

Aymestrey Parish Council

Minutes of scheduled meeting Wednesday 25 November 2020 via GoToMeeting software

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, Maggie Brown (Clerk), 0 members of public.

1. **Apologies for absence. All councillors were present.**
2. **Declarations of Interest Dispensation requests**
 - 2.1. No declarations of interest received.
 - 2.2. No requests for dispensations.
3. **Open Discussion**
 - 3.1. Ward Cllr Carole Gandy's report circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. In addition, she reported COVID-19 problems in the south of the county are improving, numbers have begun to fall. It was feared Herefordshire would be in tier 2 after lockdown ends on 2 December, which would impact on the hospitality sector.
 - 3.2. Views of local residents on parish matters. Report received that barking dogs in Yatton are causing a nuisance. Clerk to advise resident to contact Environmental Health at Herefordshire Council.
 - 3.3. Update on parish matters from Chairman.
 - 3.3.1. Planning permission approved with conditions at Hill Barn Farm for 900 m² storage shed; one specific condition is that it will be used for storage and no other purpose.
 - 3.3.2. Herefordshire Council being forced by central government to make cuts. It needs to find a further £16m of savings. Consultation/briefing meeting for Parish Councillors of Mortimer Ward has been arranged. Noted: Cllrs Goddard and Hamilton to join this meeting. Clerk to arrange. Cllrs to submit representations to the Chairman after the meeting if they wish to do so.
 - 3.4. Cllr Banks reported: Update from Gigaclear. Properties south of the river are expected to be connected by Christmas 2020. No information received for properties north of the river.
4. **Minutes RESOLVED** to remove a sentence under item 10.1.1. after which minutes of the scheduled meeting held on 28 October 2020 be signed as a true record at the next available opportunity.
5. **Memorial Benches**

Report on design, specifications and cost of benches to be funded in 2020/21 and/or 2021/22.

Cllrs Goddard and Duggan met with two Church Wardens via Zoom to discuss benches in Aymestrey and Leinthall Earls churchyards. Church Wardens favoured wooden benches as they are in keeping with the setting. An alternative location, grass triangle in Leinthall Earls, was suggested. After discussion on style, cost and locations, the following was **RESOLVED**

 - a) to purchase two benches this financial year, up to £600 each. To be funded from Parish Initiatives (ringfenced figure of £936) topped up from the General Revenue Reserve.
 - b) to site one wooden bench (in line with the Church Wardens' preference) in the churchyard at Aymestrey.
 - c) to site one wooden bench on the grass triangle in Leinthall Earls, opposite the phone box.
 - d) to confirm inscription having first consulted the Parochial Church Council. Council suggest the same inscription on each bench, possibly 'Their lives for men, their souls to God' as on Aymestrey memorial lych gate. Cllrs Goddard & Duggan to follow up.

6. Financial Matters

- 6.1. **RESOLVED** that a payment of an annual retainer to the Footpaths Officer be made from General Reserves in financial year 2020/1 and included in the budget for 2021/22.
- 6.2. **RESOLVED** to advise the Treasurer of the Parish Hall Committee that the Parish Council is willing to pay the normal invoice for hall hire for this financial year £250.00, and to purchase up to three planters for the Parish Hall.
- 6.3. **RESOLVED** to set a Budget of £12,017.28 for 2021/2022.
- 6.4. **RESOLVED** to set a Precept of £10,750.00 for 2021/2022.
- 6.5. **RESOLVED** to cancel GoToMeeting subscription due 16/12/2020. To subscribe to Zoom from January 2021, sharing costs 50/50 with Wigmore Group Parish Council.
- 6.6. Noted: payments between meetings: Direct Debit 20/11/20 £20.40, inc. VAT, PlusNet for broadband.
- 6.7. Balances noted and payment approved:
Lloyds Bank Balance at 20 Nov 2020 **£19,234.29**
Ringfenced funds: Traffic Calming Schemes £2,795.98; Parish Initiatives £936;
Election Fund £660.78 Reserve Fund £5,000; General Revenue Reserve £2,306.26
TOTAL ringfenced **£11,699.02**. Un-ringfenced funds available: **£7,535.27**

Payments approved. Figures include VAT if applicable.

DM Payroll Services Ltd, administration of payroll 1/2 half of year £54.00

Clerk's pay, Months 7 & 8, (including back pay of £82.68) £624.84

HMRC PAYE for Months 7 & 8 £57.40

*Cllr Ian Goddard reimbursement £19.00

**Clerk's Expenses Oct/Nov £45.00

Total Payments £800.24

Un-ringfenced balance after November Payments: £6,735.03

* £7.99 storage box for Speed Indicator Device; £11.01 3 x keys for Mortimers Cross notice board.

** 2 x subscription to GoToMeeting £18 each & mileage to Finance Working Group meeting £9.00

7. Aymestrey Good Neighbour Scheme

One call received since October's meeting. Insurance is due in early February, decision to be taken at January meeting.

8. Tree Wardens for 2021/2022

Cllr Hamilton confirmed her wish to step down and proposed the name of a volunteer, willing and enthusiastic to take on the role. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Hamilton for her knowledgeable advice over many years. Cllr Snoswell offered to take on the role, and would like to know more about it for future reference.

RESOLVED To invite the volunteer to become the second Tree Warden for Aymestrey Parish Council, the first being another member of public already in post.

9. Highways

Reported: Recent repairs between Lower Lye & Aymestrey did not include all potholes. Those remaining have increased in size. **RESOLVED** Cllr Duggan to report on the Herefordshire Council system. Clerk to circulate website address and instructions to all councillors.

10. Footpaths

- 10.1.1. Noted: Cllr Banks offered to make and supply WW1 Footpath Memorial Plaques at cost price. Size approx. 190mm x 100mm. It was agreed the plaques are very well made, and thanks were recorded to Cllr Banks. **RESOLVED** to purchase 15 x plaques.
- 10.1.2. Reported: A section of a willow tree on the corner of Pyon Road, next to Footpath AY5 (Ballsgate Common) fell across a private driveway, and further cracks in the tree have

been observed. Agreed: The Footpaths Officer will inspect the tree and report back. Clerk to contact the owner of the Common for their views.

- 10.1.3. The Footpaths Officer reported repairs needed to a faulty stile and handrail on the Mortimer Trail at Pokehouse Wood and on the way down to Aymestrey. Step on 2 stiles at Ballsgate Common in need of repair. No further works were reported by councillors.

11. Lengthsman

- 11.1.1. Reported: Lengthsman advised the new concrete driveway at Woodhampton Farm has diverted water, and it is hoped the problem with grips in the vicinity has been solved.
11.1.2. Drainage works at Pyon Lane completed, enabling water to be conveyed into ditch. Ditch at side of lane dug out.

Reported: Ridge of debris in middle of lane near Ballsgate Orchard preventing water from draining. **RESOLVED** Cllr Probert to ask Lengthsman to clear debris.

Noted: Road sweeper not been through Aymestrey. Clerk & Ward Cllr Carole Gandy to follow up.

12. Contents of Information Sheet noted, in particular that two road defects reported on the Herefordshire Council CONFIRM system had been completed.

The Chairman advised the council that: The Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) is to be discussed by Herefordshire Council's Cabinet on Monday 1 December. Cllr Hamilton reported:

The draft MWLP does not address any issues raised in Aymestrey Parish Council's response to the plan, submitted in February 2019. Its main concern was the proposal to extend Leinthall Earls quarry. Although it was recognised that the quarry is one of only two sources of crushed limestone in the county, the Parish Council asked that the plan should strengthen its ambitions for a "circular economy" i.e. increasing the use of recycled materials to reduce the amount of new aggregate required for new development.

The draft plan includes a single policy – SP1 – which is supposed to deliver this, but fails to do so. The broad objection is that it doesn't contain any thresholds or targets and does not place any obligation on the Council or developers to deliver its aims.

In respect of the quarry, the MWLP says at 6.2.13: *"In addition, at the time of preparing the MWLP, there were two active crushed rock quarries in Herefordshire, with the planning conditions for Leinthall Quarry requiring that the winning and working of minerals at that site must cease by 31 August 2027. There may remain a need for additional reserves of crushed rock to be permitted to meet demand from 2027 onward."*

However, the relevant policy (M4) makes clear that the extension of the quarry has already been allocated and is central to the delivery of aggregate throughout the plan period (to 2041).

It was agreed that Cllr Hamilton will send a question to be submitted by Ward Cllr Carole Gandy through her group leader, Cllr Lester as follows:

"How will the measures in the plan deliver the "circular economy" and in particular reduce the County's dependence on quarried aggregate?"

13. Date of the next meeting, Wednesday 27 January 2021, there being no scheduled meeting in December.

Meeting closed at 21:37

Signed*Ian Goddard*.....

Cllr Ian Goddard. Chairman, Aymestrey Parish Council.

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

DATE 27 January 2021