to Hereford including a bus around 9am , by reducing the number of buses which extend to Woolhope Nurdens, and run more through Holme Lacy. May be possible to run one or two to Hereford through Sufton Rise by way of Dormington (request from Mordiford and Dormington Parish Council). Nurdens could be served with Saturday or Wed shopper service
- ❑ Bus fares compare favourably with car travel for those who are retired or single but not for families. We suggest that the operator Yeomans, should offer a family ticket

There are improvements that may have to wait for the next round of contracts in 2011. We want to enhance the timetable by providing a

- ❑ later bus from Hereford at 7pm to provide better links for long distance travellers . Run 17.55 to Fownhope only 18.23, run back at 18.25 for 19hrs bus back by either Mordiford or Holme Lacy, for return at 19.25
- ❑ Re-introduce the Thursday morning shopper bus to Ross by way of Brockhampton and How Caple. These villages may lose one or both of their current service so this would be compensation particularly if it was timed to connect at Fownhope with a bus to Hereford.

**Action**

Submit report to Herefordshire Council

David M Clark 860017 Jean Boothman 860488 Pam Colley 8609