

AYMESTREY PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 29 July 2015 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Mary Heale (Chair)(MH), Nick Bohemia (NB), Domenica Dunne (DD), Helen Hamilton (HH), Ken Holland (KH), John Probert (JP), Heather Yesson (HY), Linda Henry (Clerk) (LH)

Members of the public: 4

Apologies: Cllr. Carole Gandy, CPSO Pete Knight

Absent: Cllr. Annaly Goodwin

ACTION

1 **Comments from Members of the Public** related to:

- 1) Concerns of neighbours regarding planning application ref. 150821 Brick House, Yatton. (Councillors discussion recorded at 10.1 below.)
- 2) Request from members of the Parish Hall Committee for a contribution towards equipment for the kitchen. A catering dishwasher and stainless steel tables are needed to facilitate catering for large events and to comply with food hygiene requirements. KH declared an interest as a member of the Parish Hall Committee and left the room. LH confirmed that the sum of £1000 had been budgeted as a contribution in 2015-16. **Councillors AGREED to consider whether there was sufficient funds in reserves to allow a larger contribution, bearing in mind other requests which may be received which would also benefit the community. LH to provide financial information to Councillors.**

LH

2 **Apologies** – see above

3 **Reports**

A written report had been received from Cllr Gandy, appended to these minutes.

4 **Minutes**

The minutes of meetings held on 13th May and 4th June were taken as read and unanimously **AGREED** to be a correct record of the meetings and duly signed by the Chair.

5 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Dunne declared an interest in respect of Item 10.3: Court Farm House

6 **Lengthsman Scheme**

NB had reviewed ditching requirements with David Williams. Work will be carried out in August and invoiced/paid in September so that a claim can be made to BBLP at the end of the second quarter.

7 **Parish Plan**

7.1 **Traffic Calming – next steps**

The application for a grant from Kingspan (£15k) had been unsuccessful. However, they are willing to reconsider in next year's application round, if a smaller sum is applied for to fund part of the scheme.

It was noted that both Bill Wiggin, MP, and Cllr Gandy identified Aymestrey's traffic calming scheme for support in their election literature. **Cllrs AGREED to write to both welcoming their support and asking for a meeting to discuss how they could help. LH to write letters.**

LH

Cllrs supported the idea of implementing the first part of the scheme, i.e. 'farm' gates at each end of the village. £480 has been identified in the budget/reserve to support this purchase. [HY will refer back to Simon Hobbs ref. necessary steps/permissions from Hfds Council/BBLP to locate the gates and village signs.](#)

HY

7.2 Next Actions under Parish Plan (PP)

A document is being maintained to monitor progress on activities identified in the PP under various headings/sponsoring groups. KH asked Councillors for proposals for further activity.

- **Traffic & Access:** HY will continue with the traffic calming scheme.
- **Tourism:** KH is making progress with the Walks leaflet. There will be 6 walks. Contributions towards printing will be sought from interested local businesses.
- **Church:** It was noted that the church has progressed with a number of their activities. The following could now be pursued:

- **Environmental:**

Seating logs to be placed in suitable locations.

Monitoring wildlife: knowledgeable residents (e.g. those who contribute to Aymestrey Matters could be involved).

- **Communications:** pressure to be maintained regarding poor mobile phone reception and slow broadband. It was noted that one-third of working population is self-employed; those living in rural/isolated communities need better communications. [To be discussed with MP and Councillor, separately from traffic issues.](#)

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DD?

7.3 Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

HH explained that changes in the Core Strategy (still awaiting adoption) meant that Aymestrey could now be required to provide up to 20 houses during the life of the strategy. Councillors considered the risk of the Council allocating plots for development and/or speculative development, all of which would be subject to planning policy.

Establishment of a NP would allow the community to identify where housing should go and to influence certain aspects of design.

A working group would need to be formed to carry out the necessary work/consultation and it was noted that grants are available to fund a planning consultant.

It was unanimously AGREED to register APC's interest in designating a NP area.

[An article would be prepared for the next Aymestrey Matters \(September\) calling for volunteers to join the working group.](#)

HY
KH/HH

7.4 Surplus monies from Parish Plan Fund

The sum of £586 remains in the PP Fund. The PP Committee had proposed that this be put towards an aspect of implementing the PP. **Councillors AGREED that the money should be used to purchase the farm gates for the traffic calming scheme.** The remaining money would come from reserved funds as above.

8 Mill Leat vegetation

[HH undertook to investigate land ownership/obligations and responsibilities in this matter.](#)

HH

9 Payments

9.1 Payments were unanimously AGREED, as per the schedule in the agenda (and below).

9.2 Audit: Grant Thornton had signed off the 2014-15 audit return, which will be published on the website. There is no charge.

10 Planning

10.1 150821 Proposed extension to Brick House, Yatton. Councillors had visited the site. Councillors **AGREED TO OBJECT to the application.** Their objections to the original planning application (Ref: 150642) still stand, i.e. the impact of the proposed extension on the amenity of the neighbouring dwelling and garden is unacceptable. The scale of the extension is too large and alters the character of the existing building and setting. It was considered that there were alternative options that the applicant/council could explore.

10.2 Temporary building behind Mortimers Cross Inn. The new/unauthorised exit onto the Shobdon road has been closed and caravans have left the site. The chalet remains but Cllr Gandy's report suggests that it will be removed shortly.

10.3 151263 Court Farm House, Leinthall Earls (Conversion and alterations to barns).

A letter had been received from James Spreckley, Planning Consultant for the owners, in response to APC's objections to the plans previously discussed (4/6/15). **Councillors AGREED that their views were unaltered and no further comments would be made.**

11 Policies

The following policies had previously been circulated to Councillors:

(a) Standing Orders (b) Financial Regulations (c) Risk Register

Councillors AGREED to ADOPT all three policies with immediate effect.

[These would be posted on the website.](#)

LH

12 Correspondence

Correspondence had been circulated as below.

13 Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 30 September 2015 at 7.30pm**

AYMESTREY PARISH COUNCIL – July 2015			
FINANCE			
A. RECEIPTS:		0.00	
B. PAYMENTS:		Amount £ (incl. VAT)	VAT £
1	One Stop Print Shop	211.60	-
2	HALC – 50% of training course on audit – attended 23/4/15 on behalf of Wigmore Parish Council & APC	15.00	2.50
3	Plusnet (Direct Debit payment - £33 x 2 monthly payments)	66.00	11.00
4	Clerk's pay (June & July 2015) £292.17+ stationery/printer cartridges £15.19 + travel to meetings (4/6, 29/7 + C+C mtg 17/6 -50% shared with WGPC) £12.50	319.86	-
5	PAYE on Clerk's pay	73.00	-
6	G Williams	350.00	
7	Aymestrey PCC – 50% annual contribution for churchyard upkeep	250.00	-
TOTAL		1285.46	13.50
LENGTHSMAN			-
No payments requested			

POSTBAG - since May meeting	
From	Concerning
Rachel Dixon	(Locality Steward)Update on works undertaken
SLCC	Clerks & Councils Direct Featuring: Financial accounting procedures (Paper version only)
Community First	Newsletter
Police/Safer Neighbourhood Team	SNT Newsletter
HALC	Information Corner
Hfds Council	Invitation to Budget Consultation – 22/7/15 – No-one able to attend. Presentation will be circulated shortly.
Hfds Council	Tree Warden update
Citizens Advice Bureau	Request for support – statistics on uptake in Mortimer Ward provided. – Discuss/decide Donation of £162 (i.e. £1 per household) AGREED. To be agenda'd and ratified at September meeting.
Hfds Council	Update on Core Strategy
Balfour Beatty	Parish Newsletter – including useful information on roadside signage
Balfour Beatty	Confirmation that Donna Tregenza will be our interim Locality Steward
Came & Co	Renewal docs for annual insurance
Grant Thornton	Audit return completed and approved – for publication on website

AYMESTREY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT from Cllr Carole Gandy

I apologise for being unable to attend your meeting, but I shall be on holiday. Following the last meeting I discussed with the Enforcement Officer the land at the back of the pub at Mortimers Cross and the caravans and chalet. In the meantime the owner of the land had opened up an exit onto the Shobdon Road at a very dangerous point. Fortunately, the exit has now been closed and the caravans have gone. I am advised that the chalet should disappear shortly! We shall see.

I am in discussions with the MP regarding traveller sites as at present the planning legislation is far more lax for genuine gypsies than it is for other residents. I understand from Bill Wiggin that there was a consultation that took place with LA between Sept and Nov last year but no report has yet been published. He is going to chase this for me as in some parishes it is a real problem.

I have held two successful MP surgeries in Wigmore and Lingen and hope to arrange a similar event in Aymestrey later in the year.

I sent you information on funding for community green spaces but apologise if you already received this info as I am often unclear what you get and what you don't

Broadband continues to be a contentious issue and despite discussions with Officers Mortimer will still be the last area to be sorted. The timescale is by the end of 2016 but BT are behind schedule.

There is a workshop in Wigmore on 8th July for businesses to advise on Cloud and Social Media. Businesses will have to register and I have sent details to PC

I went to the Opening Ceremony at the start of Armed Forces week.

I yesterday went to Herefordshire Leisure Centre to the Sainsbury's School Games and watched a number of primary and secondary schools participating in many sports. Both Wigmore primary and secondary school were represented.

I have been put on both the General and Health Overview & Scrutiny committee, so if your parish an important issue you would like either committee to scrutinise please do not hesitate to let me know.

I, like you, am very disappointed that Rachel Dixon will be leaving the area, she will be a hard act to follow.