

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES
CENTRE AT 7.46pm ON MONDAY, 13th MAY 2013****Attendance**

Cllr Bob Clarke (Chair)
 Cllr Robin Knott
 Cllr Roger Austin
 Cllr Alec Avery
 Cllr Dennis Jackson
 Cllr Tony Mitcheson
 Cllr Jeff Pollard
 Cllr Rhian Powell

Cllr Jeremy Millar (District Councillor)

10 members of the public were present.

ITEM	ACTION
<u>AGENDA ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>	
1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Davis and James-Moore.	
<u>AGENDA ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>	
2. Cllrs Mitcheson and Powell declared an interest in Item 29.	
<u>AGENDA ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u>	
3. The Minutes were accepted as a true record. (Proposer: Cllr Avery. Seconder: Cllr Mitcheson).	
<u>AGENDA ITEM 4 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u>	
4. Minute 6: Playground Repairs and Painting. The Clerk reported that one quotation for playground repairs had been received, but that a second quotation had not arrived, as had been expected. The matter was deferred until the next Meeting. Cllr Jackson had been advised by Cllr Pollard that the cost of materials for the painting of the playground equipment was in the order of £100. Cllr Jackson said that the painting would be done by volunteers. Cllr Mitcheson proposed and Cllr Avery seconded that £100 be made available for the cost of materials. This was accepted unanimously.	
5. Minute 7: Footpaths Officer. The Clerk reported that one request for information had been received, but no formal application had resulted. The Clerk was requested to contact the person concerned before the next Meeting.	CS
6. Minute 10: Hedges near Berrington Drive. The Clerk was instructed to write to all the owners of the overhanging hedges.	CS
7. Minute 11: Neighbourhood Planning. Cllr Clarke reported that a meeting had taken place at which an existing neighbourhood plan had been adopted as a guide for writing a draft neighbourhood plan for Bodenham, which would then be presented to the neighbourhood planning team at Herefordshire Council for comment. Cllr Clarke further reported that three brownfield sites had been identified as possible locations for housing development. Mr David Tilford said that the Herefordshire Core Strategy document identified the potential for 50 more houses to be built in Bodenham over the next 20 years. Cllr Clarke said that the results of the Parish Plan consultation showed that there was little public support for further housing development in Bodenham. Cllr Powell said that developing neighbourhood plan should involve the local community at an early stage. Cllr Clarke said that a consultation would precede the formal ratification of a neighbourhood plan for Bodenham.	
8. Minute 12: Lengthsman's Schedule. The Lengthsman's schedule of work for 2013-14 was accepted, with the addition of a requirement to make regular visits to the far end of Holbatch Lane. The Clerk was instructed to send the revised schedule to the Lengthsman.	CS
9. Minute 29: Moving the Grit Bin outside the Church. It was agreed that the grit bin could be moved to a more suitable position. The Clerk was instructed to inform Mrs Sue Hack about this.	CS

<p>10. Minute 30: Emptying the Bin on the Village Green. The Clerk was instructed to contact Focsa to ask that the bin be emptied regularly.</p>	CS
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u></p>	
<p>11. Mr Tony Clark reported that he had circulated an email about fouling in the Village by the hounds of the North Hereford Hunt, since when Bowley Lane had also been affected. The Clerk was instructed to send Mr Clark's email to the Hunt. Cllr Knott suggested that a meeting with the Hunt should be arranged. Cllr Austin proposed that the meeting should be an informal one. It was agreed that the meeting would be between the Hunt and Cllrs Austin, Knott and Powell. The Clerk was instructed to contact the Hunt about this.</p>	CS
<p>12. Mr and Mrs Bick of 44, Brockington Road reported that the diversion of footpath BM13 through their property would mean demolishing their garage, diverting mains services and making many other alterations at a total cost of around £60,000 - £70,000. Cllr Clarke said that the original error in not extinguishing the footpath before housing had been built across it had been made by Leominster and Wigmore District Council and that other properties were affected, including the Siward James Centre. Cllr Clarke suggested that a number of alternative routes were available. Cllr Millar said that he knew nothing about the diversion of the footpath and asked the Clerk to send him information about it. Mr David Tilford said that the blame lay with Leominster and Wigmore District Council. Cllr Millar said that, if that were the case, no claim for maladministration would be possible.</p>	CS
<p>13. Mr Tony Clark asked about the slurry leaking from Eastfields Farm on to the C1125. Cllr Mitcheson said that the subject had been raised on the Parish Walk and Amey had agreed to take action on it. The Clerk was instructed to remind Amey about this.</p>	CS
<p>14. Mr Tony Clark asked about the telephone kiosk. Cllr Clarke said that Mr Derek Ling had agreed to liaise with St Michael's School about using the kiosk for a display of artwork produced by the children. Cllr Clarke agreed to liaise with the School henceforth. Cllr Powell said that it was also intended to use the kiosk as an information point. Cllr Millar offered to find the cost of an 'Information' sign for the kiosk.</p>	JM
<p>15. Mr Tony Clark asked about the muck heap at Berrington House in Chapel Lane. Cllr Powell said the owner had agreed to landscape the heap.</p>	
<p>16. Mrs Gwen Bowden asked whether the Hunt were going to produce a timetable for the routes over which the hounds were to be exercised. The Clerk was instructed to ask the Hunt about this.</p>	CS
<p>17. Mrs Bowden asked about the strip of ground outside England's Gate Inn. The Clerk said that the owner had agreed to attend to it. The Clerk was instructed to remind the owner about this.</p>	CS
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 6 – MOVING THE GRIT BIN NEXT TO THE CHURCH</u></p>	
<p>18. This item was covered under Minute 25 above.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 7 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING</u></p>	
<p>19. This item was covered under Minute 23 above.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 8 – TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES</u></p>	
<p>20. Cllr Clarke suggested that a sub-committee should be formed to consider what measures could be taken about traffic. Cllr Knott said that an appropriate Parish Plan sub-group already existed, the members of which are Cllr Clarke, Cllr Mitcheson, Cllr Knott, Mr Derek Ling and Mrs Tracy Ricketts. Cllr Clarke agreed to arrange a meeting of the sub-group.</p>	BC
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 9 – PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE</u></p>	
<p>21. The Clerk reported that two quotations had been received. Cllr Jackson suggested that a quotation be sought from Norris and Fisher Insurance Brokers, who insure the Parish Hall. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a quotation from Norris and Fisher.</p>	CS
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 10 – LENGTHSMAN: SCHEDULE FOR 2013-14</u></p>	
<p>22. This item was covered under Minute 24 above.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 11 – PARK AND SHARE AND PARK AND CYCLE</u></p>	
<p>23. Cllr Clarke reported that an offer had been received from Herefordshire Council under the Park and Ride and Park and Cycle scheme to supply at no cost to the Parish Council either cycle racks or cycle lockers to be installed at the bus stop opposite England's Gate Inn. Cllr Powell asked what the difference was between lockers and racks. The Clerk was instructed to obtain more details about this.</p>	CS

Bodenham Parish Council Accounts 12/13

	July 12	Aug 15	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Income										
PC Opening Balance	7263.00	5657.00	5413.97	4361.26	7457.05	7062.44	5558.87	5329.99	5921.03	4499.7
Newsletter	231.00	232.38	25.00	425.00	325.00	245.00	204.5	392.5	128.78	197.5
Vat Refund	0.00	123.95								277.05
Car Park Loan	0.00					374.91				
Community Plan	0.00				7.00			510		
Lengthsman			778.25			778.25	535.00			778.25
		42.38								
Precept	0.00			4890.00						
TOTAL	7494.00	6055.71	6217.22	9676.26	7789.05	8460.60	6298.37	6232.49	6049.81	5752.5
Expenditure										
Car Park Loan	0.00					749.83				
Church Grant	0.00			825.00						
Clerk Salary	152.00	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29
Clerk Expenses	31.00	62.13	19.00	66.00	31.00		13		21	15.96
HM Rev and Customs		30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32
Insurance	0.00									
Website	0.00					400.00	14.5			
Newsletter	367.00		236.25			294.25	175.5	159.85	184.8	
Playground repairs	648.00									
Hall Rental	44.00				117.00				128.25	98.96
Lengthsman	495.00	428.00	720.00	960.00		20.00			25	440
Playground Inspection				54.60						
Audit				162.00						

	July 12	Aug 15	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Parish Hall Grant						1200.00				
jubilee	100.00									
Grass Cutting										
Notice Boards			60.00							
Chapel			500.00							
Parish Plan					427.00	6.04				
chq 638			169.10							
BFPG						30.00	6			
IT equipment							607.77			
Festival									400	
CT Equipment Grant									639.45	
British Legion Grant						50.00				
TOTAL PC Expenditure	1837.00	641.74	1855.96	2219.21	726.61	2901.73	968.38	311.46	1550.11	706.53
PC closing Balance	5657.00	5413.97	4361.26	7457.05	7062.44	5558.87	5329.99	5921.03	4499.7	5045.97
BFPG Open Balance	1721.00	1737.00	1737.53	1687.53	1667.28	1667.28	2014.21	1900.27	2250.27	2232.96
BFPG Inc	146.00	33.81				428.00	33.6	350	60	21.33
BFPG Ex	130.00	33.28	50.00	20.25		81.07	147.54		77.31	44.9
BFPG Closing Balance	1737.00	1737.53	1687.53	1667.28	1667.28	2014.21	1900.27	2250.27	2232.96	2209.39
LADY Close Orchard	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00
Tot Closing Balance	7552.00	7309.50	6206.79	9282.33	8887.72	7731.08	7388.26	8329.3	6890.66	7413.36

Bodenham Parish Council Accounts 13/14

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Income												
PC Opening Balance	5045.97	8433.05	7125.00	6606.00	4760.00	3826.00	6442.23	5800.23	5646.38	5401.58	4553.58	4630.83
Newsletter	131.00	132.00	25.00	225.00	125.00	145.00	204	192	128	190	185	190
Vat Refund		123.95							123			
Car Park Loan	374.91					374.91						
Lengthsman			778.25			778.25	535.00				778.25	
Precept	4973.00					4973.00						
TOTAL	10524.88	8689.00	7928.25	6831.00	4885.00	10097.16	7181.23	5992.23	5897.38	5591.58	5516.83	4820.83
Expenditure												
Car Park Loan	749.83					749.83						
Church Grant	0.00			825.00								
Clerk Salary	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68
Clerk Expenses	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
HM Rev and Customs	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32
Insurance		700.00										
Website						200.00						
Newsletter	367.00		236.25		163.00	294.10	175	159.85	184.8		200.00	200.00
Playground repairs				445.40								
Room Hire	44.00				100.00				100			33
Lengthsman	95.00	428.00	400.00	360.00	360.00	960.00	20		25	352		
Playground Inspection				54.60								
Audit				200.00								
Parish Hall Grant						1200.00						

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Grass Cutting	650.00											
Parish Plan			500.00				500				500	
Neighbourhood Plan		250.00			250.00		500			500		
British Legion Grant						65.00						
TOTAL PC Expenditure	2091.83	1564.00	1322.25	2071.00	1059.00	3654.93	1381	345.85	495.8	1038	886	419
PC closing Balance	8433.05	7125.00	6606.00	4760.00	3826.00	6442.23	5800.2	5646.4	5401.6	4553.6	4630.8	4401.8
BFPG Open Balance	2209.39	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37
BFPG Inc	0.88											
BFPG Ex	96.90											
BFPG Closing Balance	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37	2113.37
LADY Close Orchard	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00
Tot Closing Balance	10704.42	9396.37	8877.37	7031.37	6097.37	8713.60	8071.6	7917.75	7672.95	6824.95	6902.2	6673.2

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT
(13 MAY 2013)

1. **Water Levels.** The improvement in the weather over the past month has meant that the water level in the Millcroft Brook has remained very low throughout.
2. **Monthly Meeting.** Our most recent Meeting was held on Tuesday, 30 April and, despite it being (for once) a very pleasant evening, it was well attended. Amongst other items, the Group's Annual Report was considered and approved and the potential for increased run off - and as a result the heightened risk of flooding - created by the Maund Court planning application was yet again mentioned.
3. **Working Party Sessions.**
 - a. We held our first working party session on the evening of Friday, 26 April. About a dozen members attended and we made an excellent start on clearing the Millcroft Brook flap valves as well as the ditches on the C1125 from the Surgery to Hamwyn Joinery on both sides of the road.
 - b. The work on the flap valves showed that in most cases the drains behind them were blocked with silt. In the next working party session on Friday, 10 May we therefore used one of our petrol pumps for the first time to try jetting out several of the drains. Although this may not have cleared all of them completely, it was largely successful and is a procedure we will certainly use again in future.
 - c. While work was in progress on the drains, other members cleared the section of the Brook between the Brockington Road bridge and the C1125, strimming the banks, cutting down saplings and removing large stones from the stream bed.
 - d. Our next working party session will be on Friday, 24 May when we will probably jet the remaining drains along the Brook and tackle the stretch upstream of the C1125.

K.A.M.

Parish Hall Report for Meeting of Bodenham Parish Council 13th May 2013

A Management Committee Meeting was held on 10th April, chaired by R Knott:

1. Dennis Jackson reported on negotiations with Arts Alive for one or possibly two live shows to be put on in the Parish Hall. Arts Alive would provide practical support (ticket sales and promotional materials), in exchange for £200 plus 80% of profits from ticket sales above £200. The intention is not for the Hall to make a profit, but to bring arts into the community and attract a different audience. However the hall could benefit financially from sales of food and drink at these events. The task group have applied for 5 shows (chosen on the basis that they are likely to be appeal to a wide audience), and the decision as to whether any of these have been secured will be announced on 7th June.
2. It was agreed that quotes for a new front door, of £2791 and £2850, were too high to justify expenditure at the present time.
3. Plans to fill the Treasurer role were discussed, and Robin Knott will continue to try to recruit a suitable candidate. Storage for old Treasurer records is also needed.
4. Broadband is now installed in the Hall, and all equipment acquired under the Technology Grant is now functioning.
5. The kitchen refurbishment task group has decided which large appliances to purchase, and will proceed with planning. G Bowden and M Nickols are to decide on the best way to spend an allocated £4500 on new chairs.
6. A Parish Plan exhibition and Saturday Market were to be held on 13th April.
7. In view of reports that people were having difficulty locating the hall, and as the Bodenham Festival was imminent, it was agreed that Mary Nickols would order a 1 meter square sign to be placed at the entrance to the car park, and Ian Linton would assist in erecting it.
8. The next Management Committee meeting, the AGM, to be held on Wednesday 10th July.

Since the Management Meeting, the new Bodenham Festival has been held. This has no formal connection with the Parish Hall, but some of the events were staged there and the Hall is due to benefit from some of the funds raised.

District Councillor's Report

In this month's Report:

- **Two years in**
- **Road works**
- **County finances**
- **Changes at the top**
- **Boundary Commission changes**

Two years in

It is two years since the voters of Hampton Court Ward elected me as their Councillor, so I wanted to reflect on some of the things which have happened so far, and to touch upon just a few in which as your Ward Councillor I have been directly involved:

- Flood relief schemes have been completed in Bodenham, and funds have been agreed for a scheme in Hope under Dinmore next year
- A number of constituents have been supported with planning application advice, and with other disputes or problems
- With current financial pressures, the future of countryside services is one of significant risk. I am working with the Queenswood Management Panel and officers to look at how Queenswood Country Park might be managed by a community trust to reduce the risk to the jewel in Herefordshire's countryside crown
- I have attended 80% of all PC meetings in support of the communities I serve
- I have worked with other Cllrs with A49 issues to get a Highways Agency safety review of the A49 through north Herefordshire this year
- Neighbourhood planning is a key element of the Localism Act which came into force last year. I have arranged a number of meetings with Parish Chairman, and with Parish Councils, resulting in greater understanding of the opportunities and risks of neighbourhood planning, and it is pleasing to see that one Parish in the Ward has now registered to take forward work on a Neighbourhood plan, whilst several others are having discussions.

Road works

Just a reminder for residents of the Ward that New Market Street in Hereford is closed eastbound from Edgar Street roundabout to the junction with Widemarsh Street for 4 weeks from 12th May 2013, whilst major sewage works are undertaken.

Diversions are in operation but drivers travelling in and out of the city must expect delays.

County finances

This year the County faces its toughest financial situation for many years.

Mainly as a consequence of central government reductions in Local Authority funding to help deal with the national financial challenges, over the past two years the Council has had to make budget reductions in excess of £21m. With further reductions in funding for the next three years, increased pressure on priority services such as social care, and inflation, the Council has had to plan to save a further £32m over the next three years.

Whilst this level of funding reductions is challenging for the Council, it also represents an opportunity for the Council to position itself strongly for the future. The Council will continue to deliver its core community services, but may now be unable to support a range of non-core services in the future – although the opportunity for communities or other organisations to manage more things locally will increase. Some examples of this have already happened in the last couple of years with new community libraries, community asset transfers, and local youth services.

There is no doubt that we shall all feel the effect of these budget reductions over the next few months and years. The Council has already lost 280 posts in the past two years. The same number again could be lost through 2013 to 2014.

The detail of which services will be affected, and to what extent, is to be decided by the Cabinet on 16th May 2013.

Changes at the top

Many people will have seen in the media that there are changes in the leadership of the Council, and within political groups.

Cllr Sebastian Bowen from Bircher Ward has been elected leader of the Independent group of Councillors, the largest group after the Conservative group which forms the administration. Cllr Bowen replaces Cllr Bob Matthews who has stepped down.

The Conservative Group has elected Cllr Tony Johnson from Hope End Ward to replace Cllr John Jarvis who is stepping down after two years as leader of both the group, and of the Council. It is anticipated that Cllr Johnson will be formally elected Leader of the Council at its next meeting on 24th May 2013.

Boundary Commission changes

The Boundary Commission has been reviewing the number of Wards in Herefordshire for several months and has now announced the new Ward configuration which will come into effect from May 2015.

The Council will reduce from 58 Councillors to 53 – importantly there will no longer be any double or triple handed Wards in the towns or city. As in the rural Wards now, in future it will be one Councillor, one Ward.

Hampton Court Ward will have some changes. The Parishes of Hope under Dinmore and Newton west of the A49 will be lost to a different new Ward stretching from Lyde up the west of the A49 to Hope under Dinmore.

To the east, five parishes will transfer to the new Hampton Court Ward. These are Thornbury, Collington, Edwyn Ralph, Wacton, and Bredenbury. Pencombe with Grendon Warren, and Little Cowarne to the east of Bodenham will also be added to the new Ward which will be renamed Hampton Ward.

Please let me know if you want more information.

If you need to contact me please either email me at jmillar2@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone me on 07767 441003 and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Jeremy Millar
District Councillor, Hampton Court Ward
May 2013