

# Aymestrey Parish Council

## Full Council Meeting, Aymestrey Parish Hall 7.30pm Wednesday 25 November 2015

### MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr Heather Yesson, Chair (HY); Cllr Nick Bohemia, Vice Chair (NB); Cllr John Probert (PB); Cllr Helen Hamilton (HH); Cllr Ken Holland (KH); Steph Dunn, Clerk, Minutes (SD).

**In attendance:** Parish resident (1); Mr Bryan Williams, Lengthsman.

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm with a welcome from the Chair.

#### 1. Comments from the public

- i) A local resident commented on the heavy vehicle traffic using the unadopted Beechen (Bacon) Lane for access to farms higher up the lane. The lane is opposite the Parish Hall. Cllrs noted that the lane becomes private access above Rose Cottage. In the past telephone wires and residents stone walls have been damaged by large high sided vehicles. The increase in heavy traffic was particularly bad during summer 2015 and thought to be connected with the erection of a barn at the top farm. The resident queried if planning permission was necessary.
- ii) A local resident raised concerns over Planning Application 153330. The five dwellings in the application do not appear to be affordable and there are traffic implications with the main road (A4110) location. Public objections can be made direct to Herefordshire Council <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/development-control/planning-application>

**2. Apologies:** Cllr Domenica Dunne; Cllr Carol Gandy, Mortimer Ward, Herefordshire Council.

**Absent:** Cllr Annaly Goodwin (AG);

**3. Declarations of interest.** Councillors are required to declare their interest, financial or otherwise, in any of the items on this agenda under the Councillors' Code of Conduct.  
None declared.

**4. Minutes:** to agree minutes of the

**4.1** Parish Council Meeting of 16/09/15. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

**4.1** Planning Meeting of 20/10/15. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

**5. Matters Arising:**

- i) **Lengthsman Scheme (NB/HH):** Cllrs discussed the complications of interpreting the actions allowed under the Lengthsman's Scheme. Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) has advised that there will be no changes to the scheme funding process in 2016/17. Cllrs received an update from the Lengthsman on work in the parish. He will be making contact with Mike Brookes the new Mortimer Ward Locality Steward, Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP). Particular areas of concern identified are the liaison with landowners over their responsibility for blocked ditches; the condition of the Lower Lye Lane which requires resurfacing; salt bin for A4110/Lower Lye Lane junction; mud on Upper Lye lane left by Forestry Commission vehicles. NB advised that Leominster Locality Steward, BBLP recommended reporting this to the Police (Tel: 101) for future occurrences as it is an

offence to leave a mud hazard on a public highway. Cllrs noted that the content of salt bins is not for private use.

HY/HH confirmed attendance at BBLP Consultation scheduled Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at Shire Hall, Hereford.

The Chair thanked Bryan Williams for attending.

- ii) **Parish Plan Committee balance of funds (KH):** Cllrs noted Parish Council receipt of cheque for £585.99 received 16/11/15.
- iii) **Letter to CEO Herefordshire Council re planning complaint (Clerk):** Cllrs noted that no response has been received from Herefordshire Council
- iv) **Land behind Mortimer's Cross.** Cllrs agreed that this was a long term issue which had been resolved by a court enforcement order. Herefordshire Council have failed to act upon the breaches of planning control. Noted that Cllr Gandy is aware of this issue.

**6. Councillor vacancy:** Cllrs noted the Councillor vacancy advertised in the next edition of the parish newsletter due out early December 2015.

## **7. Reports:**

**7.1** Cllrs received and noted the Mortimer Ward Report received from Cllr Gandy.

**7.2** Cllrs received and noted the update on the October Chairs & Clerks Meeting provided by HY. Main topic of discussion focussed on concerns about the Lengthsman Scheme. Next meeting noted as 10/02/16, Reading Room, Leintwardine. HY, NB, SD to attend.

**7.3** Cllrs received and noted the update from HY on the Traffic Calming Meeting held 06/11/15 which was attended by Bill Wiggin MP, Cllr Gandy, Locality Steward Mike Brookes Kris Johnston, resident and Parish Council Clerk, minutes. Bill Wiggin gave his support to the plan and offered to write to Kingspan regarding funding. Copies of this letter dated 9 November 2015 were circulated to Cllrs.

## **8. Parish Plan/Neighbourhood Plan**

**8.1 Forestry Commission activity on Shobdon Hill.** Cllrs received an update from HH on Shobdon Hill which has Ancient Woodland Site status. Following conifer crop harvest the Forestry Commission is obliged to replant the area with native trees. This does not appear to be happening. Noted that this is identified as a priority under the Parish Plan. Cllrs suggested invitation to Forestry Commission to comment.

**8.2 Update on Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllrs received information from HY regarding Neighbourhood Plan registration. Funding up to a maximum of £8k is available on application. This funding can be used for consultant work and public consultation events. 75% of Parish Councils in Herefordshire are undertaking Neighbourhood Plans. KH attended a Neighbourhood Planning Event on 03/11/15 and reported that Chris Gooding, Data Orchard consultant, previously Herefordshire Council, had been employed by other Parish Councils to provide the necessary data for a Neighbourhood Plan. Chris Gooding, (Herefordshire Council) provided input for the Aymestrey Parish Plan. Cllrs noted that a Neighbourhood Plan focusses on Housing and Environment.

**Resolution:** Proposal to undertake Aymestrey Neighbourhood Plan: Proposed by HY. Seconded by HH. All present agreed. Resolution adopted.

## 9. Finance

### 9.1 To approve the draft Budget 2016/17:

Cllrs discussed the draft budget 2016/17 provided by the Finance Working Group who met on 16/11/15.

In particular:

- i) Amount allocated under the Precept. It was felt that the precept should remain the same as for 2015/16 whilst there are sufficient reserves held at the bank. Cllrs noted the auditor's recommendation 2014/15 to reduce the reserves.
- ii) Reserves review to be undertaken annually alongside precept review.

**Resolution:** Cllrs resolved to accept no increase to the precept 2016/17. Proposed HY; Seconded KH. All agreed. Resolution adopted.

**Resolution:** Cllrs resolved to accept the draft budget 2016/17: Proposed HY. Seconded HH. All agreed. Resolution adopted.

**9.2 To confirm approval of payments:** Cllrs approved the invoices for payment.

### 9.3 Additional signatory to the accounts:

**Resolution:** To add Nick Bohemia, Vice Chair as a signatory to all bank accounts held. Proposed HY; Seconded HH. All agreed. Resolution adopted.

## 10. Correspondence: To review post received and agree appropriate action.

- i) Yatton Common – email complaint from resident, regarding parking and tree planting on common land. Cllrs agreed to refer this to George Thompson, Land Agent, Herefordshire Council regarding parking cc Ward Cllr Gandy.
- ii) Cllrs confirmed that they wish to receive the weekly briefings from Mike Brookes, Locality Steward; SNT Police Report also for addition to the Aymestrey.org website; HALC Information Corners and training opportunities.
- iii) 25/11/15 Letter of thanks from Aymestrey Parish Hall Committee for supporting the request for kitchen equipment funding.

## 11. Planning Application 153330 Five Dwelling Houses in Aymestrey

Cllrs agreed that the information available from Herefordshire Council Planning Services <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/development-control/planningapplications/details?id=153330&search=153330> was incomplete and therefore were unable to support the application at this time. Cllrs noted the lack of a design and access plan.

As there was no further business the Chair thanked Cllrs for attending. The meeting closed at 10 pm.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 27 January 2016 7.30pm Parish Hall**