

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, BODENHAM
MONDAY 1st AUGUST 2011**

Item	Minutes	Action
	Attendance	
	Cllr Derek Ling (Chair) Cllr Robin Knott (Vice-Chair) Cllr Bob Clarke Cllr Stan Davis Cllr Mrs Pam James-Moore Cllr Tony Mitcheson Cllr Ms Rhian Powell Cllr Dennis Jackson Cllr Mrs Katy Wrathall	DL RK BC SD PJ-M AM RP DJ KW
	Mr Chris Smith (Clerk)	CS
	Mr Philip Blackman-Howard and Mr Howard Cosgrave (Joint Masters of the North Hereford Hunt) were in attendance for Item 4.	
	13 members of the public were present.	
1.0	Apologies for Absence. Cllr Jeremy Millar (District Councillor) had sent apologies for his absence.	
2.0	Declarations of Interest. No declarations of interest were received.	
3.0	Co-option of new councillor Mr Jeff Pollard was proposed for co-option by Cllr Davis. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Wrathall and accepted unanimously.	
4.0	Discussion with representatives of the North Herefordshire Hunt	
4.1	Cllr Ling introduced the Joint Masters of the Hunt, Mr Phil Blackman-Howard and Mr Howard Cosgrave, who outlined what the activities of the Hunt consist of.	
4.2	Cllr Mitcheson asked about the changes which had taken place this year and which had led to concerns within Bodenham. Mr Blackman-Howard reported that the routes used for exercising the hounds have changed and the times for this exercise have been brought forward in order to avoid the rush hour. Three routes were now used: one was up Bowley Lane; the other two were down Bowley Lane and Ketch Lane and diverged thereafter.	
4.3	Cllr Ling asked about the timetable for the three routes, which had been introduced by James Bradley (the Huntsman), but which was not always adhered to. Mr Cosgrave reported that occasional staffing problems and an invitation to visit a particular property, for example, meant that the timetable could not always be followed.	
4.4	Cllr Ling also asked about noise when farmers arrive very early to drop off fallen stock. Mr Blackman-Howard said that he would advise farmers not to drop off fallen stock before 7am.	
4.5	Cllr Powell asked whether the hounds still used the Hunt's field before leaving for	

exercise – as was the practice of the previous Huntsman. Mr Cosgrave said that nothing had changed and that the hounds use the field for 10 minutes before going out on the roads for exercise. A change in practice was that a volunteer now followed the hounds to clean the road.

4.6 Cllr Powell also asked about the damage to the bank at Millcroft Farm. Mr Cosgrave said that this had been caused by the hounds stopping to drink from the stream, which they were no longer allowed to do.

4.7 Cllr Wrathall asked if the addition of new routes was a welfare issue for the hounds. Mr Cosgrave said that it was – it probably reduced noise. He added that the Hunt's premises were inspected regularly by various bodies, including DEFRA, and that inspections had always been passed.

4.8 Mrs Gwen Bowden asked about the advisability of crossing the A417. Mr Cosgrave accepted that this could be a problem and that one hound had been left behind on one occasion. Mrs Bowden asked why the timetable showed that Bowley Lane was used less than crossing the A417. Mr Cosgrave replied that there was only one route up Bowley Lane, whereas several routes were available across the A417.

4.9 Mrs Sally Henshaw said that she lives adjacent to the kennels and that there had been considerable improvement recently in the levels of noise, mess and smell.

4.10 Mrs Ronnie Parker reported that her dog had been terrified by meeting the hounds. Mr Cosgrave said that this incident occurred early in the season, when the hound puppies were out for the first time. Mrs Parker also asked that the hounds avoid the Green and the pavement alongside it to keep both clean. Mr Cosgrave said that mess there was an unusual occurrence and should have been picked up.

4.11 Cllr Ling asked whether there could be better communication between the Hunt and the Parish. Mr Blackman-Howard said that the Hunt would hold an Open Day in September and would put items in the Newsletter.

5.0 Playground report

5.1 Cllr Powell had circulated a report on the playground in the light of the recommendations made in the ROSPA report. Particular points arising from the report were

- 'gate entrapment' can be reduced only by remaking or replacing the gate
- The gate stop has been damaged and needs to be replaced
- The laminate on the spring chicken needs attention
- The ropes on the multiclimber need attention and one wooden tread is split

5.2 Cllr Ling suggested that a quote be obtained from a playground installer. Cllr Powell asked about grants. Cllr Ling said that a grant would be sought for a slide and perhaps this application might include other work. Cllr Clarke suggested that the Playgrounds Manager at Herefordshire Council might help. Cllr Davis said that he had given the Clerk details of a supplier of ropes for playgrounds. It was agreed that quotes should be obtained for repairs to the gate, spring chicken and tread and for replacement of the ropes.

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6.0 Planning applications

6.1 The following planning application had been received:

- DMS/111536/F: Hillside, Litmarsh: Proposed replacement dwelling: (Revised scheme of DMS/103039/F). **It was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application**

6.2 Cllr Ling proposed the formation of a Planning Sub-Group. Cllr Ling said that the Sub-Group should make recommendations to the Parish Council in terms of the impact of planning applications on the village and community. It was agreed that the Clerk would continue to send planning applications to all members of the Parish Council. Cllr Mitcheson asked about a planning application which required a response before the next meeting of the Parish Council and was assured that, unless the application was clearly not contentious, all Parish Councillors would be invited to state their views prior

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to any response being submitted and that, if necessary, a special meeting of the Council would be called to deal with the application. Cllr Davis proposed that the Planning Sub-Group should be set up. Cllr Powell seconded the proposal, which was agreed unanimously. It was agreed that the membership of the Sub-Group should be Cllrs Clarke, James-Moore and Wrathall.

7.0 Other business

7.1 Cllr Knott nominated Cllr Jackson as the Parish Council representative on the Parish Hall committee. Cllr Wrathall seconded the nomination. Cllr Jackson was duly elected.

7.2 Cllr Clarke asked about a blocked drain at the junction between the C1125 and Dunfield Lane. Cllr Mitcheson said the Bodenham Flood Protection Group would assess the situation and take the appropriate action.

7.3 Mrs Gwen Bowden asked that the demolished 40mph sign at Saffrons Garage be replaced. Mrs Bowden also commented that the road surface around the manhole cover there had not been attended to. The Clerk was instructed to contact Amey about both matters.

7.4 Cllr Ling asked about the dates of meetings and whether meetings should be held bi-monthly henceforth. Cllrs Clarke, Davis and Powell said that monthly meetings should be retained. It was agreed that the Clerk would publish a list of dates.

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8.0 Date of next meeting.

The next Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 5th September in the Siward James Centre.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 8.35pm