



## FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL



### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2011

#### **Present:**

Gareth Williams (Chairman), David Clark, Derek Colley, Ann Corby, John Hardwick, Fred Jolley, Hilary Mansell, David Pascoe, John Jones

#### **In attendance:**

M Preedy (Parish Clerk)  
Ward Councillor Pemberton  
CSO Butcher  
Seven members of the public  
Clive Hall, Highway Network Manager

Clive Hall addressed the meeting to highlight the current community self-help pilot which has enabled three Parishes to grit non-priority routes in their area. Mr Hall explained that during periods of severe and prolonged winter weather rural areas often experience isolation, this is also the time when the greatest pressures are placed up on Amey Herefordshire. Communities, however, are best placed to help themselves during adverse weather. The recent pilot involved providing parishes with 10 tonnes of salt (stored in an environmentally sound place) to enable the community to treat non-priority routes either through a network of volunteers or an existing contractor such as the lengthsman. The three Parish Councils involved had provided positive feedback on the pilot. After the planned review of the winter maintenance programme during April, Herefordshire Council could be in a position to offer the service to a wider number of parishes. The selection procedure will be based on the areas with the highest risk of isolation and the willingness and mechanism of the parish to respond to winter conditions.

*Clive Hall was thanked and left the meeting*

CSO Butcher introduced himself as the new CSO for the area. Fortunately few incidents had been reported during the previous two months.

*CSO Butcher was thanked and left the meeting*

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

**Resolved:** Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Peter Daines, Jean Boothman and Martin Williams

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

John Hardwick declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 9  
David Pascoe and Fred Jolley declared personal interests in agenda item 8

#### **3. Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting**

**Resolved:** Minutes from the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011 were approved and signed by the chairman.

#### **4. To consider proposals regarding a village winter maintenance plan**

**Resolved:** The Parish Council would express an interest in

#### **Action**

**Clerk**

becoming involved with the winter gritting community self-help programme.

**5. To receive brief verbal report from ward member Councillor Pemberton**

Councillor Pemberton informed the Council that Councillor Roger Philips, Leader of Herefordshire Council, had indicated that he would be standing down as Leader. The new requirement for all Local Authorities to publish expenditure for all items of over £500 will make the accounts open for scrutiny and should stop waste. Hereford Futures is driving forward several economical schemes including the development of the old livestock market, the redevelopment of the Buttermarket and improving the capacity of basic infrastructure.

*Councillor Pemberton was thanked and left the meeting*

**6. Public Consultation.** Nothing raised

**7. Finance**

- a) **Resolved:** the following invoices were approved;
- M Preedy £287.20, clerk's salary and expenses for February 2011
  - Fownhope History Group £10, P3 expenses
  - Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council, £100, clerk training

Clerk

There was some discussion regarding the payment of invoices which did not form part of the agenda. The Clerk requested that all invoices for payment would need to be submitted at least 7 days prior to the meeting, so details could be entered on to the agenda.

- b) **Resolved:** a brief report from the Finance Group was provided.
- c) Two quotes for the work needed on the trees at Court Orchard were discussed.

**Resolved:** Parish Council to accept quote for £225 from Acer Tree services. Work on two further trees was also agreed provided the work is under £50.

Clerk

- d) **Resolved:** The Parish Council agreed to pay £35 to register with the Information Commissioner, as legally required.

Clerk

**8. Repair of fence around pond on Recreation Area.**

The FRFA wanted to report the broken fence to the Parish Council not to request help with repairing it. Discussions took place over the utility of dredging the pond before fencing it.

**Resolved:** Clerk to contact Environment Agency for opinion on whether to dredge the pond **or leave it to silt up**. To be discussed at next meeting.

Clerk

- 9. To comment on Planning Application - Wye Leisure Health Club, Fownhope (Variation of condition 2 of planning application DMS/102774/F, to allow enlargement of coffee bar area, including ancillary storage and revised superstructure access to basement area)**

**Resolved:** The Parish Council supports the application.

Clerk

**10. Service delivery in the parish**

The Parish Council received a report from the working group considering potential service provision in the parish, should services be cut by Herefordshire Council. The group recommended that the Parish Council may want to express an interest in working with Herefordshire Council on several services including minor highway work, library provision, street lighting, and bus services.

**Resolved:** The Parish Council would express an interest in becoming involved in talks with Herefordshire Council. The topic of the Annual Parish Meeting **would be a discussion of the delegation of services including a voluntary library service**. The Parish Council would pay for the hire of the Tesco Room for a meeting of the bus users group.

Clerk  
Cllr Clark

**11. Purchase of poll cards for the forth coming Local Elections**

**Resolved:** The Parish Council would not be purchasing poll cards for a contested election.

**12. Widening of the pavement at West Villas**

**Resolved:** Clerk to send letter to Mrs Rogers confirming agreement to move pillar, thus allowing the widening of the pavement. Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Jolley and Colley for their role in negotiations.

Clerk

**13. To receive an update on P3 Projects**

**Resolved:** Cllr Clark provided an update on planned P3 projects. The P3 budget for the remainder of the year had been committed. It was likely that a similar amount of P3 money would be made available for the new financial year.

Cllr Clark

**14. Relocation of Lucksall bus stop**

Cllr Clark updated the Council on a positive meeting he attended with the County Transport Officer, a consultant engineer from Amey, the manager of Yeomans and Mr Williams. Herefordshire Council are happy to relocate part of the stop to a safer location and also to place a further bus stop flag north of the Gallery in Fownhope.

**Resolved:** Cllr Clark to express Parish Councils agreement.

Cllr Clark

**15. To confirm work for the Lengthsman**

**Resolved:** the lengthsman was not currently undertaking any lengthsman duties. The Parish Council agreed to set up an account with Arrow plant hire.

Clerk

**16. To report any highway defects to the Clerk**

**Resolved:** the following defects were reported; rubbish in the lay-by on the B4224 near Oldway; flood water on the B4224 opposite Tan House. The Clerk was asked to follow up previously reported

Clerk

defects including resurfacing of Court Orchard and potholes on Common Hill Lane.

**17. Minor items, announcements and updates on current projects (no discussion).**

The Clerk was asked to enquire whether the handset at the telephone box in the village was likely to be replaced.

Several organisations in the parish had expressed interest in becoming involved with Jubilee celebrations. The Parish Council would discuss providing a venue for co-ordinating interested groups.

The broadband service offered by allpay to be discussed at next meeting.

*The meeting closed at 9.30pm.*

Signed:

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Chairman

Date