

AYMESTREY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16 September 2015 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Heather Yesson (HY)(Chair), Nick Bohemia (NB)(Vice-chair), Helen Hamilton (HH), Ken Holland (KH), John Probert (JP), Annaly Goodwin (AG) Linda Henry (Clerk) (LH), Steph Dunn (Clerk Designate) (SD)

Members of the public: 1

Apologies: Cllr Domenica Dunne

	ACTION
<p>1. Comments from Members of the Public: None</p> <p>2. Apologies – see above</p> <p>3. Declarations of Interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – As a member of the Parish Hall Committee, KH declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 10.1 – Parish Hall request for support. – As owner of the property in question, JP declared an interest in Item 12.2 – application for conversion of Cider Mill at Covenhope Farm. <p>4. Reports</p> <p>4.1 Ward Councillor</p> <p>Cllr Carole Gandy (CG) reported the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Budget Consultation: Councillors were urged to participate and to encourage as many residents as possible to complete the online consultation, which closes on 9th October. Alternative ways of saving the requisite £45m over the next 4 years (e.g. reducing subsidy for the Lengthsman Scheme, cuts in public transport subsidy, reduction in maintenance budget) were contained in the consultation. A rise in council tax over the 1.9% cap is an option but would be subject to referendum at a cost of £300k. It was noted that there is no cap on parish precepts. – Traffic Calming: CG suggested that funding might be available from Safer Roads Partnership. HY to enquire. A traffic calming scheme in Middleton (Ludlow) was discussed – and is being considered by a neighbouring parish. It is hoped to arrange a meeting between HY, CG and Bill Wiggin after 7 October to discuss traffic calming in Aymestrey. – Planning: Mortimers Cross Chalet. No further developments to report Brick House, Yatton. See item 12.1 below. <p>5. Appointment of Clerk</p> <p>HY reported that 4 candidates had been interviewed for the post of Clerk. Steph Dunn has been appointed and will take over from LH on 1/10/15. Steph was welcomed to the Council.</p> <p>6. Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 27 July 2015 were unanimously agreed and signed. Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 20 August 2015 were unanimously agreed and signed.</p> <p>7. Lengthsman Scheme</p> <p>Councillors discussed the information received from Balfour Beatty (BBLP) regarding ownership and responsibility for clearing drains and ditches – and the implications for the current scheme and potential future funding of the Lengthsman Scheme.</p> <p>HH agreed to look into this matter and notify NB of her findings.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">HY</p> <p style="text-align: center; vertical-align: bottom;">HH/NB</p>

CG agreed to invite a representative of Hfds Council/BBLP to attend the next Chairs and Clerks meeting (17/10/15) to clarify these issues.

CG

8. Parish Plan updates

Walks: Four walks completed. Two shorter ones to be trialled.

Traffic Calming: See Item 4.1 above.

Broadband: CG stated that Mortimer is the last ward in the project, which is now very delayed. Hfds Council is considering options. Bill Wiggin is to visit the Lingen Community Broadband Group.

Neighbourhood Plan: no volunteers to participate following the article in Aymestrey Matters. **NP application form to be completed and sent once SD takes over as Clerk.**

Funds: KH confirmed that the Parish Plan Committee will meet to formally close the group and sign the cheque for the balance of funds to be used by the Parish Council on PP projects.

HY/SD

9. Mill Leat - update

Documents have been obtained from the Land Registry which confirm the right of the owners of the Mill to remove blockages/potential blockages to ensure uninterrupted water. The previous owner has stronger rights to improve the quality of fishing / flow of water. This is not a Parish Council matter unless there is a flooding issue, when they would apply to BBLP – the lead flood authority.

10. Requests for donations

10.1 – Parish Hall

KH presented financial information and plans for the kitchen and other aspects of the Parish Hall. Support was requested towards the purchase of a suitable dishwasher and stainless steel tables. It had been established that a contribution could be made within the s137 limits. £1000 had been budgeted and the remainder of the money could come from reserves and unused participatory project fund.

The proposal: that the sum of £1834 be allocated to the Parish Hall for purchase of kitchen equipment as requested.

Proposed: HY Secoded: HH All in favour

10.2 - Citizens Advice Bureau

Hereford CAB had provided evidence of support given to residents within the Mortimer Ward and requested a donation to help the continuation of their service in the light of local authority cutbacks.

The proposal: to contribute £1 per household in Aymestrey parish – amounting to £162.

Proposed: HH Secoded: HY All in favour.

11. Payments

Payments were agreed in accordance with the schedule below.

Proposed: KH Secoded: NB All in favour

12. Planning Applications

12.1 151821 – Brick House, Yatton

A letter of complaint addressed to the Chief Executive, Herefordshire Council had been drafted on behalf of APC. This set out concerns about the handling of objections by the Planning Department and requested policy changes with regard to referring decisions to the Planning Committee. CG will also follow up on this matter.

Councillors unanimously AGREED that the letter should be sent.

12.2 150628 - The Cider Mill, Covenhope Farm, Aymestrey, HR6 9SY

(Cllr Probert had declared an interest and left the room for the discussion on this item).

LH
CG

Objections were raised on a number of material grounds :

- Councillors were concerned that the proposed plans involved demolition of a rare and historic building of importance to the county, contrary to policies HBA8, HBA12 and HBA13 of the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan.
- The proposed rebuilding would adversely affect the setting of the building in a beautiful valley, contrary to policies LA2 and H14 of the UDP. They also noted that building materials were not clearly stated and could not determine whether they were appropriate.
- Councillors were concerned about the impact on the habitat of 6 species of bat which have been seen to use the existing building, contrary to the The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and policies NC1 and NC6 of the UDP.

Ideally Councillors would like to see the building restored rather than replaced.

Councillors were unanimous in their decision to object to the application.

12.3 152337 – Toll House, Mortimers Cross

Following discussion, Councillors were unanimous in their decision not to raise any objection to the application.

13. Correspondence

As below. Councillors noted that a budget/precept meeting would need to be held prior to the November APC meeting, in order that a draft budget could be discussed on 25/11/15. The HALC Information Corner item of correspondence offered advice on best practice for precept setting.

Note: APC free to co-opt a new councillor (replacing Mary Heale), provided that 10 parishioners had not requested an election by the due date (18/9/15). [Update](#): co-option papers now received.

14. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25 November 2015.

HY thanked LH for her support as Clerk for the past 2½ years.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Finance & correspondence details overleaf>>>

FINANCE – SEPTEMBER 2015

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

BALANCES AT 1 September 2015:

Natwest:	£7,225.11
Santander Business	£351.65
Santander Business Savings	£1292.81
TOTAL	<u>£ 8869.57</u>

No outstanding cheques

No receipts (Part 2 precept due shortly - £2325.50)

NOTES: £2289 paid in April for Lengthsman work done in 2014-15;
 EARMARKED RESERVES: Election fund: £1000; Signage fund £480; contribution to bring Clerk's salary into line with LGA rates £1521.

PAYMENTS:		Amount £ (incl. VAT)	VAT £
1	Clerk's pay (Aug/Sept 2015)- £292.17* .) *LESS £73 – omitted to deduct PAYE from gross figure in April/May pay - £219.17 + expenses: travel to meetings: £5 x 2 = £10 ; postage & printer cartridges £26.98 x 50% = £13.49 – shared with Wigmore PC	£219.17 23.49	
2	PAYE on Clerk's pay	73.00	-
3	Plusnet (Direct Debit payment - £33 x 2 monthly payments)	66.00	11.00
4	Citizens Advice Bureau - donation	162.00	-
TOTAL		543.66	11.00
LENGTHSMAN: No payments requested			-

POSTBAG - since 29 July 2015				
<i>Copies of all the following available at the meeting and/or already emailed to you.</i>				
	From	When	Concerning	C'lated
Regular mailings	Locality Steward	Weekly	(Locality Steward)Update on works undertaken	Yes
	SLCC	Monthly	Clerks & Councils Direct Featuring: Freedom of Info – August 2015	No
	Community First	Monthly	Newsletter	>> HY
	BBLP		Newsletters & Road resurfacing updates	Yes
	Police	Monthly	SNT Newsletter	8/2/15
19/8/15	Hfds Council	Precept required 31/12/15 – planning meeting to be scheduled early November 2015 for PC approval 25/11/15	For info	Paper only
4/9/15	Came & Co.	Our insurers – newsletter	For info	13/9/15
Various	Planning Dept Carole Gandy	Planning issue: Brick House, Yatton		
Sent 5/8/15	Bill Wiggin	Request for support on traffic calming; acknowledged but no further response.		
11/8/15	HALC	Information Corner: Best practice for precept setting; Community Governance review – consultation.	For info	11/8/15