

# Aymestrey Parish Council

## Minutes of scheduled meeting Wednesday 24 March 2021 via Zoom

### Present

Councillors Ian Banks, David Duggan, Ian Goddard (Chairman), Helen Hamilton, John Probert, Mike Snoswell, and Eleanor Waldron.

### In attendance

The Footpaths Officer, Ward Cllr Carole Gandy, 9 members of public, Maggie Brown (Clerk).

1. **Apologies for absence.** All councillors were present.
2. **To receive Declarations of Interest and written Dispensation requests.** No declarations of interest or requests for dispensations received.
3. **Open Discussion**
  - 3.1. Ward Cllr Carole Gandy's report was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. She hopes to find out which roads are on the 2021/22 list for resurfacing/redressing on 29 March, at the Balfour Beatty (BBLP) consultation on its Annual Maintenance Plan. It is hoped dates for Cllrs to discuss Ballsgate Lane with John Harrington can be arranged at a Zoom meeting next week.
  - 3.2. Views of local residents on parish matters. The Clerk read out concerns raised by three households about the opening of an animal park at Lower Yatton Farm; including noise, access - unsuitability of a single-track road; parking; concerns in relation to the Aymestrey Neighbourhood Development Plan. No further comments were made by residents' present. The Parish Council noted these matters, and that Planning Permission may be required for some of the development.
  - 3.3. The Chairman did not give an update on Parish Matters as all items are on the Agenda.
  - 3.4. Reports from Councillors. Cllr Snoswell reported data from the Speed Indicator Device. See Appendix 1. Clerk to circulate data to all Cllrs.
4. **Minutes RESOLVED** that minutes of the scheduled meeting 24 February 2021, be signed as a true record at the next available opportunity, the meeting having taken place remotely.
5. **Planning:** Applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council were considered.
  - 5.1. **P210615/F - Planning Permission** Aymestrey, Mortimer, Mortimers Cross Farm Mortimers Cross Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9PD, Mortimers Cross Farm Mortimers Cross Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9PD. Proposed agricultural building (Fodder Store).

The Chairman invited the applicant to speak, after which it was **RESOLVED** Aymestrey Parish Council supports this application provided a condition is applied that the buildings are used for the purpose in the planning application and not subsequently used for livestock. The condition is requested to ensure the development does not enable an increase in livestock numbers without appropriate Habitats Regulation Assessment having been carried out, particularly in relation to the River Lugg as part of the River Wye SAC.
  - 5.2. **P210998/PA7 - All others - Prior Approval** Aymestrey, Mortimer, Upper Yatton Farm Yatton Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9TW, Upper Yatton Farm Yatton Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9TW, Prior notification for agricultural building. *Comments not being accepted.*

This item was not discussed as a Decision was taken on 15 March – Prior approval not required.
6. **Financial Matters**
  - 6.1. **RESOLVED** to adopt updated Asset Register and to delegate responsibility for negotiating nominal value of phone boxes with Insurance Company, as value of street furniture may raise premium.
  - 6.2. Noted: payments between meetings: Direct Debit 22/02/21 £20.40, inc. VAT, PlusNet for broadband.
  - 6.3. **RESOLVED** to note balances and approve payments including two received after Agenda issued:
    - (a) £264.60 One Stop Print Shop - March edition of Aymestrey Matters. Agreed 27 May 2020 item 7.7.
    - (b) £75 Aymestrey Parish Hall - two half barrel planters. Agreed 25 November 2020 item 6.2.

Lloyds Bank Balance at 17 March 2021 **£15,796.09**

Ringfenced funds: For Traffic Calming Schemes £2,795.98; Parish Initiatives £936.00; Election Fund £660.78; Reserve Fund £5,000.00; General Revenue Reserve £1,896.85. Total ringfenced **£11,289.61**  
Un-ringfenced funds available: **£4,506.48**

**Payments approved.** Figures include VAT if applicable.

Aymestrey Parish Hall Inv. date 21/2/21 Hall Hire in 2020 £250.00

Clerk's pay, Months 11 & 12 £558.56

HMRC PAYE payment Months 11 & 12 £41.00

Clerk, Expenses Mar 2021. 50% subscription to Zoom 2/3-1/4/2021 £7.19

Total Payments **£856.75**

Un-ringfenced balance after March payments: corrected from £3,649.73 to £3,310.13 to include (a) & (b) above.

Noted: A Finance Working Group meeting will be arranged before the April parish council meeting.

## 7. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Cllr Hamilton explained the relevant housing policies in the NDP will be deemed out of date from its second anniversary in June this year. This is because, under the government's National Planning Policy Framework, certain local plan housing policies may not be applicable if a planning authority has a housing land supply of less than five years. Herefordshire Council does have a significant shortfall in its housing land supply. However, Natural England has advised that it will not approve NDPs in the River Lugg catchment until it is demonstrated that Herefordshire Council's Nutrient Management Plan is sufficiently improving water quality in the River Wye Special Area of Conservation. The Parish Council will want to update the NDP, but it is not advisable to do so now because it could not be re-adopted by Herefordshire Council. Agreed: An NDP Working Group will not be set up yet. The subject will be added to Agenda again when there is reason to do so.

## 8. Aymestrey Good Neighbour Scheme

Cllr Waldron reported no phone calls received in the last month. An advertisement was placed in Aymestrey Matters. No further financial support is required. Residents are encouraged to mention the scheme to anyone who might benefit.

## 9. Annual Meetings.

Noted: Legislation allows meetings to be held via Zoom (or equivalent) *before* 7 May 2021.

- 9.1. **RESOLVED** Annual Meeting of the Parish (for the electorate) to be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5 May via Zoom.
- 9.2. **RESOLVED** Annual Meeting of the *Parish Council* to be at **7.00pm** on Wednesday 26 May.
- 9.3. **RESOLVED** scheduled meeting of the Parish Council to be at approx. 7.30pm on Wednesday 26 May immediately after the Annual Meeting. It is expected both 9.2 and 9.3 will take place in the Parish Hall.

## 10. Parish Hall

- 10.1. **RESOLVED** to book the Parish Hall on the fourth Wednesday of the month from May onwards.
- 10.2. **Agreed:** to consider contribution to Aymestrey Fete, in line with Budget 2021/22 when request is received from the Parish Hall.
- 10.3. The following item was included erroneously and was not discussed. To note contribution to costs of three planters agreed in November 2020 no longer required.

## 11. Memorial Benches

A quote from a local supplier is expected after which an order can be placed. Noted: surveys will need to be undertaken if concrete is used at the triangle in Leinthall Earls.

## 12. Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Policy.

Cllr Carole Gandy reported the Policy will go out to public consultation for 6 weeks, probably from the end of March to mid-May. **Agreed:** Cllrs will look at the document in readiness for the April meeting. Noted: it will be lengthy, members may wish to consider subjects previously highlighted, e.g. The quarry at Leinthall Earls; and the "circular economy" the use of more recycled material rather than newly quarried aggregate.

13. **Common Land in Aymestrey Parish.**

Cllr Goddard reported from the Commons Working Group (CGW). The CWG wishes to identify and contact owners of commons. One owner has come forward, having seen article in Aymestrey Matters. Next step is to set up meeting with owners, share thoughts and discuss, after which the CWG will communicate with those with Common Rights. Publicity is important. This would be a community project, for which the Parish Council is a catalyst.

14. **Highways.** Roadside Verges. In the interests of promoting and encouraging biodiversity **RESOLVED** to ask Balfour Beatty to cut verges on U class roads in the Parish once a year, unless a need for further cuts is identified on safety grounds.

15. **Footpaths**

15.1. Researching 'lost' paths to be added to the Definitive Map. Reported: 'Lost' paths not on the Definitive Map may only be added prior to 2026, leaving 5 years for the Parish Council to make investigations if it chooses to do so. This should be thought through and a deliberate decision taken as opposed to failing to consider the matter. Noted: Level of evidence required to make credible application is high. Cllr Hamilton offered to hold a webinar on records and how to look for them. Cllrs Goddard and Hamilton will discuss research required.

15.2. Noted: The Parish Council is **not** notified about Definitive Map Modification Order Applications. Agreed: The Clerk to write to Mr Mike Mable, Definitive Map Modification Officer at BBLP, asking why the Parish Council is not consulted, and how this can be arranged.

15.3. Report from Footpaths Officer.

AY5 Yatton/Animal Park – stile refurbished and new sign posts installed.

AY17 Leinthall Earls – new stiles to be installed after fencing replaced by landowner. Vehicular access required; strimming will take place when land dries out.

AY7 – signage has been altered at Beech Grove to make direction clearer, in accordance with Definitive Map.

Expense receipts will be submitted to the Clerk for payment in April.

Noted: A request from a resident for a stile with dog gate at end of track to River Bow up to Ballsgate Common. Cllr Goddard will discuss with the Footpaths Officer after the meeting. Land owners would need to be consulted.

15.4. No works reported to be undertaken by the Footpaths Officer.

16. **Lengthsman**

16.1. The Clerk is not aware of any being completed by the Lengthsman since the last meeting. No invoices have been received.

16.2. No works were reported to be undertaken by the Lengthsman.

17. **Parish Council Vacancy. RESOLVED** to advertise the vacancy inviting applications for co-option by 21 April. Clerk to forward notice to councillors and put information on the website.

18. Contents of Information Sheet were noted. Items raised

(a) The Lengthsman Contract between the Parish Council and Herefordshire Council. Received after Agenda completed, deadline 18 April, before next Parish Council meeting. **Agreed:** The Chairman and Clerk to sign the Contract and forward it to Balfour Beatty.

(b) Report from resident of a problem with ticks on Yatton Hill Common, asking if bracken could be cleared on footpaths. Noted: This could be discussed when considering management of the common.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 28 April 2021. It will take place via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 21.11

Signed .....*Ian Goddard*.....

Cllr Ian Goddard. Chairman, Aymestrey Parish Council.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, original to signed as soon as practicable.

**DATE** 28 April 2021

Appendix 1

| Totals                     |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                            | 15 to 18 | 18 to 21 | 21 to 24 | 24 to 27 | 27 to 30 | 30 to 33 | 33 to 36 | 36 to 39 | 39 to 42 | 42 to 45 | 45 to 48 | 48 to 51 | 51 to 54 | 54 to 57 | 57 to 60 | 60 to 63 | 63 to 66 |
| Yatton - Sep > Nov 2020    | 746      | 2054     | 3721     | 6574     | 9793     | 7226     | 5476     | 4490     | 3631     | 2371     | 1263     | 609      | 330      | 163      | 68       | 16       | 8        |
| Vill Hall - Feb > Mar 2021 | 234      | 785      | 2118     | 6838     | 8590     | 4904     | 2712     | 1523     | 776      | 356      | 174      | 70       | 26       | 16       | 3        | 0        | 1        |

| Percentages                |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                            | 15 to 18 | 18 to 21 | 21 to 24 | 24 to 27 | 27 to 30 | 30 to 33 | 33 to 36 | 36 to 39 | 39 to 42 | 42 to 45 | 45 to 48 | 48 to 51 | 51 to 54 | 54 to 57 | 57 to 60 | 60 to 63 | 63 to 66 |
| Yatton - Sep > Nov 2020    | 2%       | 4%       | 8%       | 14%      | 20%      | 15%      | 11%      | 9%       | 7%       | 5%       | 3%       | 1%       | 1%       | 0%       | 0%       | 0%       | 0%       |
| Vill Hall - Feb > Mar 2021 | 1%       | 3%       | 7%       | 23%      | 29%      | 17%      | 9%       | 5%       | 3%       | 1%       | 1%       | 0%       | 0%       | 0%       | 0%       | 0%       | 0%       |