

STAPLETON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th March 2021 VIA ZOOM

Present:-

Mrs C. Scatcherd (CS) Chair
Mrs M. Edwards (ME) (Vice- Chairman)
Mr S. Weaver (SW)
Mr Paul Segrott (PS)
Mrs. Myra Chilman (MC)
Mr Jonathan Rogers (JR)
Cllr C. Gandy (CG) (Herefordshire Council)
Mr. S. Lewis (SL) (Clerk)
+2 members local residents

1/ APOLOGIES:-

None Noted

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:-

None Noted

3/ MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 7th December 2020:-

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record.

-The minutes will be uploaded to the website -

(SL)

-Published on relevant notice boards. -

(CS)

4/ COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (CG):-

Regarding the proposed planning application for Kinsham. The planners have concerns about drainage and the design of the homes compared to the existing homes. No more details have been disclosed.

Carol represented the parish at the Budget setting meeting. The council tax will rise by 4.99% with no extra money allocated to parishes for drainage schemes. If any resident has difficulty paying their tax they may be entitled to a Council tax reduction or a Hardship Grant. Details are on the Herefordshire Council website.

Foster careers are required within the county. Care within the home setting is preferred for many reasons and can be rewarding. Foster carers receive some remuneration and can get 100% council tax reduction. Information can be obtained from Carol Gandy.

There is a recruitment freeze in the planning department causing issues with ongoing enforcements and conservation in the Mortimer ward.

Herefordshire has a new Chief Executive starting in May called Paul Walker coming from Harrow

5/ CLERKS REPORT - FINANCES / CORRESPONDENCE (SL) :-

A report had been issued to all prior to the meeting.

In the bank the balance at the start of the year was showing as £7,447.

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Spend to date is £7,107 inclusive of cheques pending (listed below).

This leaves a current balance of £9,740

Cheques for signing to date:-

£417.00 – Clerk 4th qrtr. salary.

£ 28.78 – 2 Zoom meetings for December and February planning meeting

Web Site Update for compliance Update:-

The Parish Website has now been transferred over to Hugo-Fox as it offers better compliance, is simpler to use, and has no ongoing annual fee.

Lengshman scheme for next year:-

I have applied to join the Lengshman scheme for next year and have used submitted activity /costs proposals similar to last year.

Other items:-

Confirmation from Rights of Way confirming that some of the footpath work identified previously on the Mortimer Trail have now been completed.

Letter sent on behalf of Councillors to Mr. Oldershaw for his volunteer ditch clearing work on the Byton to Kinsham Road.

Email from local resident asking if we had a “Neighbourhood Plan”. Replied that we did not with a link to appropriate Herefordshire Council web page.

6 – PLANNING (ALL):-

210261 (new) - Kinsham Farm:-

Parish council replied with no objections, but noted some drainage concerns.

204550 - houses near Yew Tree Cottage:-

Parish council replied no objections, but noted drainage concerns. Since the last meeting a site visit was held to review the proposals and a detailed report has been submitted to via the planning portal. (Also see note in CG report regarding planning concerns raised).

204428 - Kinsham - garage conversions

Parish Council replied with no objections

7 – REVIEW BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2021/2022 (ALL)

A budget proposal had been issued prior to the meeting showing a planned spend of £12,590 for the year 2021/2022, compared to £12,316 for the current year. The budget was approved by all. - (ref)

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8 – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STATUS:-

SID status for Coombe

Sockets now available, awaiting location agreement in Coombes Moor. SL to check with L. Fishwick. - SL

SID for Kinsham. Contact Ray Wallace to confirm location. - SL

Update on speed limit at Coombe, which was due to be in-place by Sept. last year
SL to chase - SL

9 – BOADBAND STATUS (CS):-

Mr. R. Chillman had reported a problem but CS confirmed this has now been resolved.

CG Identified ongoing problems with broadband services in some areas which includes part of Letchmore Lane which are not served by the current contractor due to costs. CG has sent a separate e-mail to SW on the subject which includes some options if there are businesses. However this would involve the various businesses agreeing initially to fund the costs and then going out to tender. The initial costs could be several thousand pounds which would be met by any local residents participating in the scheme but would then be reimbursed.
SW to discuss with CG outside of the meeting. - SW/CG

10 – DITCHES AND DRAINAGE (CS):-

CS had identified some ditches that need to be cleared out. (Initially using the Lengsthman, but if ongoing will need to contact the local landowners responsible).

One area noted was the ditches from Kinsham bridge up towards the top on both sides.

CS to contact Lengsthman to clear. - CS.

Also noted a problem with the drain at Kinsham bridge due to drain damage under the road. CS has spoken to Lee F. and BB will come out and clear the silt from the drain and put the cover back. CS also spoke to LF regarding the size of the pipe from the Old Mill, BB are planning to close the Road to carry out more work at the bridge and have been asked to look at this at the same time. - ref

Also noted in Letchmore lane a blocked drain and pipes. Noted concern by resident in Byton the stone walls by the Court House causing the road to give way. Not sure whether this is a job for the Lengshman or the Council. (Just after turn for Byton Church).

CS advised there would be grant money available for drainage schemes the same as last year, so consideration should be given as to what we may need. - ref

CS / All will compile a list for the Lengsthman to review. PS suggested the list should also include the ditches over the top to Kinsham as there are quite a few branches that have come down. - CS / All

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CS had call ref work to be carried out on the bridge at Kinsham. The work is ongoing for drainage and removal of debris and they intended to clear the back arch near to RC's house but were concerned about the state of the arch itself, (but this is a little unclear).

CG advised that the current project manager responsible for this area has now left and has yet to be replaced so liaison is poor. CG to confirm new contact when known. - CG

CS has been asked to take some more pictures but is currently unable to due to the current high water levels, and the main archway is filling up with debris again. - ref

CS has also spoken to the environment agency and advised that there are currently no plans in place. - ref

AOB

11 – NOTICEBOARDS (SW):-

CS suggested a counsellor should liaise with SL to discuss options for replacement, particularly the one in Letchmoor Lane. (Also the one at Combe corner). It was proposed to get some made a similar size to the original ones.

SL to identify some costs, (Marine Ply), and advise. - SL

12 - FOOTPATHS AND STYLES:-

SW requested 2 style kits and will install them when available. SL to chase Rights of Way.

- SL

Pending:-

Neighbourhood Watch scheme (CS) – To be discussed when face to face meetings can be re-established.

Telephone Kiosk and DeFib (SW) – SW will re-commence work to replace glass and secure the door sometime during the Spring.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:-

The next meeting date was proposed as Monday 21st June at 8:00pm (ZOOM / Hall?).

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