

EATON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Eaton Bishop Parish Council held via Zoom, due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, on Wednesday 9th December 2020 from 7.30 pm

Present at the Zoom meeting:

Cllr Becky Wall BEM (in the Chair)
Cllr Rupert Chatwin
Cllr David Richards
Cllr James Ball
Cllr Alan Tydeman

In attendance:

Present were Parish Clerk Alison Wright, Ward Cllr David Hitchiner and three members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm. The Chair (Cllr Becky Wall BEM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.0 Open Session

A resident present raised concerns about the footbridge on the footpath EB25 which had not been opened officially but the no entry tape had been removed. This had not been authorised and Balfour Beatty had also made the Parish Council aware that the tape had been taken off and that the bridge was still not to be used. The issue of the fence by the adjacent pond, close to the path EB25 at the location, was also mentioned and the Chair advised that this matter had also been referred to Balfour Beatty for their attention. Another resident present made the observation that he believed that the tape had been removed some time ago as he had not seen any tape or signs on the bridge. In regard to the dam in the Cage brook near to the bridge at Little Marsh Lane, one of the local residents had removed some of the dam and the water level had gone down. There were still logs damming some of the water but there had been a slow flow and the water level had dropped back. The local resident, whose land the blockage was on, had said that he would remove the obstacles to prevent the damming of the water flow. The Chair made the comment that the Environment Agency was responsible for the water course issues and not the Parish Council. The Chair emphasised that the Parish Council did not have any jurisdiction over the situation.

2.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Cllr George Thomas.

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Cllr David Richards declared an interest in relation to the commons.

4.0 Minutes of previous meeting held on 11th November 2020 via Zoom

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on the 11th November 2020, were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

5.0 To receive reports from: Ward Councillor

The **Ward Cllr** updated the meeting about Herefordshire Council matters. This included an update on the recommendations that had been made regarding the Transport Strategy. The recommendations, following Scrutiny and Cabinet Meetings, included the cancellation of some of the road projects and an emphasis on investing in buses, cycling and walking. The final outcomes would be determined by full council. Some housing developments would not be affected by the road decisions including the Three Elms development. An eastern river crossing would make access easier to that side of the city. The 2021 – 2022 Herefordshire Council Budget was looking likely to be in a deficit situation and cost savings would have to be found. 85% of the council spend was statutory and the bulk of this centred round the adult and child social care provision. The council were not permitted to budget for a loss and would therefore need to look at areas where savings in expenditure could be made. The council were asking for comments in a consultation on services and these included bin collections, public realm services, road repairs including potholes, transport subsidies and many more items. There may be an opportunity to raise more revenue by increasing car parking charges? There could be toll bridge financing for an eastern bridge?

A new Chief Executive for the council was being recruited. There was a brief discussion on the proposed salary package for said position.

6.0 Finance and Policies

6.1) To note bank balances

The bank balances were noted as: Business Account £24985.66* and Treasurer's Account £4646.95, as at the meeting date.

*Contained within the Business Account total are the following amounts:

1) **The Cooks Charity** Deposit of £2444.51

2) **RPA Grant Funding** for the Commons Projects - balance £4339.23

3) **Defibrillator Fund** balance £457.41.

To resolve to accept payments, as per listing

The following payments were approved:

Resolved: that the payments were passed for payment: Unanimous.

Mrs A Wright (Clerk's salary paid in accordance with contract)	
HM Revenue & Customs (Tax)	£84.30
Longfield Services (Lengthsman/bins)	£128.35
T & J T Helme (Honeymoor cutting)	£576.00

It was confirmed that there would not be a donation made towards the churchyard mowing.

A request for a donation to help with Dore Community Transport running costs would be deferred to January 2021. The Clerk advised the meeting of the current years take up which was reduced from the previous year due to the impact of lock down and the consequent cancellation of appointments etc. The Ward Cllr advised that more central services may be transferred to a more local provision under budget saving initiatives. There were already discussions taking place regarding possible transfer of the provision of some services to, for example, the Hereford City Council.

There was a request regarding financial assistance with the repair to damage that had been done to the fence and gate at the Eaton Camp. An alleged incident with some dogs and cattle had led to the damage. This had been repaired and the funding was being put together via various donations. It was agreed that the balance should be sought from further local donation and not via the PC.

6.2) To determine Precept request for 2021 - 2022

The finance position was discussed. After consideration of the factors, it was agreed unanimously that the precept for 2021 – 2022 should remain the same as 2020 – 2021 at £13250.00. The Clerk would advise the Finance Team at Herefordshire Council of the precept request requirement sum.

7.0 Village Matters

7.1) Honeymoor Common and Little Marsh Common – update and including progression of stewardship agreement
The Parish Council resolved to accept the quotation for two man days of works on the Little Marsh common (£260.00). Cllr Thomas had offered to assist with some of the works providing manpower and mini- digger. Caroline Hanks would be asked to draw up the terms of the Stewardship for the Commons.

7.2) Village Hall matters – no further items were raised.

7.3) Update on progressing a traffic mirror for the junction of Honeymoor Common

A working party consisting of Cllrs Wall, Tydeman and Ball plus the Clerk and Lengthsman would arrange a site visit to progress the positioning of a safety mirror and any other requirements.

7.4). Speed limit of 30 mph consideration for entire parish

The Parish Council discussed the issue of a 30 mph speed limit for the entire parish. A considerable amount of thought had been given to the proposals and, following discussion, it was agreed that the implementation of 30 mph throughout the parish would not be viable in terms of logistics and the resultant enforcement issues. It was agreed that a great many of the village roads were difficult to attain speed on anyway. It was noted that the speed limit on the road over the Cage Brook was not being complied with but that again enforcement was an issue due to the road configuration. It was proposed and seconded, and then carried unanimously, that the topic of village wide 30 mph should be removed from the Agenda.

7.5). Use of dog waste bins – the Parish Council were advised that bulk dog waste deposits were being made into the dog waste bins. The bins were being provided for use by dog walkers, when out on their walk, and not for saved up deposits of dog waste from people's homes. It was agreed that appropriate signage would be attached to the bins and the situation would be monitored.

7.6). Footpaths – identified works

No further update at this point. See item 9.0