

# D R A F T

## YARPOLE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL YARPOLE, CROFT & BIRCHER and LUCTON

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Yarpole, Croft and Bircher; and the Annual Meeting of Lucton, held 18 May 2021 at 7pm in Yarpole Parish Hall.

The meetings were considered together. No Annual Parish Meeting was held in 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

**Present:** Ian Salmon (Chairman), Michael Denny, Barbara Nurse, Andrew Daniels, Linda Middleton, Audrey Bott.

**In attendance:** 1 member of public, Ward Cllr Sebastian Bowen and Maggie Brown, Clerk.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Duncan Grant and Harold Holder.

1. Cllr Salmon read the Chair's reports from 2018/19, after which Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held on 7 May 2019 were agreed, and signed as correct record.
2. Cllr Salmon read the Chair's reports covering 2019 and 2020. See attached to these Minutes.
3. Questions.
  - 3.1. Chair's report. The requirement for a Chairman's report was queried as all information is available on the Parish Council website. Noted: The Chairman's report is listed in the Publication Scheme. **Agreed:** The summing up of the year's achievements is important, and should be included in *The Parishioner*. Clerk to action.
  - 3.2. Website. **Agreed:** To further promote the website where all information about the Parish Council may be found. Clerk to mention in reports to *The Parishioner*.

Meeting closed 19:50

Signed

Date

**YARPOLE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020/21 LUCTON**

Lucton has a designated place on all Parish agendas whereby its two councillors can raise issues specific to this area of the Group parish.

The two most vexatious issues of concern have been planning and flooding at the ford.

Time and again Balfour Beatty agents have visited and promised to resolve the flooding by installing a larger drainage pipe. There has been no significant improvement as yet.

A number of planning applications have been objected to, supported by the Neighbourhood Development Plan criteria. Councillors Russel and Trotter have consistently reported views of their community and we commend their efforts to safeguard this rural hamlet.

The comprehensive picture regarding Lucton matters and also Croft with Yarpole can be found on <https://yarpolegroupparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Audrey Bott.  
Chairman 20/21

**YARPOLE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REORT FOR 2020/21 CROFT WITH YARPOLE**

As a result of the Government Covid 19 legislation, the parish council did not convene for its Annual General or Annual Parish Meetings in May 2020. All officer responsibilities were carried forward for another year.

For context some council activities will include decisions from 2019/20.

Since July 2020 meetings have been held remotely. (A sharp learning curve for some Councillors.)

For a full account of Council's work, including finances, funding and planning see <https://yarpolegroupparishcouncil.org.uk>

**COMMUNITY FIELD. Yarpole.**

The contract for transfer of gifted land to Parish council was signed and all legal processes completed. Plan for consulting community agreed. A small working group met Red Kite Consultancy. A leaflet was delivered December 2019 to all households asking for their ideas for future use. A visual presentation would be made at the Annual Parish meeting 2020. Survey results analysed and the following were popular: circular footpath, green open space, small car park, children's play area, small orchard/wild flowers. Further talks on site with Red Kite as result of ideas. Topographical Survey carried out, no problems with land. Two outline draft plans received. Once Covid Regulations allow, after discussion and recommendations a plan will be presented to the community in 2021. The working group is to meet and report at the June meeting.

Councillor Holder, having volunteered, continues to cut and roll the field. We thank him for giving of his time.

**KNOLL Cottage, Bircher.**

Hereford Council were noted on the deterioration of this unoccupied listed building. An enforcement

order has been issued to the owner and legal proceedings to reclaim monies spent on essential work. The conservation team are looking at ways to safeguard the integrity of the property.

#### **PUMPING STATION/SEWER, Yarpole.**

This problem dates back to 2007. A meeting with councillors took place with Welsh water and the Environment Agency. Ingress of surface water from illegal connection (historical) from a number of properties is cause of problem. Date for Welsh water to address public about issues postponed due to Covid 19. Action continues by the Council and members of the Community.

#### **PARISH HALL.**

Additional gifted land to the hall (part of NDP) to increase size of car park and open space, was transferred to the Council as Custodial trustees. Searches concluded and paperwork ongoing. Council funded 75% (£4250) towards a new boiler when it failed a safety test. Funding for replacement double glazing attracted grants to £9000 and council agreed to provide shortfall of £2646. (Our budget plans allowed us to use money from our reserves account for Community Projects).

#### **FOOTPATHS.**

Our footpath officer, Peter Greer stood down in March 2020. A new interested volunteer did not take up the task and Peter agreed to fill the vacancy on a temporary basis. Recruitment of additional volunteers encouraging. A search to find a convenient place to store all equipment ongoing. The council fully supported the PROW plans for 19/20, and 20/21 with generous funding.

Croft Crescent. Footpath link. Contact with developers to discuss linking in with nearby footpath to complete a circular walk (See NDP) On Hold.

#### **SPEED LIMIT. Bircher**

First SID in place in 2019. Second Sid bought and in position. Our thanks to Councillor Daniels for negotiating with suppliers and managing the equipment.

#### **AGENDAS.**

To increase awareness of its discussions and responses, the clerk began posting Agendas and minutes on Facebook. There is already a monthly summary in the Parishioner. Draft minutes are available on the Council website.

#### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.**

Despite Sebastian's increased workload on being appointed Chairman of Hereford Council, he has continued to attend and contribute towards our meetings. He has kept us well versed on our Authority's decisions, given guidance on planning matters and worked with appropriate departments to help resolve the security of Knoll Cottage.

Disappointingly, our clerk Emma Lewis resigned in March 2021. She has returned to full time employment with University of Hereford. We wish her well in her new career. We welcome Mrs Maggie Brown as our new clerk.

In conclusion the Council thanks all volunteer groups and individuals who responded so magnificently during lockdown. There is a deep well of compassion, kindness, ingenuity and resourcefulness in our parish.

Audrey Bott.  
Chairman. 20/21