

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday, 1st November 2010 at the Siward James Centre at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Cllr Avery, Cllr Clark, Cllr Davis, Cllr James-Moore, Cllr Knott, Cllr Ling, Cllr Mitcheson, Cllr Mullenger and Cllr Tilford.
Cllr Grumbley was also in attendance.

Nine members of the public were present at the start of the Meeting.

Introduction by the Chairman

Welcoming Councillors to the Meeting, Cllr Tilford invited CSO Annette to give her Report.

CSO's Report

a. CSO Annette asked Pc Wayne Strangwood – the new local police officer – to introduce himself. Constable Strangwood described himself as coming from the local area and having a reasonable knowledge of it. He was a Special Constable for two years. He worked in Hereford for two years, then in Leominster and is now based in Bromyard. He can be contacted *via* CSO Annette.

b. CSO Annette reported that two trailers had been stolen from Puddleston. Both had been recovered. She advised residents to keep trailers secure. There had also been two cases of fuel being stolen from the petrol tanks of cars.

c. Cllr Tilford thanked CSO Annette for her report. He welcomed Pc Strangwood and thanked him and CSO Annette for attending the Meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Herbert.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the previous Meeting on 4th October were approved and signed.
4. **Matters Arising.** There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes.
5. **Progressing Outstanding Issues.**
 - 5.1 **Damage to the Mounting Block Outside the Church.** Cllr Tilford had spoken to Mr Crispin Hack who hoped to complete the work within the next week.
 - 5.2 **Highway Defects – Protection of Grass Verges in Church Road.** Cllr Tilford reported that 3 quotations had been received, namely:
 - £1043 + VAT from Robert Parker
 - £842 from Ray Taylor
 - £420 (not including posts).

Mr Crispin Hack has also said that he will quote for the work.

- 5.3 **Road Safety.** Cllr Tilford reported that there is no legal requirement for a highway authority to give warning of obvious dangers. Drivers are responsible for their own safety. There is still no information about when the road markings at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction will be repainted.
- 5.4 **Speeding Traffic on the A417.** Cllr Tilford reported that no response has been received from Mr Andrew Lee- Jones of Amey on any further traffic engineering matters and added that previously recorded data suggested that the speed of vehicles at the 85th percentile was unlikely to prompt further enforcement action from the police.
- 5.5 **Road Safety – SID Deployment and Other Traffic Calming Measures.** The SID was delivered on 6th October and Cllrs Tilford, Clark and Mitcheson were trained in its use at the same time. A list of proposed deployment dates and locations for 2010/11 has been submitted to Herefordshire Council and the Police. Subject to the latter's approval, the first deployment will be over the period 7th - 14th November. Cllr Tilford also reported that the SID operates in two modes. In the overt mode the speed of the vehicle is displayed together with a schematic 'smiley' or frowning face, according to the speed of the vehicle, while in the covert mode nothing is displayed. In both modes the speed is logged by a recording device. Cllr Tilford also reported that the SID will be deployed for 7 days at a time at each of 8 sites in rotation – with a minimum gap of two months before the SID is deployed again at any one site. Cllr Tilford explained that the role of the SID is educational, rather than enforcement, and that the logged data will be available to the Parish Council.
- 5.6 **Provision of a Handrail for the Footpath Adjacent to the Southern End of The Green.** Cllr Tilford reported that Amey are unable to fund this project and do not think that a handrail is necessary. It was suggested at the Parish Council Meeting on 4th October that provision of a handrail should become a Parish Council project.
- 5.7 **Ownership of the Parish Hall and the Car Park.** Cllr Tilford reported that a decision has yet to be made on where the Deeds of the Parish Hall are to be held and whether a master ledger of Parish Council records should be compiled. The Parish Council agreed at the Meeting held on 5th July 2010 to ask Ms Sue Newbold to register the car park with HM Land Registry. She has this in hand.
- 5.8 **A417 Footpath Extension near England's Gate.** It was agreed at the 4th October Meeting that the Clerk should write again to Mr Lee Jones of Amey, as a result of which a reply was received from Mr Chris Powell, Chief Engineer for Amey, saying that funds for footway improvements are limited, that requests are prioritized on a ranking system based on personal injury accidents, pedestrian usage and cost, that ranking is conducted on a three year cycle – the next exercise being due to take place in Autumn 2011 - and that Bodenham's request would be considered on that occasion, with the screening process for it starting in Spring 2011.
- 5.9 **Parish Website.** Cllr Mitcheson reported that work will begin shortly on Phase 2 of the development of the website, but for the moment the Parish Plan Survey is taking precedence. Cllr Knott asked how many hits the website had received. Cllr Mitcheson reported that this was not known and that recording the number of hits received was one of the improvements planned for the website.
- 5.10 **Community-Led Plan (CLP).** See Minute 11.1 below.
- 5.11 **Bus Shelter Roofs.** Cllr Tilford reported that two quotes had been received. Littlethorpes of Leicester had quoted £8,300 + VAT for one hardwood shelter. This includes delivery and installation, including a new base for each shelter. The total cost for two shelters would be

£20,151.25. Hillend Sawmill quoted £830 + VAT for one softwood shelter. The price would vary according to what type of roofing was chosen. Hillend Sawmill have not been able to provide photographs of their shelters, but are known to have provided bus shelters for other parish councils. Cllr Tilford also reported that the quotes do not include the demolition of the existing shelters. Cllr Ling proposed getting quotes for the removal of the shelters and Cllr James-Moore seconded this proposal. Cllr Ling asked about the bases of the shelters and the possible resiting of the shelters. Cllr Mitcheson suggested that demolition of the shelters would allow the state of the bases to be established. **It was agreed to put in a funding request for the bus shelters to Herefordshire Council. It was also agreed to obtain quotes for demolishing the bus shelters.**

5.12 **Unauthorized Signage on Public Roads.** It had been agreed at the Parish Council Meetings held on 6th September and 4th October that the issue should be raised at the next Parish Walk.

6. **Issues Raised by Members of the Public.** No issues were raised by members of the public.

7. **Setting the Precept for 2011/2012.** Cllr Tilford had circulated a draft list of items and their projected costs for consideration in setting the 2011/2012 precept. Cllr Ling had prepared an extended version of this in the form of a spreadsheet. (This is attached as Annex A). Cllr Tilford reported that the figure of £334 for external audit was likely to be too high, given that the charge for the audit depends on the Parish Council's turnover, which is likely to be much lower in 2011/2012 than in 2010/2011. Cllr Tilford asked about the notional figure of £100 for elections. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the relevant section at Herefordshire Council and had been told that the 2007 figures of £48.43 for an uncontested election and £547.77 for a contested election would apply in 2011, when adjusted for inflation. Cllr Ling reported that the figure of £3,000 for Community Plan Projects in the draft list is an arbitrary one. It may include noticeboards, a possible contribution to supporting bus services and ideas arising from the responses to the Community-Led Plan questionnaires. **After further discussion, it was agreed that the figure of £100 for elections be retained in the precept and that the precept would be set at £8,150.**

8. **Quotations for the Installation of Oak Posts in Church Road.** This item was covered in Minute 5.2 above.

9. **Finance.**

9.1 **Monthly Accounts Statements.** Cllr Ling presented the statement of accounts, which was approved and is attached as Annex B.

9.2 **Outstanding invoices.** Cllr Tilford reported that six new invoices had been received. Cheques were raised for the following amounts:

Parish Hall annual grant	£800.00
Printer for the Clerk	£150.31
Parish Council meetings at Siward James	£80.50
CLP meetings at Siward James	£78.75
Came and Co. (SID insurance)	£25.00
Cllr A Clark (strimmers and expenses for the BFPG)	£358.48

10. **Planning**

10.1 **DMNC/100048/FH (Two Storey Extension) and DMN/102064/AM (Amendment), Wall House, Bowley Lane, Bodenham, Hereford, HR1 3LF.** Cllr Tilford reported that this application was a non-material amendment.

10.2 **DN - DMN/102591/S - East Field, Bodenham, (Agricultural Steel Framed Building).** Cllr Tilford reported that planning consent was not required for this application, because it is for an agricultural building.

10.3 Cllr Tilford reported that the planning applications for Gritt Farm, Bodenham and The Old Police Station, Bodenham have both been approved.

11. Updates.

11.1 **Community-led Plan.** Cllr Ling reported that almost all of the questionnaires have been collected. The response rate has been encouraging and should approach 60%. Comments seem to have been highly positive. Many respondents have indicated that they wish to sign up for Rural Watch and there have been expressions of support for Neighbourhood Watch. A summary of the responses will be put in the *Newsletter* and a follow-up meeting will be arranged. Cllr Ling also reported that it is hoped that Herefordshire Council will assist with the data analysis. They have been supportive, but no agreement has yet been reached. The next Steering Group Meeting will be on 8th November and it is hoped to establish then whether Herefordshire Council has software suitable for the analysis.

11.2 **Exit from Woodhouse Lane.** Cllr Tilford reported that the mirror on the A417 is not perfect, but thought little more could be done to improve visibility at the junction. He added that the Department of Transport is very opposed to mirrors. Cllr Ling reported that, without exception, questionnaire respondents were unanimous that the junction is very dangerous and that residents were asking for more to be done to improve the situation.

11.3 **Speed Restrictions in Bowley Lane.** Cllr Mitcheson asked about the proposal for a 40mph restriction in Bowley Lane. He thought that 30mph was more appropriate. Cllr Tilford said that it was unlikely that a 30mph limit would be approved as the DfT criteria pointed to a 40mph limit. However, a letter has been sent asking for the boundary of the limit to be extended northwards to the Parish boundary where the Lane crosses Butford Brook.

11.4 **Bodenham Flood Protection Group.** Cllr Clark reported that the last working party for the year took place on Friday, 16th October. The working party had cleared the 3 drains and the grips on the West side of the C1125 near Hamwyn Joinery. Some work was also carried out in the brook at Brockington Road bridge. On Saturday, 23rd October the Group held a very successful bonfire party at Millcroft Farm. Cllr Clark also reported that the Group have purchased two lightweight trimmers.

12. **Correspondence.** No correspondence had been received that had not already been circulated by the Clerk.

13. **Other Business** (including District Councillor's Comments).

13.1 Cllr Grumbley circulated a briefing note on the Comprehensive Spending Review (copy attached at Annex C). He highlighted the large cut in the transport budget and the implications of this for Bodenham Parish Council in terms of, for example, speed restrictions, bus services, footpaths, etc.). Cllr Grumbley thought that parishes might be able to fund aspects of transport. Although the schools budget is protected, changes in the way it is distributed may not benefit Herefordshire. The NHS budget includes more money for social care. Cllr Grumbley reported that the period from 2010-2015 would see a reduction in Herefordshire Council's budget of £14.5m (25.2%). Two hundred and fifty posts would be

lost, but not all by compulsory redundancy. £33m will be saved over 10 years by the merger between the NHS and Herefordshire Council.

13.2 Cllr Ling reported that the owner of Butford Farm had asked what happened to the apples in Lady Close Orchard. Cllr Grumbley said that the cider apples were picked and purchased by a Herefordshire Council contractor.

13.3 Cllr Tilford reported that Mrs Williams, who lives in Church Road in Bodenham, had had problems accessing her garage after the repairs to Church Road had slightly lowered the level of the road, causing her car to touch the ground. Amey had installed a small ramp within days of being notified of the problem by the Parish Council and Mrs Williams has expressed her satisfaction with both the Council and Amey. Cllr Tilford has written to Amey to thank them for their prompt response.

14. **Date of Next Meeting.**

14.1 There being no other business the Meeting ended at 9.03pm.

14.2 The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 6th December at 7.30pm.

2011/2012 PRECEPT BUDGET

EXPENSES

CLERK SALARY	1820
CLERK EXPENSES	200
NEWSLETTER	2100
ROOM HIRE	252
PARISH HALL	800
BRITISH LEGION	50
WREATH	15
INSURANCE	598
AUDIT	334
SOCIETY OF CLERKS	66
CHURCHYARD	525
VILLAGE GRASS	
CUTTING	650
PLAY AREA	52
CAR PARK LOAN	1478
CAR PARK RETENTION	1020
WEBSITE	200
ELECTIONS	100
COMMUNITY PLAN	
PROJECTS	3000
TOTAL	13260

INCOME

ADVERTISING	1960
PARISH HALL LOAN	739
OCT REMAINING FUNDS	5992
PRECEPT	8150
TOTAL	16841

CONTINGENCY 3581

CURRENT PROJECTS

BUS SHELTERS
OAK POSTS
HANDRAIL

	CUMULATIVE	OCTOBER
BALANCE AT 5 APRIL	BALANCE AT 14	BALANCE AT 14
	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER
LLOYDS	23769	10407
BANK OF IRELAND	5660	0
TOTAL BALANCE	29429	10407
INCOME		
BANK OF IRELAND	5660	
ADVERTISING	1104	80
VAT		
REFUND	5864	
PARISH HALL LOAN	15374	
COMMUNITY PLAN	750	
PRECEPT	8150	
FLOOD GROUP	270	
TOTAL INCOME	37172	80
EXPENSES		
CAR PARK LOAN	750	
COMMUNITY PLAN	1561	601
BANK OF IRELAND	5660	
CLERK SALARY	620	152
CLERK EXPENSES	301	26
CAR PARK	39548	
CHURCH LANE SIGNS	151	
LAND REGISTRATION	251	
INSURANCE	573	
WEBSITE	200	
NEWSLETTER	1072	
FLOOD GROUP	548	55
ADVERT	57	
COUNCIL HALL RENTAL	61	
MESH SAND BAG CAGE	165	
SOCIETY OF COUNCIL CLERKS	66	
SIDS	5312	
PLAYGROUND INSPECTION	52	
AUDIT	335	335
TOTAL EXPENSES	57283	1169
BANK ACCOUNT 14		
SEPTEMBER	9318	9318

CHEQUES RAISED NOT BANKED

TOTAL	0
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CHEQUES/INCOME NOT BANKED

TOTAL	0
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BALANCE	9318
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INVOICES AWAITING APPROVAL

PLAN HALL RENTAL	79
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PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS	80
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PARISH HALL GRANT	800
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PRINTER	150
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SID INSURANCE	25
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TOTAL	1055
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BALANCE	8263
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REPRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

LADYCLOSE ORCHARD	158
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FLOOD GROUP	1124
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COMMUNITY PLAN	689
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PARISH COUNCIL	6292
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FUTURE COMMITTED EXPENDITURE

WEBSITE	300
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COMMUNITY PLAN	750
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TOTAL	1050
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FUTURE INCOME

COMMUNITY PLAN	750
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TOTAL	750
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REMAINING FUNDS	5992
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Comprehensive Spending Review 2010 (CSR 10) - Briefing Note

Overview - Broadly as expected, 25-30% cut in formula grant by 2015. Surprises: Extra £1 billion for Social Care (and a further £1 billion by 2014/15); Front loading of cuts (12.3% in 2011/12, 6.3% in 12/13 and 1.2% in 13/14); Extent of removal of ring fencing. Detailed settlement late November.

National Headlines - Average 19% departmental cuts. Structural deficit eliminated by 2015. £7 billion additional welfare cuts. Police cut 4% per year. Schools budget protected - inflation + 0.1% pa, but "pupil premium" top slice £2.5 billion (possibly based on free school meal stats)? +£2 billion for Social Care; £1 billion grant (by 2014) + £1 billion from NHS, mechanism unclear. NHS protected - inflation + 0.1% pa - it won't feel like it. Inflation formula (1.9- 2.7%) deflates and NHS Herefordshire needs £7million efficiency savings.

Local Headlines - 30% cut over 4 years, 60% cut in schools' capital funds, 11% cut in Transport, PWLB loan interest to increase 0.87% pa for new loans.

Formula Changes - From Apr '11 ring fencing will mostly disappear - retained for Schools (£88 million). Concessionary fares will be hit, could be as much as £3.5 million, but the obligation remains. This could be a big drag as we would have to fund the cut from other revenue.

Transport - Capital transport cut by £1.6 million - not many road safety schemes! Bus operator's subsidy cut by 20% and DfT grants cut by 28%. Our rural bus subsidy is nearly £1 million - some routes threatened.

Council Tax - Voluntary scheme to freeze council tax but receive 2.5% grant. Fire/Police included but exact details not finalised. Parish/Town Councils not included in the scheme.

Social Care - In 2011/12 an extra £530 million goes into the formula grant for personal social care. Estimate £2 million for Herefordshire (N.B. Overspend £2+ million this year).

Profile - Formula Grant	Change	Annual %	
10/11 £57.6m			
11/12 £50.5m	-\$7.1m	-12.3%	
12/13 £46.9m	-\$3.6m	-6.3%	
13/14 £46.2m	-\$0.7m	-1.2%	n.b. Further review expected.
14/15 £43.1m	<u>-\$3.1m</u>	<u>-5.4%</u>	
	-\$14.5m	-25.2%	

Herefordshire Council Measures aim to cut cost rather than services.

- Cut 30 (±25%) managerial posts to save £1 million pa.
- Cut 250 other posts - not schools. Some currently filled by agency/fixed term contract
- personnel - no redundancy costs.
- Shared Hospital/PCT/Council administration can save £33 million over 10 years. This programme called "Shared Services" goes live in April 2011.
- Joint purchasing/procurement can eventually save £4 million pa.
- Reduce the buildings we use and sell unwanted ones.
- Cut red tape and get rid of old by laws.

Kath Grumbley

1 November 2010