

## BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Meeting of Bodenham Parish Council, held at 7.30 pm on Monday 4th January 2010 at the Seward James Centre.

**Present:** Cllr Tilford, Cllr Mrs James-Moore, Cllr Mrs Avery, Cllr Mitcheson, Cllr Ling, Cllr Knott, Cllr Davis, Cllr Mullenger.

Also in attendance was District Councillor Keith Grumbley.

There were 3 members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies had been received from Cllr Clark and Cllr Herbert.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated to all present. After a number of amendments had been made they were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
5. **Progressing Outstanding Items.**
  - 5.1. **Proposed Parish Web-site.**
    - 5.1.1. Cllr Ling told Councillors that further work had been done on the database for the proposed web-site before Christmas but there had been no more recent updates. In the meantime the working party had been gathering further information and would be liaising with the contractor.
    - 5.1.2. In answer to a question from Cllr Tilford it was confirmed that a 'visitor count' (*i.e.* the number of 'hits') would be included on the site.
    - 5.1.3. Cllr Tilford produced printouts showing similar web-sites elsewhere.
  - 5.2. **Church Lane.** Church Lane was discussed, following the letter received prior to the December meeting. It was agreed that the road was now in a very poor condition.
  - 5.3. **Speeding in the Parish.**
    - 5.3.1. Herefordshire Council had provided printouts and tables based on the data obtained by local SIDs and by the earlier speed cables. The information was difficult to interpret but showed that the number of movements from Herefordshire to Bodenham was significantly higher than movements in the opposite direction.
    - 5.3.2. The 'worst times' for speeding appeared to be at 9 am and then between 3 and 4 pm.
    - 5.3.3. Cllr Tilford confirmed that, following the receipt of the latest information, he was not satisfied that SIDs were having a satisfactory impact on speeding motorists.
    - 5.3.4. The Clerk confirmed that West Mercia Police had been asked to carry out speed checks on the A417. He was asked to check that this was being done.
  - 5.4. **Registration of the Parish Hall Site.**
    - 5.4.1. Cllr Tilford said that he had been making enquiries with the Land Registration Office about the ownership of the

Parish Hall site.

5.4.2. There was a discussion on this topic, during which Cllr Knott said that he had unearthed a letter from Thorps, Solicitors, stating that the Parish Council acted as the Custodian Trustees of the land on which the Hall was built. The Council would only have to satisfy itself that the Trustees were acting properly when it came to the running of the Hall. At the same time, it was the responsibility of the Trustees to actually manage the building. Thorps were being contacted and asked for details of any further paperwork that might be available.

5.4.2. The Clerk was asked to check his files for a tin box containing details of ownership of the Hall and the Village Car Park.

5.4.2. Cllr Tilford said that Sue Newbould had agreed to act for the Parish Council if it decided to register both the Hall site and the car park site.

5.4.2. Following further discussion it was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council should register ownership of the Parish Hall site and of the car park.

5.5. **Bodenham Parish Plan.** The Clerk confirmed that Tracy Ricketts had been contacted about a follow-up meeting on the Bodenham Parish Plan. She was only available on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings, the Clerk was only available on Wednesdays, and the Parish Hall was already booked then. An enquiry was to be made as to whether the Siward James meeting room would be available on a Wednesday evening. A meeting would then be arranged, probably at the end of January.

5.6. **Queenswood & Bodenham Lake Advisory Panel.** There was to be a meeting of the panel at Queenswood on the following Monday.

5.7. **Dog Fouling.**

5.7.1. Cllr Tilford said that Keith Eyles had visited Bodenham recently and had walked around the Village with Cllr Clark.

5.7.2. Dave Goulding, the Dog Warden, had also been in the Village and had issued a fixed penalty notice to a resident who had allowed his dog to foul near the playground, but then failed to clean the fouling up afterwards.

5.7.3. The Clerk was asked to prepare a Newsletter item to this effect.

6. **Opportunity for Members of the Public to Address the Parish Council.** There were no requests from members of the public to address the Council.

7. **Planning.** The following planning applications had been dealt with by the Planners since the previous meeting:

7.1. **DMNC2009/2721/FH - Dunfield House, Bodenham.** Proposed New single Garage. **PERMISSION GRANTED.**

7.2. **DMNC2009/2407/FH - Myrtle Crest, Bowley Lane.** New Replacement dwelling and new access. **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN.**

7.3. **DMNC2009/2421/F - Orchard Court, Maund Court.** Installation of two 11KW Gaia wind turbines mounted on 18m masts. **PERMISSION GRANTED.**

8. **Finance (Including the 2010/2011 Precept).**

8. 1. **FINANCES - DECEMBER 2008 – JANUARY 2010**

	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
<b>DECEMBER 2008</b>	254.00	2576.08	2476.67
<b>JANUARY 2009</b>	60.00	139.38	2397.29
<b>FEBRUARY 2009</b>	0	344.38	2052.91
<b>MARCH 2009</b>	640.00	139.38	2553.53
<b>APRIL 2009</b>	277.50	410.14	2420.89
<b>MAY 2009</b>	3112.00	287.09	5245.80
<b>JUNE 2009</b>	232.50	939.92	4538.38
<b>JULY 2009</b>	102.50	142.71	4498.17
<b>AUGUST</b>	440.00	1563.19	3374.98
<b>SEPTEMBER 2009</b>	3044.50	182.71	6236.77
<b>OCTOBER 2009</b>	255.00	964.91	5526.86
<b>NOVEMBER 2009</b>	540.00	264.46	5802.40
<b>DECEMBER 2009</b>	20645.89	832.08	25,616.21
<b>JANUARY 2010</b>	140.00	2,105.05	23,651.16

## 8.2. Discussion of Finances.

8.2.1. Cllr Tilford reminded Councillors that the 2010/2011 precept had been set as £8,132 at the December meeting. He went on to say that this represented a 36% increase on the precept for the current year. He said that the increase was partly due to an allowance of £1,500 towards the cost of a SID but added that it had been previously agreed that this would be paid for out of the Council's 'high interest' account. He suggested that the precept should be re-visited and asked whether it should be revised or left as it was.

8.2.2. Councillors discussed the precept, with Cllr Mitcheson pointing out that the increase would represent only an extra £6 per year to the average household.

8.2.3. Councillors were then polled as to whether or not they wished to leave the precept unchanged. Councillor Mrs James-Moore and Cllr Mrs Avery wanted to reconsider the Precept. All other Councillors agreed to leave it unchanged.

8.2.4. Cllr Knott queried the manner in which the precept was calculated, and pointed out the difficulties of setting a budget for the coming year. Cllr Grumbley was asked to comment and suggested that Bodenham's cash reserves were very high.

8.2.5. Cllr Ling felt that the Council needed more information about its finances, including the amount currently lodged with the Bank of Ireland. He queried the current allocation of funds, and the use of cash reserves. Cllr Knott also asked for more information, saying that the £20,000 loan from the PWLB had been recorded as received, but the bank reconciliation showed that the amount was only £19,975.

8.2.6. The Clerk confirmed that the loan was subject to an 'arrangement fee' of £25 and this had been deducted from the loan prior to the payment into the Council's bank account.

8.2.7. Cllr Mitcheson suggested that Cllr Ling should perhaps come up with a better way for the figures to be presented each month. He confessed that he did not fully understand the figures as they were shown at the moment. He went on to say that perhaps the monthly agenda should be rearranged so that the more important items were dealt with

first. He pointed out that, at the previous meeting, the precept had been dealt with quite late in the evening and by that time all the Councillors had been starting to get tired.

8.2.8. Cllr Mullenger proposed that a newly designed financial report should form part of the monthly minutes/agenda. This was agreed and Cllr Ling agreed to arrange an appropriate format and to liaise on this with the Clerk.

8.2.9. Cllr Ling mentioned the £15,000 due to be paid to the Parish Council by the Parish Hall Management Trustees and said that he would work out a payment schedule.

8.2.10. As mentioned above, the Parish Council's £20,000 loan from the PWLB had been approved and the money had been received on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. The first repayment would be due in June.

8.2.11 There was one outstanding invoice. As Treasurer to the Parish Hall Cllr Grumbley had presented an invoice for £17 in respect of a Parish Plan meeting held at the Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> November. It was agreed unanimously that this should be paid, and a cheque was prepared for signature.

<b>BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP:</b>	
<b>Deposits on behalf of BFPG:</b>	1872.39
<b>Payments on behalf of BFPG:</b>	781.70
<b>Balance:</b>	1090.69

8. 3. **BANKING TRANSACTIONS SINCE DECEMBER MEETING (As listed on bank statement).**

<b>Parish Clerk</b>		142.71	
<b>Cheque 617. D Griffiths</b>		620.20	
<b>616 Growell Garden Care</b>		50.00	Not yet cleared
<b>Misc. Income</b>	140.00		
<b>618 Alpha Web Design &amp; Consultancy</b>		100.00	Not yet cleared
<b>619 Herefordshire Council – SID Hire</b>		800.14	
<b>620 Bodenham PCC</b>		525.00	
<b>621 Parish Hall Rental</b>		17.00	

9. **SID Removal - Newton House.**

9. 1. Cllr Tilford told Councillors that Mr Manley-Jones from Newton House had asked whether the SID socket outside his home could be removed. He had initially agreed to it being installed, but now felt it was inappropriate as it was interfering with his TV reception and was causing problems when he mowed the grass verge.

9. 2. The Clerk was asked to contact the Herefordshire Council Road Safety section to ask whether this particular SID site could be removed.

## 10. Correspondence.

10. 1. **Place Shaping Launch Event.** Councillors had been circulated with details of a Herefordshire Council ‘Shaping Our Place - 2026 - Consultation Launch Event. Cllr Mitcheson, Mrs Mitcheson and Cllr Tilford had agreed to attend.

### 10. 2. **Amey Herefordshire.**

10.2.1. Amey Herefordshire had sent an Information Pack showing details of their personnel, contact numbers and services. They had also supplied a copy of notes taken at a recent meeting for Councillors and Parish Clerks. Unfortunately they had only supplied one copy of everything. Further copies had been requested and would be circulated once received.

10.2.2. It had been arranged that Michelle Morgan from Amey would attend the February Parish Council meeting.

10. 3. **Police Consultation Evenings.** West Mercia Police were holding a series of consultation evenings, including one on Thursday 14.1.10 at Brockington.

10. 4. **Voters List.** The latest Voters List had been received.

10. 5. **Other Items.** The following items were circulated to all Councillors:

- VA News - December 2009
- Herefordshire Voluntary Sector Assembly Newsletter. Winter 2009/10
- Bus and Train Timetable Updates
- Biodiversity Action - November 2007.

11. **The Bodenham Flood Protection Group - Updates.** A letter had been received from Martin Jackson, Bridge and Structures Manager of Local Government Amey:

Following the high rainfall in 2007 and 2008 Herefordshire Council’s land drainage team put out a questionnaire seeking information on flooding in Bodenham. The parish council returned the questionnaire and the information provided has been very valuable in assisting with the initial stages of a countywide flood study. The work for the study has now reached a stage where we are looking in greater detail at the flood sites.

For this detailed investigation of the flood sites our engineers are making site inspections in December and January to obtain as much detailed information as possible with a view to identifying priority land drainage improvement or flood risk reduction schemes throughout the County. In particular our engineers will be especially interested to identify more precisely which properties have flooded in the past, (and to what approximate depth and frequency), as well as identifying the specific causes of those particular floods. This is also an opportunity to identify ongoing maintenance issues or other flood risk issues locally.

For this the engineers will be using your return from 2007 / 2008 and “knocking on doors” in the flood risk areas. Residents will be requested to take a couple of minutes to complete a Herefordshire Council Flooding Questionnaire, which will be invaluable in identifying the particular causes and effects of flooding in this locality. This will supplement the information obtained previously. The depths of flooding encountered in or near properties or above the adjacent roads would be particularly useful information.

All information collected will be treated in the strictest confidence, and property specific information will never be divulged to the general public or parties beyond the officers and engineers engaged in this study.

The e-mail is for information only and there is no request for the parish to submit a return. You may of course wish to keep residents informed. If you have any queries please feel free to contact me.

## **12. Other Business, including District Councillor's Comments.**

12.1 **Police Tours of the Parish.** Cllr Tilford told the meeting that the recent tour of the Parish by Pc Richardson and PCSO Annette had been very successful and was to be repeated on 20<sup>th</sup> February. He hoped to join them.

### **12.2. New Herefordshire Planning System.**

12.2.1. Cllr Grumbley said that the new Herefordshire Planning system was now in operation. Although he could always ask for any planning application to go to the Planning Committee for a decision, he could no longer guarantee that this would happen. There would be two meetings in January, to catch up with a backlog, and then there would be one meeting per month thereafter.

12.2.1. He went on to explain that there were now 19 Councillors on the Planning Committee and that he was not one of them. The system now being introduced in Herefordshire had been tried out elsewhere and had been found to be very efficient.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting.**

13.1. There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.22pm. The next meeting would be held on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

13.2. Cllr Mrs James-Moore apologised in advance as she would be unable to attend.

13.3. **Future Meeting Dates.** At the December meeting Cllr Mitcheson had asked for a list of forthcoming meeting dates. The dates were as follows:

1.3.10	12.4.10 (Change due to Easter Monday)	10.5.10 (Due to May Bank Holiday)
7.6.10	5.7.10	2.8.10
6.9.10	4.10.10	1.11.10
6.12.10	10.1.11	7.2.11
7.3.11	4.4.11	9.5.11 (Due to May Day Bank Holiday)

**Throughout the meeting the Parish Council exercised its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably could to prevent, Crime and Disorder in its area. Councillors also had due regard to the need to tackle unlawful racial discrimination, and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups.**