

Aymestrey Parish Council

Minutes of scheduled meeting Wednesday 28 October 2020 via GoToMeeting software

Present

Cllrs Ian Banks, David Duggan, Ian Goddard (Chairman), John Probert, Mike Snoswell, Eleanor Waldron.

In attendance

The Footpaths Officer, Ward Cllr Carole Gandy, Maggie Brown (Clerk), 0 members of public.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Cllr Helen Hamilton.
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 numbers of COVID-19 cases increasing. Week ending 25 October, 89 cases per 100,000, an increase on previous week of 41. If cases reach 100 per 100,000 Herefordshire will become an Authority under Watch. Highest growth rate in south of the county, on borders with Gloucestershire & Wales.
 - 3.2. No residents present to give their views on parish matters.
 - 3.3. Update on parish matters from Chairman.
 - 3.3.1. Assessments & speed surveys in Mortimers Cross being arranged for a Speed Indicator Device.
 - 3.3.2. No progress report has been received from Gigaclear on fibre broadband in the parish.
 - 3.3.3. £40 has been sent to Wigmore School for a prize, in line with the budget.
 - 3.3.4. Planning Appeals 182069 182071 & 182072 dismissed. Councillors urged to read the Examiner's appeal decision.
 - 3.3.5. Biffa has advised the Green Waste Club is not available in the Parish.
 - 3.3.6. Ken Holland has offered to continue his work as Tree Warden.
 - 3.3.7. Snedwood Lane, between Upper and Lower Lye. Locality Steward (Balfour Beatty) made referral to asset management team and land drainage department for further investigation, and raised jobs for the routine/reactive repairs.
 - 3.3.8. Finger sign at end of Ballsgate Lane has been replaced. A letter of thanks to be sent to the resident who renovated the sign. Reported: The sign belongs to the resident having been given to them by Herefordshire Council.
 - 3.3.9. There is still a vacancy on the Parish Council. Councillors asked to consider potential applicants.
 - 3.4. Reports from Councillors. Cllr Snoswell reported on data from the Speed Indicator Device, placed at Yatton Court, the northern SID site, for southbound traffic only. Typical volumes 8,000 vehicles a week. Peak times 7-10am and 2.30-6pm. Average speeds, night time 38mph; day time 32-33mph. Maximum speeds, 1 over 72mph, 1 69-72mph, 9 66-69mph, 8 63-66mph.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED minutes of the scheduled meeting held on 23 September 2020 be signed as a true record at the next available opportunity

5. Financial Matters

- 5.1. Noted: quarter end report from Responsible Financial Officer. No questions raised.
- 5.2. Report from Financial Working Group received. Noted:
 - 5.2.1. Bank reconciliations for Quarters 1 and 2 verified, thanks to Cllr Snoswell.
 - 5.2.2. Online banking arrangements working well.
 - 5.2.3. Spend v Budget for 2020-2021 reviewed. Nothing untoward to report.
 - 5.2.4. **Recommended:** £75 be moved, and Reserves Policy updated as per resolutions below.
 - 5.2.5. Implications of contributing to cost of churchyard upkeep considered following advice from Herefordshire Association of Local Councils via the Clerk. The Parish Council agreed to continue its contribution, to be discussed under 5.5, draft budget.

RESOLVED to top up Churchyard Maintenance budget heading by moving £75 from Community Projects.

- 5.3. **RESOLVED** to adopt updated Aymestrey Parish Council Reserves Policy.
- 5.4. Request for financial support from Aymestrey Parish Hall (APH) Committee. Noted: APH was said to be in receipt of £10,000 COVID-19 grant from Herefordshire Council. Fire doors require replacement, approx. £300 each, and car park in need of resurfacing, between £23,000 and £28,000. **RESOLVED** to defer to November. Chairman & Clerk to make further enquiries about financial situation at APH.

- 5.5. To consider draft Budget for 2021/2022. **RESOLVED** to look at Budget again in November, and agree Budget and Precept for 2021/2022.
- 5.6. **RESOLVED** to continue GoToMeeting subscription due 16/11/2020 for November meeting £15.00 net.
- 5.7. Payments between meetings noted: Direct Debit 20/10/20 £20.40, including VAT, to PlusNet for broadband; £248.40 to One Stop Print Shop for printing Aymestrey Matters Autumn edition; £40 to Wigmore School as a contribution towards a prize at the Awards Ceremony.
- 5.8. Balances noted and payment approved:
Lloyds Bank Balance at 22 Oct 2020 **£19,914.69**
 Ringfenced funds: For Traffic Calming Schemes £3,360.98
 Parish Initiatives £936.00
 Election Fund £660.78
 Reserve Fund £5,306.26
 General Revenue Reserve £2,000.00
TOTAL ringfenced £12,264.02
 Un-ringfenced funds available: £7,690.67
- Payment Approved:** Balfour Beatty Ref SID-20-06 for Assessments & 2 speed Surveys at Mortimers Cross £690.00 including £115 VAT. To be taken from Traffic Calming ringfenced fund.
- Un-ringfenced funds available after October payments: £7,690.67**
6. **Planning**
P203208/EN – Electricity Prior Approval Aymestrey, Mortimer, Land adjacent to Bath Cottage Aymestrey Herefordshire HR6 9TJ. Proposed installation of 1 span of new 11KV3 Phase Overhead Line. Deadline - Extension for comments agreed until 29 October 2020.
RESOLVED Having considered the application the Parish Council has no comment to make.
7. **Aymestrey Good Neighbour Scheme** Update received, one call received in the last month, responded to by the Chairman. No further financial support requested.
8. **Memorial Benches**
 Purchase of a number of Memorial Benches for the Parish. Cllr Duggan proposed the purchase of 6 or 7 benches, to memorialise the fallen from all wars, to be placed in both churchyards and other points in the Parish. Cost approx. £600 each. Agreed in principal to consider purchase of 2 benches in the first instance, subject to design and specifications.
9. **Highways**
 9.1.1. Lack of grips on A4110 between Parish Hall & turn for Hill Barn Farm. **RESOLVED** Clerk to report the problem to Herefordshire Council via the online reporting system.
 9.1.2. Roundabout at Mortimers Cross. **Agreed** Clerk to research Herefordshire Council's process / procedure. When data for SID collected by Balfour Beatty, arrange meeting with Simon Hobbs and Ian Connolly to consider best traffic calming options for Mortimers Cross.
10. **Footpaths**
 10.1.1. Stile at Covenhope Farm. Footpath Officer put stile and new signage in today. He had not been aware of the need. Thanks recorded to both parties for their helpful co-operation. In addition, he reported: Problem on AY9 Woodhampton Farm resolved. Old permissive path signage removed; new footpath signs installed. Apart from vegetation above Covenhope Farm, footpaths in the Parish are relatively clear.
 10.1.2. No further works to be undertaken by the Footpaths Officer requested.
11. **Lengthsman**
 11.1.1. No works completed by the Lengthsman reported.
 11.1.2. Noted: The lengthsman has visited the Pyon Lane site, and reported difficulty in obtaining the grid for the top of the H beam. Works to start as soon as possible. The Lengthsman is aware that this needs to be completed in this Financial year, i.e. before 31 March 2021.
 11.1.3. Works to be undertaken by the Lengthsman. None requested.
12. **Contents of Information Sheet noted.** No questions raised.
13. **Date of the next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday 25 November 2020.**

Meeting closed at 21:03

Signed*Ian Goddard*.....

DATE 25 November 2020

Cllr Ian Goddard. Chairman, Aymestrey Parish Council.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, original copy to be signed as soon as possible and kept on file.