

**CLIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Clifford Parish Council Meeting on**  
**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm in Clifford Community Centre**

**Present: D Jones, D Morgan. M Pearce, S Forrester, W Bullough,**  
**Also Present: 2 members of the public, R Mighall (Open Spaces Advisor) J Neville (Footpaths Officer) and E Noble Parish Clerk.**

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – Billie Cooper, Margaret Davies, Candia Compton, Matthew Lloyd
2. To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation – None received
3. **To approve minutes of last meeting** 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and Extra-ordinary Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – the minutes were agreed to be an accurate account of the meeting and signed off.
4. Open Session
  - 4.1 To receive a verbal report from West Mercia Police – Apologies were given as they were not able to attend the meeting. The clerk had reported parishioners concerns over speeding traffic and the SNT responded by saying ‘they would like to reassure those present that they will give the area attention as and when they can’.
  - 4.2 To receive a verbal report from the Ward Councillor – Jennie Hewitt gave the following report.

Ward Councillor Report for August 2019

I will endeavour in my ward councillors’ report to give an account that includes a view of what is happening throughout the ward.

- Meetings have taken place with residents who use the Old Tay road around Snodhill to try and find resources to refurbish this sadly neglected old road- to make it usable and safe and resilient to the dramatic weather events which are becoming a frequent occurrence as we face climate change damage.
- I have met with Clive Hall and cllr. John Harrington (cabinet member for infrastructure) to discuss how we can gather community engagement as a criterion for a bid to government for complete resurfacing of the B4348. This road has been chosen as suitable because of the B4348 survey done Peterchurch and Dorstone parish councils with the previous ward member and locality steward.

There will be benefits to the whole ward if the B4348 is resurfaced in such a way as to make it resilient to weather, safe and usable for residents and tourists as well as to signalling to those HGV’s that need to use this route that it requires a style of driving dissimilar to an A road, or a motorway.

The benefit of getting more money in for particular projects is clear: it releases money for urgent attention to our many poor rural roads.

If other PC’s could indicate to me whether they have helpful suggestions to make this bid successful please do get in touch.

- I have enjoyed the local events that I have managed to come to over the August period: Bredwardine Barbeque, Blakemere tea and Bredwardine Friday market. I am conscious that I need to spend more time with local residents:

*I will be available in **Peterchurch Hub** twice monthly from 10-12pm on the 1st and 4th Tuesdays of the month for people to come and speak with me individually should they need to.*

Dates: 24/09, 01/10, 22/10, 05/11, 26/11,

**December** dates are different: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

- At the end of July I attended with cllrs Fagan and Milne a thought provoking and interesting day conference hosted by Eventbrite:

‘Planning for a Zero Carbon Economy West Midlands’ at Ludlow racecourse.

Speakers included: Sarah Grimes, Corporate Sustainability Officer, Bath and NE Somerset Council, Hugh Ellis, Policy Director from the Town and Country Planning Association, Graham McGrath, project officer Centre for Sustainable Energy.

It was an inspiring day with individuals who knew their way around local government and gave very practical advice on how to amend practice within the constraints of a local authority.

Representatives from all of our neighbouring authorities were present as well as the officers from Hereford’s neighbourhood planning group.

The afternoon session built on the inspiring evidence of the morning and in our groups we were asked to suggest ways in which we can develop green economic growth.

Suggestions will be collated and a further seminar will be held.

- The Golden Valley three...Cllrs Hitchiner, Jinman and Hewitt ( Golden Valley South, North and Stoney Street wards) attended a ‘Love Local ’ event at Madley Plant Centre hosted by Michele Blackmore. Our stall included leaflets from Plough Lane and there was enquiry into recycling, roads, speed on local roads and building developments in rural locations.
- On the 20<sup>th</sup> of August I attended with a fellow group of cllrs a visit to the county recycling centre convened by officer Kenton Vigor. It was a very informative visit and I will be posting an outline of what I discovered on my website. There is an intention at govt. level to improve and provide for better recycling countrywide, so there is a general feeling of excitement in the team that we will be enabled to do better both as a county and as a country.
- On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> I took my part on the General Scrutiny Committee which considered the call in of the Decision to Pause and Review both road building schemes. Attendance was high. Due process observed. Those who called in the decision were concerned that both funding and consultation progress would be jeopardised. Information was given by Richard Ball that there is agreed funding for the SWTP from the Marches LEP (Southern Link Road and associated transport measures) but NO funding on the table for the western bypass.
- As I stood as an independent committed to the coalition (Alliance) – I took the view that: proper decision making entailed establishing an evidence base. A new administration could not be expected to just accept without pause and review the evidence base of a former

administration that had a different political makeup. Further, when these schemes were considered the Council had not declared a Climate Emergency and we could not in all honesty proceed until full scientific weight had been given to this declaration. The executive are due to give their report on the Declaration of Climate emergency on September 25<sup>th</sup> and it is up for Cabinet discussion on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

John Harrington (cabinet member for infrastructure) was more than happy to consider the views of the Committee.

#### **4.3** To receive a verbal report from the Council's Open Spaces Adviser

Richard Mighall provided the following report for the Parish Council

### Priory Wood Common

Councillors were reminded that 6 objections had been received from Priory Wood residents to the Parish Council's application for ownership of selected plots of Priory Wood Common. Of these, 5 related to ownership of the plots immediately in front of the objectors' respective properties. Acknowledging the merit of the objections, the Council readily agreed to the removal of the plots from its application. The Land Registry was advised accordingly. The 6th objection related to the Council's application for ownership of Orchard Common. The Chairman discussed the matter with the objector who indicated that, following his own investigations, he was now content with the Council's application. Again, the Land Registry was kept in the picture.

The Council confirmed that a recently revised map produced by the Land Registry which took into account the above findings correctly indicated those plots of Priory Wood Common over which the Council now sought ownership.

Two local residents at the meeting queried whether Land Registry approval of the Council's application for ownership of plots of Priory Wood Common could lead to the Council using them for commercial purposes or even selling them. They were advised that the Council had no authority over the Commons other than to ensure that they were managed in perpetuity for the benefit of the public in accordance with a governmentally-authorised Scheme of Regulation. It was also pointed out that the Council, after many years of investigation had, in 2016, successfully sought for all of the plots to be re-registered as common land and, inasmuch, had ensured that the land remained in the public domain and that no private individual or organisation could claim any part of it or influence how it should be managed other than in accordance with the Scheme of Regulation and the public will.

Notwithstanding the Council's decision at the July meeting that Barn Common and Orchard Common should be mown, it was noted that this had not been done and that these plots were now very overgrown and untidy. It was also noted that Chapel Common was in a similar condition. Martin Preece offered to undertake the mowing of all 3 Commons – for which the Council agreed that he should be reimbursed £100. It was also noted that Mr Swatland of Oak Cottage may wish to scythe some of the Common as he had done in earlier years; Will Bullough agreed to speak to Mr Swatland on the matter.

- 4.4 To receive a verbal report from the Council's Footpath Officer – To include footpath furniture work

#### PFO Report for Parish Council September 2019

The usual clearing of paths which have been very overgrown this year.

I have a new recruit to help me – Pat Stirling who is clearing Bake Lane and will do other clearing – he helped me today on Little Mountain.

I have repaired a cross step on the stile on CL60 (on the bridleway near Hardwicke Church).

I have also replaced the cross step on the stile at Hardwicke Turn.

A fallen tree on CL7 (Priory Common) has been chain-sawed by Richard Mighall.

Howard Jones has re-erected a fingerpost on the Wye Valley Walk adjacent to his barns. The bridlegate that he installed earlier in the year has been damaged and no longer self closes because the spindle has been damaged. He will try to straighten it.

David Jones contractor has chain-sawed a tree branch on CL56.

Balfour Beatty installed a footbridge on CL 85 below Newton Farm earlier this year and the handrail was damaged by tree felling. This has now been replaced. They have also recently installed a replacement footbridge below Westbrook Manor on CL 79 although not replaced the rotten stile nearby.

I asked the Council if they would finance the installation of the footpath furniture that I purposely overordered while we still had the grant from Herefordshire Council. A rough estimate of the money required to pay David Bennett is £400-£500. This was approved.

Will Bullough suggested that the stile adjacent to Church Cottage be moved back away from the road because it is dangerously close to the road. After discussion it was agreed I approach the landowner first and I suggested a self-closing gate, using one of the ones I have in stock.

- 4.5 To receive views on parish matters from local residents – This is covered under section 8.2.

#### **5. Finance**

Payment of invoices

- 5.2 Clerk salary – This was actioned and 2 cheques issued (July and August salary)  
5.3 To consider invoice for £60.00 (April – August) for hire of hall for PC meetings. – This cheque was actioned.

- 5.4 To consider invoice for annual Data Protection Fee - £40 – This is a direct debit and All present agreed this bill to be actioned.
- 5.5 To consider cost of SiLCA as per agreed in March for clerk training – This is carried over to October's meeting.

## 6 Planning

- 6.1 To comment on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council
- 6.1.1 [P192918/O - Outline](#) 15th August 2019  
Land South of White House Clifford Herefordshire HR3 5ER, Residential development for 2 dwellings (Outline - all matters reserved) , Valid – **OUTLINE PLANNING - no objections -**
- 6.1.2 [P192749/FH - Full Householder](#) 13th August 2019  
Westbrook Manor Westbrook Hereford Herefordshire HR3 5SY, Conversion of an existing ancillary domestic barn into an annex containing additional living accommodation to main dwelling. , Valid – **No objections**
- 6.1.3 [P192863/L - Listed Building Consent](#) 13th August 2019  
Westbrook Manor Westbrook Hereford Herefordshire HR3 5SY, Conversion of an existing ancillary domestic barn into an annex containing additional living accommodation to main dwelling. , Valid – **LISTED BUILDING CONSENT \_ No objections**
- 6.1.4 [P192769/F - Planning Permission](#) 12th August 2019  
East View Westbrook Herefordshire HR3 5SY, Conversion of two redundant former agricultural buildings into self contained holiday lets. , Valid **No objections**
- 6.1.5 [P192693/F - Planning Permission](#) 26th July 2019  
Newton Farm Middlewood Dorstone Herefordshire HR3 5SX, Proposed replacement dwelling. , Valid – **no objections**

**6.2 To note planning decisions by Herefordshire Council: - none discussed.**

## 7 Update on Verges

- 7.1 Report on meeting with Pat Stirling and Balfour Beatty regarding wildlife verges (9<sup>th</sup> July) – DJ reported back to members present that the meeting had been a positive one and Balfour Beatty were happy to support the Parish Council should they wish to trial the proposal that Pat had put to the council back in June.

It was agreed that:

- Safety of all road users and pedestrians is paramount and this will not be jeopardised in any way.
- Biodiversity to be encouraged where it is safe to do so
- 1m cutting of the verge, once a year in May/June only on agreed roads is a possibility
- WB and SF to identify possible roads to trial and bring back to the Parish Council for consideration.
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7.2 Update on Longtown trial – Longtown have trialled this and reported no problems.

7.3 Possible roads in Clifford to trial – WB and SF will report back to the Parish Council.

## 8 SIDS/Traffic Calming Measures

8.1 update from clerk regarding costings to purchase a speeding indication device outright the costings vary depending on what sort of signage you require and what you want displayed. It also depends on whether you want them to be removable from location to location. It also requires a health and safety assessment to be carried out for each location. The average cost of a single sign was around £3000 not including the bases or assessments. Most of the roads in the parish are national speed limit so this does limit where the devices can be placed.

8.2 Correspondence from parents regarding B4352 – The clerk was in receipt of two emails from parishioners that were concerned over safety of the roads around the parish and expressing concern over the national speed limit outside a school. The emails were forwarded on to members of the council prior to the meeting and were discussed at length at the meeting. The clerk had communicated with Balfour Beatty over the possibility of an RTO and was informed this is a lengthy process.

It was agreed that;

- Jennie Hewitt would speak with the Cabinet Member for Roads and Infrastructure.
- The clerk will speak with Balfour Beatty regarding RTO and possible road markings i.e. a red 'SLOW' sign painted on the roads
- Jennie will liaise with other primary schools in the area regarding their SIDS and road signage/speed limits outside the schools.
- Clerk/DJ to liaise with Clifford Primary School regarding possible questionnaire they may have filled out in regards to road safety and parking outside the school. This may have been filled out some time ago and returned to Herefordshire council.

9 Adoption of Telephone Boxes – the email with regarding to the removal of two phone boxes in Clifford was discussed. The option of adopting them was also discussed and it was agreed that this not something the council wish to act upon.

10 Correspondence, HALC update – course notification to be emailed to members.

11 Any other Business – none discussed

12 Date of next meeting October 10<sup>th</sup> 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Emma Noble ... Parish Clerk and RFO  
07954 706182clerk@cliffordparishcouncil.co.uk