

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE
at 7.30 pm on Monday, 5th March 2018**

Present: Cllr T Clark Cllr S Collin Cllr P James-Moore
Cllr T Mitcheson Cllr D Tilford Cllr R Layton

District Councillor Bruce Baker was in attendance.

Six members of the public were present.

Introduction

PCSO Steph Annette attended the Meeting and reported that she is leaving her post at Bromyard and moving temporarily to a new post at Kington, before moving permanently to Leominster, while retaining her current email address. She reported that a number of probably targeted thefts of quad bikes and other appliances had occurred locally and she recommended the use of Smart Water to mark such equipment. On behalf of the Parish Council Cllr James-Moore wished her good luck in her new posts and thanked her for all her efforts on behalf of the community over the past few years. (See also Minute 14.3 below).

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Cllrs Jim Crane, Dennis Jackson and Kathy Tremain.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the previous Meeting were approved unanimously (Proposer; Cllr Tilford: Seconder; Cllr Mitcheson).
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
 - 4.1 **Minute 4.3: Lengthsman.** The Clerk reported that he had asked Mr Richard Morgan to continue as Lengthsman for 2018-19, and that Mr Morgan had accepted the offer.
 - 4.2 **Minute 5.2: Potholes.** The Clerk said that he had not reported the pothole at the Ashgrove Road/C1125 junction, because it had been marked by Balfour Beatty for attention and had now been filled. He confirmed that he had reported the other potholes he had been asked to report.
 - 4.3 **Minute 6: The SID.** Cllr Mitcheson confirmed that Mr Derek Pritchard had agreed to help him move the SID and had already done so on one occasion. Cllr Tilford said that Mr Pritchard should be paid for his assistance. Cllr Tilford proposed and Cllr Mitcheson seconded that Mr Pritchard should be paid £10 every time he helps to move the SID. This was agreed unanimously.
 - 4.4 **Minute 7: The Newsletter.** The Clerk reported that he had placed a notice in the *Newsletter* about the public meeting to be held at the Siward James Centre on Saturday 14th April to display the two proposals for the new playground. He also confirmed that the two representatives of the companies whose bids were to be considered had agreed to attend.
 - 4.5 **Minute 9: The Bus Shelter on the C1125.** The Clerk reported that he had written to Cllrs Clark and Crane to thank them for repairing the bus shelter roof.
 - 4.6 **Minute 10: Vacancy on the Parish Council.** The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Mr Alec Avery thanking him for his years of service on the Parish Council.
5. **Opportunity for Members of the Public to Address the Parish Council.**
 - 5.1 Mrs Gwen Bowden thanked the Clerk for passing on Herefordshire Council's weather updates during the recent spell of wintry weather.
 - 5.2 Referring to the recent accident in Bowley Lane, Mr Martin Harris reported that the school buses were now using a different route and that parents are now taking their children to Leominster to catch the bus rather than dropping them off at The Drum crossroads.

However, he added that these arrangements are guaranteed only until September. Cllr Baker commented that the number of children catching the school bus and the requirement for it to be fitted with seatbelts necessitated the use of a large bus unsuited to Bowley Lane.

5.3 Mr Nick Bevan asked about planning application 174722/PA7: *Proposed Agricultural Storage Building*, which the planning officer had decided did not qualify for 'Prior Approval' and required a full planning application. Mr Bevan asked Cllr Baker why a full planning application was necessary, given that other 'Prior Approval' applications had gone through locally. Cllr Baker said that the position and size of the proposed building necessitated a full planning application. Cllr Tilford added that there are thresholds for size and light, which application 174722/PA7 did not meet. Mr Bevan said that he would submit a full planning application.

6. **Noticeboard on England's Field.** The Clerk said that Mrs Liz Davies had asked whether a noticeboard could be installed on the England's Field development. Cllr Tilford suggested that the matter be deferred for three months until the development was complete. He added that the noticeboard in the bus shelter opposite England's Gate Inn would be lowered in response to comments that it was inconveniently high for those of small stature.

7. **The Playground Sub-Committee.** See Minute 4.4 above.

8. **School Buses on Bowley Lane.** See Minute 5.2 above.

9. **Vacancy on the Parish Council.** The Clerk reported that the Electoral Services Office at Herefordshire Council had informed him that no election had been requested and that the Parish Council could fill the vacancy by co-option. He added that no names had yet been put forward and urged Councillors to give some thought to the matter.

10. **Finance**

10.1 **Monthly Accounts Statements.** The monthly accounts had been circulated and were accepted (Proposer; Cllr Tilford: Seconder; Cllr Clark). The accounts are attached as Annex A. The Clerk had also circulated the monthly spreadsheet version of the accounts.

10.2 **Outstanding Invoices.** The following invoices were presented for consideration:

- Leominster Community Resource Centre (February <i>Newsletter</i>)	£201.75
- Mr M Darley (Tree removal on BM13)	£20.00
- Dr C D Smith (Clerk's expenses - stamps, printer paper)	£13.60
- Cllr J Crane (Bus shelter repair expenses)	£32.06

10.3 The payment of the invoices was approved (Proposer; Cllr Tilford: Seconder; Cllr Collin).

11. **Planning**

- 180239: *Stoneleigh: Variation of Condition 2 151651/F. Amendments to Plot 1. (For ratification)*. This application was ratified, a 'no objection' response having been submitted prior to the Meeting.

- 180305: *Bridge Cottage: Proposed conversion of outbuilding to form holiday accommodation*. Cllr Tilford had prepared a planning statement, which had been circulated. Cllr Collin remarked that the building seemed to be very close to Pound Cottage. Cllr James-Moore noted that the building is much lower than Pound Cottage and is screened by a large hedge. Cllr Baker said that Balfour Beatty have objected to the proposal on the grounds of inadequate provision for foul water disposal and because the guidelines for a Flood Risk Assessment had not been followed. Cllr Tilford remarked that Balfour Beatty's objection was a serious one and added that Natural England have also asked for more information about the proposal. Cllr Tilford proposed and Cllr Mitcheson seconded that a 'No objection' response be made to the application. This was agreed unanimously.

- 180410 - *Devereux Court: Proposed alterations and extension to existing dwelling at rear of property*. Cllr Tilford declared that he had been asked for advice by the applicant before the application was made and that he had advised the applicant to contact the Historic Buildings Officer at Herefordshire Council, which the applicant had done. Cllr Tilford

proposed and Cllr Mitcheson seconded that a 'No objection' response be made to the application. This was agreed unanimously.

- 180574: *Land adjacent to Compton, Bowley Lane: Proposed erection of 3 no. dwellings with garages.* Cllr Tilford outlined the planning statement, which he had prepared and circulated before the Meeting. He said that there were several Core Strategy policies relevant to the application, with which it did not comply, and he also understood that one resident in a neighbouring property had not been notified about the proposal. Cllr Tilford proposed and Cllr Collin seconded that the Parish Council should object to the application. This was agreed unanimously.

12. Updates

12.1 **Bodenham Flood Protection Group.** Cllr Mitcheson submitted a report, which is attached as Annex B.

12.2 **Parish Hall.** Cllr Layton said that he had nothing to report since there had been no recent Meeting of the Parish Hall Management Committee and the next Meeting would not be held until 11th April. The Clerk reported that one of the signatories to the contract for a mobile phone mast at the Parish Hall had queried the clause about the period for reviewing ground rental payments. The Clerk added that the Chairman of the Parish Hall Management Committee had told him that a new contract was to be drawn up.

12.3 Neighbourhood Plan.

12.3.1 Cllr Mitcheson reported that a letter of objection to the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) had been submitted some six weeks after the end of the Regulation 16 Consultation period. However, the Examiner had agreed to consider the letter, while allowing the Parish Council a right of reply to it. Cllr Mitcheson said that, in essence, the letter alleged two grounds for objection; first, that the Parish Council had not sufficiently consulted the landowners over the proposal in the draft NDP for Shuker's Field to be designated as a Local Green Space and, second, that in any case the Field should not be considered as a Local Green Space.

12.3.2 Cllr Mitcheson said that he had circulated to Councillors a draft letter of response from the Parish Council, which he had subsequently revised and recirculated in the light of comments he had received from them. Cllr Tilford asked whether the letter of objection and, once agreed, the Parish Council's response would be placed on the Parish Council's Website. Cllr Mitcheson said that in due course both would be on both the Parish Council and the Herefordshire Council websites.

12.3.3 Cllr Collin asked whether, if the designation of the proposed Local Green Space was agreed, this would obviate a planning application following on from 174722/PA7: *Proposed Agricultural Storage Building* (see Minute 5.3 above). Cllr Mitcheson replied that it could do so. Cllr Clark proposed and Cllr Tilford seconded that the revised letter be sent to the Neighbourhood Planning Team Leader at Herefordshire Council and this was agreed. **ACTION: TM**

13. **Correspondence Not Previously Circulated.** The Clerk reported that he had received no correspondence which had not already been circulated.

14. Other Business (including the District Councillor's Report).

14.1 **District Councillor's Report.** Cllr Baker reported that:

- he is proposing that Herefordshire Council introduce a by-law to prevent parking on verges and on Herefordshire Council-owned land;
- according to the AA Herefordshire is not among the ten worst local authorities in terms of the state of its roads;
- following the resignation through ill health of Cllr Tony Johnson as Leader of Herefordshire Council, Cllr Jonathan Lester has been elected as Leader of the Conservative group of Councillors and so will become Leader of Herefordshire Council.

14.2 In response to a question from Mrs Liz Davies asking whether the income from the sale of smallholdings was to be ring fenced for social care, Cllr Baker said that the income would be used to meet the reductions in expenditure required by the Government's austerity

programme. He added that any refund obtained from Amey as a result of court action would be spent on roads.

14.3 Cllr Tilford proposed that a letter should be sent to Inspector Davies at Bromyard recording the Parish Council's gratitude for all the work PCSO Steph Annette had done in Bodenham. This was agreed. **ACTION: CS**

14.4 Cllr Tilford thanked Mr Roy Moore for his work in clearing snow from Bowley Lane.

14.5 Cllr Tilford suggested that consideration of an email from Mrs Heather Davies about water in Millcroft Road should be deferred given the current weather and the incompleteness of the England's Field development. This was agreed. Cllr Mitcheson commented that the issue was a longstanding one.

14.6 Cllr Mitcheson said that he had been asked to thank Cllr Collin for her work in helping the Village during the recent cold weather by keeping the garage shop well stocked.

14.7 Cllr James-Moore said that the new Vicar was to be 'licensed' on 2nd July and asked whether the Parish Council should move its Meeting scheduled for that evening. No decision was made pending further information.

14.8 Cllr Collin reported that she had been approached by a member of the Royal British Legion about the 'Silent Soldier' initiative. She said that she was going to purchase one Silent Soldier herself, and wondered whether the Parish Council would also purchase one or two. She added that the cost appeared to be between £150 and £250. Consideration of the matter was deferred until the next Meeting.

15. **Date of the Next Meeting.**

15.1 The next Meetings will be held on Mondays 9th April and 14th May (the Annual Meetings).

15.2 There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

January 2018 accounts**OPENING BALANCE on 18th JANUARY 2018 = £34835.69**

Date	Income	Expenditure	Comment
19th January 2018	£9.50		Newsletter advertising
22nd January 2018		£37.84	HMRC (Clerk's PAYE)
23rd January 2018	£382.00		BFPG coffee morning
31st January 2018		£151.67	Clerk's salary
6th February 2018	£159.50		Newsletter advertising
12th February 2018		£25.00	BFPG equipment repair
12th February 2018		£36.26	Clerk's expenses
15th February 2018		£9.00	BFPG room hire
15th February 2018		£60.75	PC room hire
TOTALS	£551.00	£320.52	

CLOSING BALANCE on 15th FEBRUARY = (£34835.69 + £551.00 - £320.52) = £35066.17



BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT
(5 MARCH 2018)

1. **Summary of the Past Month.** The recent 8-10 inches of snow brought to us by 'The Beast from the East' and Storm Emma are now thawing and, combined with the rain which is now falling, have raised the risk of either fluvial flooding from the River Lugg or surface water flooding, or both.
2. **Monthly Meeting.** Because of increasing snowfall during the afternoon of last Tuesday (27 February) the Group's monthly Meeting was cancelled at 16.44pm.
3. **Natural Flood Management.** As I reported at last month's Parish Council Meeting, Mr Andrew Osbaldiston from the Environment Agency is involved in the Bodenham Natural Flood Management Project. He has requested access to the data from the Early Warning Telemetry System and we have granted him this and hope to have a meeting with him in the next week or two.
4. **The Group's Tenth Anniversary.** Because of the cancellation of our monthly BFPG Meeting no decision has yet been made on how, when or where the Group's Tenth Anniversary will be celebrated.

K.A.M.