

Aymestrey Parish Council

Minutes of the scheduled meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 22 June 2022 7.00pm in Aymestrey Parish Hall

Present: Councillors Ian Goddard (Chairman), Dan Hurcomb, David Duggan (7.15)

In attendance: 4 members of public, PC Meadows from the Leominster Safer Neighbourhoods Team, the Footpaths Officer and Maggie Brown (Clerk).

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Cllrs Eleanor Waldron, Helen Hamilton, Mike Snoswell, Domenica Dunne, John Probert and Ward Councillor Carole Gandy.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Declarations of Interest were received from Cllr Hurcomb in items 7.2, 7.3 and 16. No written Dispensation requests were received.
3. **Open Discussion:**
 - 3.1. Ward Cllr Carole Gandy's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It is available at www.aymestrey.org
 - 3.2. Update from the Chairman.
 - 3.2.1. The traffic calming working group, Cllrs Dunne, Waldron, Snoswell & Goddard and one member of public, will meet on 27 June for further discussions on the problems of speeding on the A4110.
 - 3.2.2. Anchors, to fix benches in the ground, arrived today. Benches in Aymestrey churchyard and Leinthall Earls village will now be installed.
 - 3.2.3. Aymestrey phone box. Most parts received; window frames are to follow.
 - 3.2.4. Thanks are due to Herefordshire Tree Warden network for providing the Oak tree planted at the centre of the parish, by the AY7 Public Right of Way, to the Hurcomb Estate for allowing it to be planted, and to Richard Hammond, our tree warden, for making the arrangements. A deer guard has been put up for the tree's protection. Members AGREED the tree should be named and "The Queen's Oak" was selected.
 - 3.2.5. Verge cutting. A number of observations/requests/complaints that verges are not cut have been received. An article explaining the parish council's decision, and how to report concerns to Balfour Beatty, will be in the June edition of Aymestrey Matters.
 - 3.3. Reports from Councillors. No reports were received.
 - 3.4. The views of local residents on parish matters.
 - 3.4.1. PC Meadows was welcomed to the meeting and asked if residents or councillors had any issues to report. A resident suggested setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.
 - 3.4.2. A resident advised that Ukrainian refugees are living in the village and encouraged those present to make them welcome.
 - 3.4.3. A resident asked whether verges could be cut to two widths of the mower, and when the drainage problem below Woodhampton will be resolved.
 - 3.4.4. A number of residents raised their concerns on item 6.1 including:
The size and increase of footprint of the development and its effect on an area of exceptional natural beauty, increased water run-off due to historic tree felling, the disproportionate size of shared living space for a two-bedroom dwelling, the proximity to the Public Footpath and the effect of run-off on the path, effect on habitat for flora and fauna, a request that Permitted Development Rights be removed by condition, to help prevent conversion of garaging and avoid housing creep
4. **Minutes RESOLVED** that minutes of the Annual & Scheduled meetings held 25 May 2022 be signed as a true record.
5. **Footpaths**
 - 5.1. The Footpaths Officer confirmed the AY1 down to The Riverside has been cleared, Mortimer Trail between Ballsgate and Lyepole Cottage will be cleared next followed by the AY9a from Lower Lye towards Wigmore. No expense claims received. The rising cost of fuel was noted.
 - 5.2. No works were reported to be undertaken by the Footpaths Officer. Thanks were recorded for his continued contribution to the parish.
6. **Planning Applications To consider applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council**
 - 6.1. [P221673/FH - Full Householder](#)

Aymestrey, Mortimer, Ballsgate Cottage Aymestrey Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9UT, Proposed refurbishment and extension of Ballsgate Cottage, external works and provision of a store and carport.

RESOLVED to comment on the application raising a number of concerns. **See Appendix 1.**

7. Financial Matters

- 7.1. Noted: payments made between meetings: £300 Zurich Insurance, £162.22 reimbursed to Cllr Hamilton for refreshments at Commons Public Meeting on 17 May.

Due to Cllr Hurcomb's declaration of interest and insufficient number of councillors present, items 7.2 and 7.3 were deferred until the July meeting.

- 7.2. To consider supplementing grant from Balfour Beatty in order to complete drainage works on Quotations 619, 620 and 621. Decision deferred.
- 7.3. To consider request from the Fete Committee/Parish Hall for donation towards Aymestrey Fete. Decision deferred.

- 7.4. Balances were noted and it was **RESOLVED** to approve payments:

Lloyds Bank Balance at 16 June 2022 £20,041.41

Ringfenced funds: Traffic Calming Schemes £2,795.98; Election Fund £1,000.00; IT replacement £200.00; Reserve Fund £5,000.00; General Revenue Reserve £4,807.40.

TOTAL ringfenced £13,803.38. Un-ringfenced funds available: £6,238.03

Payments approved. Figures include VAT if applicable.

Clerk Payroll Month 3 £243.98

HMRC PAYE Month 3 £61.00

Clerk's Expenses** £130.80

Total Payments £435.78

Un-ringfenced balance after June Payments £5,802.25

** Fixings x 2 for benches £121.80 (£101.50 net) and £9 mileage

8. Insurance.

- 8.1. Noted: receipt of Insurance Policy, Schedule and Certificate of Employers Liability to 1 June 2023.
- 8.2. **RESOLVED** to adopt a Safeguarding Policy in line with requirements of Zurich Insurance. To be circulated to all members and finalised at the July meeting.

9. **The Platinum Jubilee.** A message from the Chairman of the Parish Hall on The Jubilee Beacon. Thanks are due to Cllr Dunne and Gatley Farms for providing the venue and making preparations and to Cllr Hurcomb for sourcing the funding and co-ordinating everything on the day. The event was highly successful and comments were received that it had been enjoyed and that the event was appreciated. The Jubilee Afternoon Tea at the Parish Hall on Sunday 4 June was also a great success with 50 people attending. Social occasions like these have really helped people recover from the problems caused by the pandemic. The next social occasion to look forward to in the Aymestrey Parish calendar is the Fete on Saturday 16 July 12 noon - 4pm. It was **RESOLVED** to send a letter of thanks to Gatley Farms, noting the enormous effort made in building the spectacular beacon.

10. **Consultation.** The Herefordshire Local Plan 2021-2041. [Place Shaping Consultation](#) Monday 13 June – Friday 29 July 2022

The Chairman had joined a Zoom information session held by Herefordshire Council. 17,000 new homes are proposed for the next planning period, 2021-2041. At present, recognising the lack of infrastructure in Aymestrey parish (buses, school, mains drainage, recreation facilities, doctor, shop, cycle routes, etc) the parish will be classed as open countryside. Whether Neighbourhood Development Plans would still have relevance under the new plan was queried. Response was that they remain the part of the planning framework until new Herefordshire plan is adopted (perhaps 2 years) after which the NDP will need to be updated or it could be abandoned. Consultation runs till 29 July and will be discussed again in July.

11. **Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS).** Nothing to report this month and no financial support requested.

12. Considered - a request from *CarerLinks* to attend a Parish Council meeting and discuss their role and how the community can help support carers in the Parish. **AGREED** to arrange a public meeting to include *CarerLinks*, the Good Neighbour Scheme and other relevant bodies. Date to be selected at July meeting

when copy dates for Aymestrey Matters have been confirmed.

13. **Wigmore School. RESOLVED** to donate £40 towards a prize, in accordance with budget for 2022/23.
Noted: The Chairman will attend the Celebration Evening on 12 July.

14. **Common Land in Aymestrey Parish.** Noted: Public Meeting arranged for Tuesday 5 July 7pm at the Parish Hall to establish a Commons Association.

15. **Aymestrey Telephone Box.** Cllr Hurcomb is making arrangements for the box to be sandblasted and painted. Funding is being provided by the Parish Hall from a Lottery Grant.

Due to Cllr Hurcomb's declaration of interest and insufficient number of councillors present, items 16.2 and 16.3 will be decided at the July meeting.

16. **Lengthsman**

16.1. Updates on works completed. Noted: Tree guard at the Queen's Oak erected.

16.2. Tasks to be completed under a Grant Offer from Balfour Beatty. Cllrs Duggan & Goddard considered all three to be of importance. Decision deferred.

16.3. Works to be undertaken by the Lengthsman. Decision deferred.

16.3.1. Grips on the pitch from Woodhampton to Lower Lye to improve drainage were suggested.

16.3.2. Quotes to be sought for drainage works near Haven Farm including grips, and installation of gulley / works to ensure pipe is clear.

17. Noted: contents of the Information Sheet.

18. Confirmed: date of the next meeting Wednesday 27 July 2022.

Meeting closed 21:30

Original signed and on file

Signed
Cllr Ian Goddard. Chairman, Aymestrey Parish Council.

DATE 27 July 2022

Appendix 1

Response to P221673/FH - Full Householder. Ballsgate Cottage Aymestrey Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9UT, Proposed refurbishment and extension of Ballsgate Cottage, external works and provision of a store and carport. Deadline 24 June

Comment.

Aymestrey Parish Council has a number of concerns regarding Planning Application P221673/FH and wishes to record the following observations.

The Parish Council is concerned that no overall drainage strategy has been specified and asks that a detailed surface water drainage report is provided for the whole site in order to prevent run-off from the development and, if permission is granted, a condition ensuring its implementation is included.

It has been reported to the Parish Council that parts of the site are prone to flooding, which has allegedly negatively affected a residential property close to the proposed car port and store. There is also a concern that run-off may affect Ballsgate Lane (U92407) and PROW AY5. It is suggested that a condition is attached requiring all hard standing to be permeable.

The high visual impact of the driveway is a concern. The Council asks that its surface and options for mitigation be considered.

Due to the extent of the proposed development, the increase in footprint of the existing cottage and the addition of a carport/store, the Parish Council asks that a condition be included denying future Permitted Development Rights on any of the buildings.

A planting scheme is requested to mitigate the view of the proposed extension from the AY5 Public Right of Way.

A condition is requested that the dwelling be for permanent residential use rather than holiday let/weekend use.

The Parish Council asks that its comments be taken into account prior to determination.

Thank you.

END