

Aymestrey Parish Council

Minutes Scheduled meeting of the Parish Council
Wednesday 26 February 2020 at 7.00pm in Aymestrey Parish Hall

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Ian Banks, Ian Goddard (Chairman), Helen Hamilton, Ken Holland, & Eleanor Waldron.

In attendance: 7 members of the public, The Footpaths Officer, Maggie Brown (Clerk).

1. **Apologies:** received from Cllrs David Duggan; John Probert & Ward Cllr Carole Gandy.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

2.1. A declaration of Interest was received from Cllr Hamilton regarding item 11.

2.2. A request for dispensation was agreed for Cllr Hamilton to inform debate about item 11.

Standing Orders suspended prior to item 3.

3. Discussion with Ben Stone Community Engagement Manager, Fastershire. See separate report attached to these Minutes.

Standing Orders reinstated.

4. **Open Discussion:**

4.1. Residents present reported: The Corner House has been flooded 3 times in 4 months due to lack of maintenance to ditches, culverts and drains. Problems first reported to Herefordshire Council 20 years ago. Potholes by The White House at Mortimers Cross have been reported to Balfour Beatty. 1 repaired, 3 more opened up. Drainage at the junction is a problem. 1 drain is blocked, another is higher than the road. Noted: One cannot repeat or mark potholes multiple times.

4.2. Reported by Chairman:

4.2.1. Floods - The Corner House (see above) and Aymestrey Mill, flooded by the river. Good Bros Ltd business affected; motors destroyed by flood water.

4.2.2. Grit Bin installed with help from Footpaths Officer.

4.2.3. Initiatives on Climate Change to be on March Agenda, to plan for Parish Meeting in May.

4.2.4. Thank you letters received from former editors of Aymestrey Matters.

4.2.5. Cllr Gandy's [report](#) was circulated prior to the meeting.

4.3. Reports from Councillors: Cllr Holland advised The Riverside also flooded in the cellar, barn and granary.

5. **RESOLVED** Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 be signed as a true record

6. **Planning:** [P200114/F - Planning Permission](#) Hill Barn Farm Aymestrey Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9SR, Proposed livestock building., Valid. Extension for comments agreed, 28 February.

RESOLVED: In brief: The Parish Council wishes to **object** to this application unless a Climate Change Assessment confirms the climate change impact will be neutral as a *minimum*. **See full response** attached to these Minutes.

7. **Financial Matters**

7.1. The Courtyard Trust Hereford: request for financial donation. **RESOLVED:** to not make a donation.

7.2. **NOTED payments made between meetings:**

20/01/20 Direct Debit £14.80 including VAT to PlustNet, for broadband.

29/01/20 £218.00 to Came & Company, insurance for Aymestrey Good Neighbour Scheme.

29/01/20 £88.62 including VAT to Balfour Beatty, pole for Speed Indicator Device.

7.3. Noted: balances and **RESOLVED**: to approve payments & Cllr Goddard authorising his own payment.

Balance at 19 February 2020	Lloyds Bank	£ 13,154.78	
Ringfenced funds:	For Traffic Calming Schemes	£ 3,381.58	
	Parish initiatives	£ 936.00	
	Election Fund	£ 500.00	
	Reserve Fund	£ 3,000.00	
	General Revenue Reserve	£ 1,505.71	
	TOTAL ringfenced	£ 9,323.29	
	Un-ringfenced funds available:	£ 3,831.49	
Online payments approved		Amount inc. VAT	VAT
	Herefordshire Tree Warden Network Annual Subscription x 2	£ 50.00	-
	Reimburse Cllr Ian Goddard for Parish Council's contribution to leaving present (editors of Aymestrey Matters)	£ 40.00	-
	Clerk's expenses February - Mileage	£ 9.90	-
	Clerk's Home Working Allowance, September 19 to March 20	£ 50.00	-
	Total Payments	£ 149.90	£ -
	Un-ringfenced balance after February Payments:	£ 3,681.59	

8. Noted: Vacancy on Parish Council after Cllr Annaly Goodwin's resignation, due to work commitments. Thanks were recorded for all her contributions to the Council.
9. **Community Resilience Plan. RESOLVED**: Cllr Ian Goddard to do further research. Put on March Agenda.
10. **Condition of Assets** Noted: All in good condition except 1 phone box which needs attention.
11. **RESOLVED**: to discuss installation of hard standing for residential waste bins at Covenhope with residents. Clerk to advise Herefordshire Council to deliver 3 x 660 litre bins.
12. **RESOLVED**: the Parish Council will not be involved in VE Day, 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, on 8 May. Noted: The Parish Hall Committee is arranging a Street Party in the Hall. There will be a Church service at 2pm, bells rung at 3pm followed by party at 3:15pm.
13. **RESOLVED**: to ask Herefordshire Archives & Record Centre to destroy all papers not required by them. Note (after meeting) Archive reference for documents submitted DD72 and DD73.
14. **The Parish Plan**: Report from Cllr Ian Banks reviewing outstanding actions. 50% achievable, 25% less easily achievable, 25% not achievable. **RESOLVED**: to form group to comment on report; one member from: Parish Hall Committee (PHC); Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Parish Council. Cllr Ian Goddard to approach PHC & PCC and to suggest date for Annual Parish Clean Up.
15. **Highways**
 - 15.1. **RESOLVED: report to Herefordshire Council via online form:**
 - 15.1.1. Remove debris obliterating white lines through Aymestrey village.
 - 15.1.2. Clean pavement from Mortimers Cross Inn to Small Acre / Mortimers Cross Building Supplies. Noted: hedge has now been cut.
 - 15.2. **Traffic Calming**
 - 15.2.1. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS). Cllr Goddard reported:
 - 15.2.1.1. SID received. Pole installed in Aymestrey village by Balfour Beatty (BB). High visibility waistcoats bought. SID3 *Agreement for Deployment* form sent to BB. Storage box to be bought and rota drawn up. Weight of SID noted.
 - 15.2.1.2. Mortimers Cross: Required support received from Cllr Carole Gandy, Locality Steward & Local Policing Team. SID1 Assessment Request Form sent to Cllr Gandy for signature.
 - 15.2.2. **RESOLVED**: To monitor SID Risk Assessment after first deployment; and to complete Deployment Schedule (Chairman & Clerk) for submission to BB.
 - 15.2.3. **RESOLVED**: to purchase 2 hard hats & 2 pairs of cut resistant gloves. Approx. total £20 from Traffic Calming Reserves

15.2.4. Mortimers Cross SID. Noted: Traffic counter currently at location. Clerk to check if data can be used.

RESOLVED: (1) Two locations for SIDs on A4110 agreed. (2) Locations to be assessed by Locality Steward at meeting with Cllr Ian Goddard, after which (3) Clerk to request 2 speed surveys and installation of 2 SID sockets.

15.3. Lengthsman

15.3.1. Noted: entrance to former quarry just past Garden House cleared; culverts cleaned at Leinthal Earls and drains cleared.

15.3.2. Works to be undertaken by the Lengthsman: none reported.

15.3.3. **RESOLVED:** to renew Lengthsman's contract for 2020-2021, and to return Expression of Interest Form to Balfour Beatty.

15.4. Footpaths Reported by Footpaths Officer:

15.4.1. Clearance of footpath AY5 ongoing.

15.4.2. Storms have not caused too much damage.

15.4.3. Letter received from Herefordshire Local Access Forum (HLAF) Accessibility Working Group (AWG) about improving accessibility to footpaths. Noted: To be discussed fully at March meeting.

Thanks were recorded to the Footpaths Officer for his continued voluntary work on 18.4km of public rights of way, and for help with other parish initiatives.

16. Noted: contents of Information Sheet.

17. Confirmed: date of the next meeting Wednesday 25 March 2020 at normal time of 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 21:13

Signed*Ian Goddard*.....

Cllr Ian Goddard

Chairman, Aymestrey Parish Council.

DATE 22 April 2020

Original copy to be signed by Chairman once Social Distancing due to COVID-19 is lifted.

Response to Planning Application: [P200114/F - Planning Permission](#) Hill Barn Farm Aymestrey Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9SR, Proposed livestock building., Valid.

This application falls under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, Schedule 2, 1c. As such, the Local Planning Authority is required to screen the proposed development to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is necessary. Paragraph 148 of the NPPF says:

"The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure."

Concerns were raised about the effect of increasing the number of livestock housed indoors, requiring the production of feed through ploughing land that would otherwise be used as pasture: well managed pasture can play an important role in carbon sequestration, whereas arable land increases the risk of run-off/flooding.

Aymestrey Parish Council wishes to **object** to this application unless a Climate Change Assessment confirms the climate change impact will be neutral as a *minimum*.

The Parish Council fully endorses objections made by the Ecology Officer, and supports the request for further information to be supplied, including an Environmental Impact Assessment, which includes assessment of the climate change and flood risk impacts of the proposed development.

Aymestrey Parish Council
27 February 2020

Aymestrey Parish Council, Members of the Public, and Ben Stone, Community Engagement Manager (Fastershire)

Background

Gigaclear has recently laid cables/pipes in the area and the Parish Council, whilst being an enthusiastic supporter of this work, needs your help to carry out its responsibilities.

The Parish Council Lengthsman regularly carries out maintenance work on verges and grips on the 22.9km of U roads in the parish. At the moment it is obvious where Gigaclear pipes have been laid, as the verges show evidence of the work. However, rural verges are regularly driven over by cars, trucks, tractors and trailers, and become overgrown, which will make detection difficult.

Someone has told landowners that they will be “fined” a minimum of £10,000 if a pipe is damaged, which raises a concern over ditch maintenance, which is their responsibility as riparian owners. In addition, the Lengthsman needs to clear drains under the road, and open grips to prevent flooding.

Questions

1. What is the minimum depth at which pipes are laid? **Answer: 300mm in the verge, 300mm in footways, 450mm in carriageways. This is the minimum depth.**
2. Is this measurement to the bottom on the trench, or the top of the protective pipe? **Answer: To the bottom of the trench.**
3. What is the load rating of the protective pipe?
4. What is the design standard or product specification for the protective pipe?
5. Will the pipe show up by normal underground detection methods?
Answers to Questions 3,4 & 5

Traditional telecoms duct is not used as it is much larger than needed. In order to minimise the impact caused by digging up the road, small micro-ducts are used.

All Gigaclear’s micro-ducts are rated for direct burial usage - that is, buried in the ground under about 30 centimetres of material. Once they are buried they can withstand pretty well anything including being driven over by tractors, HGVs, and so on.

An extra protective PVC duct can be added where it is required, for instance across the entrance to businesses, farms, and yards, where repeated compaction of soft material by heavy vehicles might cause an issue over the decades; this is considered as part of their design process.

There is no British Standard for telecoms micro-duct but all their materials are crush, impact, and kink tested to IEC 60794-5. They do use metal detectable elements in some higher-risk portions of the network, but they do record where all of their assets have been installed and can provide maps for avoidance on request.

All their assets are buried with a marker tape well above the ducts to provide an indication during excavation.

6. Landowners have been told that it will cost £10,000 if any damage is caused to the pipe. Is this true?

Answer: This figure refers to malicious damage which is to be avoided as it can lead to loss of service for an entire area. Landowners are asked to take care, and not to damage any equipment. However, as Ben isn’t a Network Access Officer he was unable to discuss specific agreements. If the Parish Council has

queries Ben has offered to pass them on to the Network Access Team, and to ensure that a response is received. Although this has not yet been done, the offer remains open.

7. Could a map of showing the location of pipes/cabling in Aymestrey Parish be provided?

Answer: Yes. A map has been requested and will be shared with the Parish Council once available.

8. There has been a problem locally with the Gigaclear fibreoptic cable being severed by rats or other animals. What is the resilience of the system if cable can be damaged by wildlife?

Answer: Ben reported that he had checked with Network Build Care and also the Build Delivery Teams and no examples of this could be found locally. He would be pleased if any examples could be sent through for him to follow up. There have been some issues in the past, but the ducting now used is tougher and doesn't contain any materials that would attract animals, such as rats.

9. When are works likely to be completed?

Answer: Ben reported that the all the connection POTs (Points of Termination) in Aymestrey are in place and they are now looking at how to get these RFS (Ready for Service). The hold-up is due to difficulties in crossing the River Lugg at the north end of the village. Ben reported that options are being looked into and is hopeful they will have an update for the Parish Council meeting in April. He will report this back via the Clerk and keep the Parish Council up to date on progress.