



FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT FOWNHOPE PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 07.30 PM

Present:

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

J Bateman Parish Clerk

Ward Councillor Pemberton and CSO Smith were in attendance.
 Three Members of the public were present.

Prior to the Meeting Ward Councillor Pemberton gave an update on concerns over Tan House Brook water levels and the introduction of new arrangements for the collection of household waste. CSO Smith gave an update on local crime.

	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies for Absence.</p> <p>Decision: Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Pascoe and M Williams.</p>	
<p>2. Declarations of interest. Non-prejudicial interests were declared as follows:</p> <p>Cllr Hardwick on Items 5 and 8. Cllr Jolley on Items 14 and 15.</p>	Clerk
<p>3. Minutes of the last meeting. Actions for Item 5b were amended to read as recorded against 'Cllrs Jolley and Pascoe'.</p> <p>Decision: The minutes of the last meeting were then accepted as a true record.</p>	Clerk
<p>4. Public Consultation on agenda items.</p> <p>Members of the public present were invited to comment but did not respond.</p>	
<p>5. Purchase of Island Orchard. It might be possible for the Council to purchase the parcel of land known as Island Orchard, which was to be sold by auction in the near future.</p> <p>Decision: The Council would not attempt to purchase this land.</p>	Clerk

6. Approval of Invoices for Payment.

Decision: Payments of £327.75 for the annual audit and £34.43 for web-site maintenance were approved.

Clerk

7. Investment of Funds. Whilst the interest received from the Council's deposited funds had fallen to a negligible amount, it was still paying 9.5% on its loan from the PWLB. Paying off the loan early would incur a penalty charge. Whilst the Council had sufficient funds to pay off the PWLB loan, that would leave it with no reserves for future major capital purchases. No such purchases were currently planned. The cost of the loan could be partially offset by investing the reserves in a more profitable manner. The Finance Group recommended continuing with the loan and switching some of the Council's deposits into Government Bonds.

(Secretary's Note: The Parish Clerk did not concur with this recommendation.)

Decision: The sum of £25,000 would be invested in Government Bonds.

**Chairman
Clerk**

8. Planning Applications.

Decisions:

Applications DCCE0009/1637F and DCCE0009/1649 submitted by Wye Leisure were generally approved but with the following observations:

Clerk

The choice of roofing materials was strongly opposed. The use of traditional materials in such a prominent position within the village's conservation area would be much more preferable.

The road in the vicinity had a known record of flooding. Reassurances should be sought on the ability of sewage and surface water drainage to cope with the development.

No energy saving measures, such as solar panels, were detailed in the application. These would be of particular value in such a development.

Application DCCE0009/1783/F for a proposed loft conversion and dormer at Moor View, Caplar Lane was approved with the proviso that a more consistent ridge line would be preferable.

Clerk

9. Road Safety. Over the past 18 months a number of initiatives had been taken to persuade the Highways Dept to improve road safety in the Parish. Eleven specific measures for improvements had been proposed by the Council. Despite a face-to-face meeting to discuss them, none were taken up. The Council had also carried out research into the installation of a Speed Indicator Device (SID). Following trials the Highways Dept had refused to proceed with the installation as it was claimed there was no suitable location for the device. A series of letters and emails had since been sent but these had achieved nothing.

Decision: A further letter would be written to the Highways Dept on the subject.

Clerk

10. Stocks. Tenders for restoration work had been requested. It was hoped that these would be available to enable grant applications to be submitted by the

end of the month. It would then be possible to have the work completed by the end of October.

11. Tree Planting project. A tree planting plan had been drawn up. The part of the Plan for the Recreation Field had been agreed with the FRFA and displayed to councillors on the correspondence table prior to the meeting. Permission to plant trees along roadside verges had been sought from Herefordshire Council and a hastener sent.

12. Church Croft Bus Shelter. Herefordshire Council was providing a shelter at no cost to the Parish. A licence had been obtained from Herefordshire Housing Association for the use of part of their land. The project should be completed before the end of the year.

13. Common Hill Telephone Kiosk. An offer had been received from BT to transfer ownership of the kiosk to the Council for the sum of £1.

Decision: The offer would be accepted.

Clerk

14. Recreation Field Access through Hedge. Apparently, the FRFA were no longer interested in creating a new access.

Decision: No further action would be taken.

Clerk

15. Recreation Field Picnic Area. The FRFA had obtained 2 quotes for the construction of a barbecue and picnic area. These had been examined and were considered reasonable for the work involved. However, the Council were still awaiting the following information before deciding what level of financial support to offer to the project:

A detailed plan of the proposed area.
Firm costs for the project.
Details of how the area would be supervised and kept clean.
Confirmation that any extra insurance cover necessary would be made.

Decision: A further letter would be sent to the FRFA on the subject.

Clerk

16. Minor items and announcements.

The Chairman had represented the Council at a ceremony to lay up the colours of the Burma Star association in St Mary's Church.

A parishioner had expressed concern over the extent to which Tan House Brook had cut in towards the boundary of the adjacent Play Area, presenting a potential hazard to children. The Chairman was investigating.

The Clerk was pressing for completion of the legal transfer of Biggs lane.

The Clerk was writing to Herefordshire Council requesting they review the recent pavement repairs at scotch Firs to ensure that there were no trip hazards remaining.

The Memorial Hall had recently updated their 'Foundation' document, a copy of which was held by the Clerk. It included that the Council had a representative on the Committee.

A brief was given on the background to the financial arrangements between the FRFA and Fownhope Football Club. This would be discussed at a future meeting.

There were concerns over car parking in Capler Lane near to the Church. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

The next meeting would be on 7 Oct.

G Williams
Chairman
7 Oct 09