

EATON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eaton Bishop Parish Council held at Eaton Bishop Village Hall on Wednesday 12th February 2020 from 7.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Becky Wall BEM (in the Chair)
Cllr Beth Cross
Cllr Alan Tydeman
Cllr James Ball
Cllr David Richards

In attendance:

Present were Parish Clerk Alison Wright, Lengthsman Paul Wright and Ward Cllr David Hitchiner (from 7.25 pm) plus eighteen members of the public. Also present, for the first part of the meeting, were PC Jeff Rouse and Sgt Ram Aston.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm with a presentation from Sgt Ram Aston of West Mercia Police regarding Smart Water (We don't buy crime) initiative. The presentation included information about how the initiative to deter crime was working across five work streams. The Smart Water property marking system was helping to deter acquisitive crime with property marking and publicising of the protected status of the communities making potential thieves aware that the areas were Smart Water protected. A forensic marking system with unique codes in each pack would be assigned to households to then mark their personal items and property. Only a tiny dab of the solution was required per item and up to fifty items could be marked using one tube, as supplied in the kits. UV torches would show up the marks. A large number of parishes had already taken up the offer by the Police Commissioner to contribute 25 % of the overall cost of supplying the parish with kits, and also free Smart Water signage once the designated levels of registration of the kits were completed. The rolling out of the kits also served to bring communities together. Evidence was showing that criminals were being put off by Smart Water as marked goods can provide a 100% conviction rate if discovered in the thief's possession. Second hand shops were being "clued up" and were checking second hand goods for Smart Water marking. Marked goods have a very good chance of being reunited with their owner, if recovered.

Cllr Wall, with a team of volunteers and other councillors, had been carrying out a survey to determine the likely take up for the kits, if the Parish Council should decide to go ahead. There would be full commitment and support regarding the roll out initiatives from West Mercia Police with resources for this available. The final decision would be confirmed and the kits ordered once some final take up forms had been received.

Open Session – public questions:

A member of the Eaton Bishop Parochial Church Council enquired about a problem with a tree in the churchyard that needed to be taken down. As the tree was close to the road a formal closure of the road would be required at a cost of £450.00 plus VAT. The Ward Cllr would enquire as to whether the fee could be waived for the road closure.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

The Chair (Cllr Becky Wall BEM) welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were apologies received from Cllr Matthew Johnson

2.0 Declarations of Interest

There was one declaration made. This was Cllr Richards in regard to stock grazing proposals on Honeymoon Common.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting held on 8th January 2020

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on the 8th January 2020 were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4.0 To receive reports from:

Ward Councillor, PCSO West Mercia Police, Locality Steward, Tree Warden, Footpath Officer.

The **Ward Cllr** updated the meeting regarding the parking issues at Ruckhall Lane close to the Belmont Abbey and Hedley Lodge. The Herefordshire Council had written to the Bursar at Belmont Abbey and the Ward Cllr advised of the reply. Basically there were more people working on location for the NHS than there were car parking spaces so the overflow was spilling out onto Ruckhall Lane. A transfer of the lease was imminent and this should reduce the need for parking on the road as there will be fewer people working on site.

The Herefordshire Council Budget Setting Meeting would be on 14th February from 10.00 am and there would be suggestions as to how the budget could be spent. Amendments and alternative budget proposals will likely be put forward. Amendments will be evaluated in the order received. The 151 Officer of the Council has the right of veto regarding proposed amendments.

The Pause and Review of the transport matters was carrying on with a decision as to the way forward anticipated by 31 July 2020. The Council were looking at all sorts of measures to try to help prevent congestion. A member of the public questioned the reduction on capacity at the Hereford Railway Station, maybe a suggestion to British Rail of a Multi-storey?

The **PCSO West Mercia Police** Bulletins sent. PC Jeff Rouse was in attendance and advised of a number of grit bins being turned over in the parish and also in a neighbouring parish. This had now stopped. Police patrols were ongoing up to 10.00 pm. There had been some thefts from local churches. The Police were aware of the person who was carrying out the thefts and a restraining order had been implemented to keep the person away from the churches. Further action was pending.

The **Locality Steward** was not present. Bulletins had been circulated.

The **Tree Warden** Cllr Richards had attended a Tree Wardens Meeting on 10th February 2020. There had been an Annual Review and the subscription requests for 2019 were in. As regard Ash Die Back, people were being encouraged to try to assess when felling may not be required as some trees are likely to survive and become resistant. The Group were trying to ensure that trees are surveyed properly. The next meeting would be at Llangarron on 22nd February regarding Black Poplar Trees and Veteran Trees.

The **Footpath Officer** – group update. The Parish Council had been advised of a tree down on the river bank at Lower Eaton. There was a question whether this was common land – path EB20 where the field joins the riverside path. Cllr Richards would take a look at the situation.

Path EB21 Pumping Station to the Ancient Camp Inn issue had been referred by a resident to the National Trust.

There had been reports of dogs running off lead in fields with new born lambs. Dogs should be kept on leads and under control around livestock and a councillor pointed out that dogs may be shot if found to be worrying livestock. A resident was going to prepare a notice regarding dogs and sheep etc. for “Tracking the News” and for publication on the Village Face book page. The incident experienced had been logged with the Police and an incident number had been obtained.

Cllr Wall advised that the candidate that had been hoped would take the FPO role on was not interested and another person who may be willing would be approached (Cllr Wall to do this).

5.0 Finance and Policies

5.1) To note bank balances

The bank balances were noted as: Business Account £23656.91* and Treasurer's Account £3269.61, as at the meeting date.

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

1) **The Cooks Charity** Deposit of £2284.51

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

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

5.2) 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)	£80.40
Longfield Services (Lengthsman bins)	£120.00
M R Cobb (Lengthsman – Littlemarsh)	£310.00
Longfield Services (Littlemarsh)	£130.00
HALC (Subscription 2020 – 2021)	£437.80
Start Traffic Ltd (flexible verge markers)	£171.00
T & J T Helme (Honeymoor mowing and ditches)	£576.00
Hereford Tree Warden Network	£25.00

6.0 Update on defibrillator and to include fundraising ideas

Cllr Cross advised that the DBS checks were to be verified by the Ambulance Service. Training had taken place and someone was needed to come out and check people's documents. People could go to the Ambulance Hub on an arranged date and get their documents checked. Some of the volunteers had done this and some were still to be verified. Numbers Plus had been e mailed round to carry out a test run. Cllr Cross advised that a number of people in the Village had now been trained and know what to do. The Training Bag would be held by Cllr Wall during Cllr Cross' pending leave of absence. Consideration was being given to raising funds for a third defibrillator for Lower Eaton. A "big breakfast" fund raising event was planned for near to St George's Day by Team EB.

7.0 Update on parish flooding issues

Cllr Ball had unfortunately not been able to secure clearance of the ditches at Marsh Farm so far despite best efforts. The land at the farm was being put out to tenancy and the cows were being sold due to a change in circumstances. A resident present at the meeting advised that they had contacted Balfour Beatty about the ongoing flooding issues on the road and by their home. The area had been flooded at the location five times since Christmas. The culvert was not taking the water away and the water was rising and flooding over the entire road. Cllr Ball would again talk to the Marsh Farm owner and Cllr Wall would alert the Locality Steward.

8.0 Village Matters

Honeymoor Common and Little Marsh Common – updates

Work Party scheduled for Saturday 15th February from 10.00 am at Little Marsh. Tea and cake would be available to volunteers. Volunteers to bring their equipment. Cllr Richards advised that he had cut up some trees and pollarded others. A tree had been crown raised on Honeymoor.

Village Hall matters – no further items were raised.

Verge markers for Ruckhall

The verge markers, to help prevent vehicles driving across the grass at Ruckhall Common, would be despatched as soon as payment had been received and they would be fitted as soon as possible following receipt.

Consideration of horse riding signs for Lane Head area

Following consideration of the costs involved for the number of signs that may be required the Parish Council resolved not to pursue the purchase of formal horse riding signage.

Planning for Annual Parish Event

Cllr Wall highlighted that there had been one Morning Coffee Event and one Afternoon Tea Event held so far. It was proposed that a similar event should be held again, bringing all of the village groups together. It was agreed that the 4th April from 2.30 pm would be an opportunity for there to be a Parish Afternoon Tea Event. Cllr Wall would approach the relevant groups to invite them to participate. There would be a hamper draw, by entry ticket, again this year.

Consideration of landowner responsibilities and ditching to help prevent flooding (correspondence refers) and update regarding flooding near Marsh Farm

There had been further flooding problems reported down on the road towards Lane Head Farm where water was flooding onto the roadway from the adjacent fields. Cllr Wall had spoken with the tenant of the land and was trying to ascertain responsibility in relation to their agreement with the landowner. The tenant was to speak to the landowner and it was noted that the culverts under the farm gates are the landowner's responsibility. The Locality Steward would be made aware of the situation as there had been reports of accidents at the location due to the gullies being full and the road thick with mud. Cllr Wall would check if the tenant had spoken to the landowner. The potholes would be advised to the Locality Steward.

The road near to Camp Villa had eroded so badly that people were driving over the ditch area to miss the potholes. Cllr Wall to make the point that the road had been previously maintained by the highways department (custom and practice). Cllr Wall to send in the issues to Locality Steward regarding eroding of roadside and crushing in the ditch.

Lane Head – possible site of new notice board ownership of land to be checked and visibility checked. Cllr Tydeman looking into this.

Flooding at Marsh Farm was updated under Agenda Item No. 7 above.

A question was raised about whether minutes of PC meetings could be in the notice boards. This would be on the next Agenda.

9.0 Planning Matters

No new applications had been received for discussion. The barn application for Lane Head Farm had been approved. Ward Cllr Hitchiner left at this point 8.45 pm.

10.0 Smart Water – to discuss way forward

It was resolved that, subject to the 80% of forms indicating willingness to register the scheme, the idea of Smart Water for the parish would proceed. Cllr Wall would take delivery of the kits when delivered. Thanks were recorded to a resident who had worked hard to obtain sign up to the idea via the surveys.

11.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

11.1) To note any defects to be reported to Balfour Beatty and road issues were as identified in the relevant agenda item. Letter to the landowner regarding the Vallets road flooding issue and ditch clearance would be sent via Clehonger PC, subject to their approval.

11.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman:
Ongoing and as identified.

12.0 Information Sheet and Correspondence

- 12.1) To note Information and Correspondence sheet including:
- Core Strategy/Neighbourhood Planning workshop event presentation
 - MINUTES: 1st Red, Norton & Twyford brooks NFM Community Group Meeting
 - October & November flooding, home and business support
 - Short Breaks Capital Funding
 - Marches Renewable Energy Grant Scheme
 - Road closures notification
 - Review of the Hereford transport strategy

HALC

- Climate Change in Action!
- Presentation from HALC Conference

Cooks Charity

Annual Return due by 31/01/2020 had been submitted and Trustee details amended.

Parish Council Vacancy

Clerk waiting for confirmation from Electoral Services that the PC may co-opt a new member in March.

Also – an enquiry received from the MadSat Raft Team regarding storage of craft on the riverside, as in previous years. Cllr Johnson to be asked to confirm numbers of craft involved with the Team.

13.0 Matters to be raised on the Agenda for the next meeting

All the usual items would be on the Agenda plus paperwork, including minutes, displayed in Notice Boards. Also Smart Water update. Possible co-option of new councillor, subject to confirmation.

14.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th March 2020, from 7.30pm, in the Eaton Bishop Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date

11th March 20

Visit the Eaton Bishop Parish Website at: www.eatonbishoppcc.btck.co.uk