

Aymestrey Parish Council

Minutes of the scheduled meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 26 October 2022 7.00pm in Aymestrey Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Domenica Dunne (7:25), Ian Goddard (Chairman), Dan Hurcomb (7:09), John Probert, Mike Snoswell, and Eleanor Waldron.

In attendance: Two representatives from Leinthall Earls Quarry, 4 members of public, the Footpaths Officer, Ward Councillor Carole Gandy and Maggie Brown (Clerk).

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Cllr Helen Hamilton.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Hurcomb declared an interest in items 8,10.5, 13 & 17. No written Dispensation requests were received.
3. **Breedon Quarries.** The Chairman welcomed the Leinthall Quarry Manager and the Planning & Estates Manager who discussed questions raised. Please see Appendix 1.
4. **Open Discussion:**
 - 4.1. Ward Cllr Carole Gandy's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It can be seen at www.aymestrey.org. Cllr Gandy asked that any individual or family who believes they have been badly treated by Herefordshire Children's Services should contact her or Children's Services.
 - 4.2. Update from the Chairman.
 - 4.2.1. Public meeting on 19 October. Unfortunately, the representative from CarerLinks was unable to attend due to ill health. 6 residents joined the defibrillator training – ably run by the Community Response Manager from the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.
 - 4.2.2. Lack of engagement from residents may be cause for concern.
 - 4.2.3. Chairman attended Zoom parish council summit mainly about climate change. A number of agencies were noted, all promoting methods of reducing carbon impact. Some parish councils taking active response. Should Aymestrey Parish Council be following their example?
 - 4.2.4. Councillors asked to consider volunteering to lead (a) engagement (with the community) and (b) climate change. To be discussed at a later date.
 - 4.3. Reports from Councillors. No reports were received.
 - 4.4. Views of local residents on parish matters.
 - 4.4.1. A resident mentioned that lack of attendance for the defibrillator training may have been due to numbers of residents contracting 'flu or Covid.
 - 4.4.2. A resident commented on Appendix 1 from the September Minutes. The resident explained that a Habitats Regulation Assessment was not required as no additional self-contained accommodation is proposed. It was noted that the watershed at the site had subsequently been clarified to the Parish Council by Herefordshire Council's ecologist.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** minutes of the scheduled meeting 28 September 2022 be signed as a true record.
6. **Footpaths**
 - 6.1. An update from Footpaths Officer was noted and it was **RESOLVED** to pay an expense claim of £15.82 for fuel. Noted: The Officer intends clearing paths where a tree has fallen wider than 3ft to enable easier strimming of future bramble/nettle growth.
 - 6.2. No works were reported to be undertaken by the Footpaths Officer
7. **A vacancy on the Parish Council** following the resignation of David Duggan was noted.
8. **Planning Applications**

[Planning re-consultation 221515 – Lower Yatton Farm](#) Yatton, Leominster, HR6 9TL. Change of use of land for the establishment of a farm park to include the provision of car parking and WC facilities (part retrospective). Amendment to description, no longer a seasonal farm park.

Cllr Hurcomb took no part in the decision but was invited to provide information. Noted: The Farm Park will not open all year, the change in description is to allow it to open for Easter if it falls in March and the autumn half-term week.

RESOLVED to make no comment on this application.
9. **Planning Matters**
 - 9.1. Discussed: whether to research an area of Common Land which anecdotally has been fenced, in relation to Planning application [P222166/FH - Full Householder](#) Aymestrey, Mortimer, Yatton Cottage,

HR6 9TP. Noted: The issue had been raised by a resident. It was agreed it is a matter for land owners and not the Parish Council. **RESOLVED** as this is not a Parish Council matter, no action will be taken.

- 9.2. Potential response to letters emailed to the Planning Department about foul drainage arrangements re [P173692/F](#) land adjacent to the Village Hall, 5 no. dwellings with garages and treatment plant.

Noted: No response had been received to letter emailed to Cllr Liz Harvey, Messrs Kevin Bishop, Ross Cook and Mark Tansley.

Cllr Gandy confirmed Herefordshire Council is seeking legal advice about planning enforcement at the site, and agreed to pass on the Parish Council's disappointment at not receiving a reply from any of the above.

10. Financial Matters

- 10.1. Noted: receipt of quarter end report from the Responsible Financial Officer. **RESOLVED** that £12 be transferred from General Reserve to Payroll Administration budget heading.

- 10.2. A report from the Financial Working Group was received and the following noted:

10.2.1. Bank reconciliations for quarters one and two verified by Cllr Mike Snoswell.

10.2.2. Payroll had been checked and found to be calculated correctly.

- 10.3. The first draft of the budget for 2023/24 was considered and the Clerk instructed to contact insurance companies re Aymestrey Good Neighbour Scheme; ascertain whether contractor costs are likely to rise and research interest bearing account for reserves. The draft budget is to be placed online for residents to view before being finalised, and the precept set, at the November meeting.

Reported: Concern that defibrillators across the parish may need to be replaced as the manufacturer has (reportedly) ceased production of replacement pads. These were to be available for 10 years after the manufacturer ceased production of the model. **AGREED** to write to Sir Bill Wiggin MP having first checked facts with the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

- 10.4. Noted: transactions dated after the September Agenda: **Receipts** £5,537.50 2nd half of annual precept, £2,073 grant from Balfour Beatty for drainage works, £501.46 VAT reclaimed.

Payments £2,190 to Yatton Farm Services for drainage works, to be reimbursed by grant from Balfour Beatty, £270 to One Stop Print Shop for Aymestrey Matters.

- 10.5. Balances were noted, and it was **RESOLVED** to approve payments listed below:

Lloyds Bank Balance at 20 October 2022	£19,908.89
Ringfenced funds: For Traffic Calming Schemes	£2,795.98
Election Fund	£1,000.00
IT replacement	£200.00
Reserve Fund	£5,000.00
General Revenue Reserve	£5,308.86
TOTAL ringfenced	£ 14,304.84
Un-ringfenced funds available:	£5,604.05

Payments approved. Figures include VAT if applicable.

Yatton Farm Services (Lengthsman) Inv. 813. Tree guard for The Queen's Oak	£240.00
Cllr Eleanor Waldron - reimbursement for Good Neighbour Scheme phone charges	£10.00
Editor of Aymestrey Matters - reimbursement for postage	£22.43
Clerk's Payroll Month 7	£243.98
HMRC PAYE Month 7	£61.00
Clerk's Expenses*	£150.19.
Total Payments	£727.60.
Un-ringfenced balance after October Payments:	£ 4,876.45

* Renewal Starter SSL DV for aymestrey.org £91.19, 50% home working allowance £50 & mileage £9.

11. **Neighbourhood Development Plan.** Noted: information received outlining the future role of NDPs with the emerging Local Plan. Item deferred to November.

12. **Consultation.** To consider response to Rural Settlement Hierarchy, Revised settlement audit, fact check. Noted: two churches and four defibrillators should be listed. Clerk to advise the Planning Team.

13. **Bench.** It was confirmed that a 4-seater bench has been gifted to the Parish Hall Committee for use at the Parish Hall. A letter of thanks from the Chairman of the Hall Committee had been received.
14. **Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS).** Noted phone charge of £10 gross to be reimbursed to Cllr Waldron.
15. **Traffic Calming.** Update: The Working Group is progressing the plan.
16. **Common Land in Aymestrey Parish.** The Commons Association has arranged a working party at the eastern part of Yatton Marsh, on 12 November. Volunteers welcome.
17. **Lengthsman**
 - 17.1. Updates on works completed. Two drainage schemes completed; both being funded by a grant from Balfour Beatty (BBLP). Aymestrey village gates power washed. Time spent with Locality Steward showing where problems arise in the Parish. All tasks discussed are on BBLP's list for completion. Thanks were recorded to the Lengthsman for this initiative.
 - 17.2. To consider routine maintenance to be carried out over the winter months. Item deferred.
 - 17.3. To consider works to be undertaken by the Lengthsman including
 - a) Drainage works at Covenhope Lane. Noted: BBLP completing this task, and work has started.
 - b) Clearing of inlet in Ballsgate Wood to alleviate flooding. Noted: The Lengthsman has met with Forestry England who has agreed to clear the inlet before the end of this year.
 - c) Drainage works near Haven Farm. Noted: BBLP has agreed to complete this task following discussion with the Lengthsman.
18. **Contents of the Information Sheet** were noted.
19. Noted: date of the next Parish Council meeting, 7pm on Wednesday 23 November 2022.

Meeting closed 22:00

Original signed and on file.

Signed
Cllr Ian Goddard. Chairman, Aymestrey Parish Council.

DATE 23 November 2022

Appendix 2

Discussion with Leinthall Quarry Manager and the Planning & Estates Manager

1. On what basis drivers are paid – e.g. per load or per hour? Answer: *Drivers are paid per load/mile.*
2. What control can be implemented to ensure drivers' behaviour on the roads? Answer: *Trucks have cameras, trackers and a tachograph. The Lightfoot monitoring system is to be implemented, which records fuel use, speed and use of brakes. Reports of poor driving would be dealt with under company disciplinary procedures.*
3. Do lorries have specific routes to follow? (a number of cement mixers seen at Oldfield Road)? Answer: *Leinthall Earls no longer supplies Woofferton with aggregate, and it is unlikely Oldfield Road would be used. Lorries all turn right out of the site, going north and south on the A4110, and east and west on B roads from Mortimers Cross. There is no longer a concrete plant at Leinthall Earls.*
4. When will restoration plans be implemented and has restoration started? Answer: *Restoration is done on a continual basis e.g., soils removed are used to restore another area. This prevents double handling. Hydroseeding, using a sugar solution, helps "stick" grass seed to the surface. The floor of the quarry is the last to be restored, as limestone is quarried in layers. Natural (managed) regeneration, would allow native shrubs and trees to establish. A restoration budget is being accrued on a per tonne basis.*
5. Will restoration be done in phases? Answer: See Q 4.
6. What is planned to mitigate the visual impact?
Answer: *Comments from Historic England have been noted and discussions started with archaeological consultant. Proposal will be landscape led – in particular the impact on the hill fort. Plans will need to*

satisfy Historic England and Herefordshire Council members and officers.

7. What is the extent of expansion plans? Answer: *The area proposed is to the west of the existing boundary. There is no intention to increase activity – the site operates at the capacity of its machinery, and market requirement. The site entrance will not be altered and the number of vehicle journeys likely to stay the same.*
8. What conditions have been set? Answer: *Conditions would be considered during the planning application process.*
9. Leinthall Earls is a dusty environment. What steps are made to mitigate the effect on air quality? Answer: *Steps are taken to control dust at source. A new initiative has been implemented to capture dust – including spraying lorry loads to keep dust down. There are two settling pools which hold water used. Water is now pumped from the pool by the gate, and is recycled around the site. New arrangements are designed to ensure less dust and reduce water runoff from the site. Ground (surface) water is captured for use at the site. Dust is monitored using dust frisbees – the monitoring scheme checks for potential issues including windy conditions. Quarrying operations would be adjusted to ensure as little impact as possible is made.*
10. Is processing at the site due to be expanded? Answer: *Any expansion at the quarry is likely to continue as per the existing planning permission. Hedgerow is likely to be impacted by the expansion. The hedge could be trans-located, or advance planting implemented to replace trees/hedges which are to be removed.*
11. Is the quarry involved, or about to become involved, in recycling of minerals / materials? Is this part of the business or the business plan? Answer: *The quarry is looking for sustainable solutions, and aims to only bring finished product onto the site e.g., road asphalt plantings which can be recycled. No increase in vehicle numbers is proposed.*

The western extension is included as an allocated site in the draft local plan, due to be examined in November 2022. The Inspector will assess comments, including those from the Parish Council. Leinthall is one of only a few sites in the vicinity for the quarrying of limestone. Breedon Quarries is keen to work with the Parish Council and landowners to achieve an acceptable modus operandi.

Before a planning application is made, a public exhibition will be held. Comments will be invited on aspects including restoration, public access and footpaths. The intention is to apply for permission for the whole site, including the existing and the proposed extension. Landscaping and restoration would be revisited, as best practise may have changed since the original permission was granted. Noise, dust and vehicle numbers will form part of the application. A traffic assessment, including cameras which record speed, will be implemented as part of the planning process.

It is proposed to set up a liaison group to include parish councils, and the local authority, to improve dialogue between parties. In addition, all employees at the site will offer 1 day a year doing voluntary work on behalf of the community. A site visit is also proposed, for the Parish Council to further its understanding of quarrying at Leinthall Earls.

If the visual impact of the site is causing distress, the problem can be looked at now to see if something can be done. Residents are asked to contact the Manager. Contact details are available from the Parish Council Clerk.