

YARPOLE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 6th April 2021** via zoom

Present: Cllr Duncan Grant, Cllr Ian Salmon, Cllr Barbara Nurse, , Cllr Diane Russell, Cllr Geoff Trotter, Cllr Michael Denny, Cllr Linda Middleton, Cllr Sebastian Bowen (items 1-10), Parish Clerk Ms Emma Lewis,

1 member of the public was present for items 1-6.2 inclusive.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Bott, Cllr Daniels and Cllr Holder.
- 2. Declarations of interest:** No declarations were made.
- 3. Public Participation**
 - 3.1 Report from Ward Councillor:** Council tax bills have been issued, with council tax going up by 4.9%. The revenue grant from central government has gone down to £600,000 and 75% of the annual Herefordshire Council budget is required for adult and children's services.
 - 3.2 Report from West Mercia Police:** No report had been received.
 - 3.3 Views of local residents on Parish matters:** The member of the public attending the meeting wished to raise their objections to the planning application at Rosebank Cottage (item 6.1 on the agenda).
- 4. Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 2nd March 2021:** The minutes were **agreed** and will be signed as a correct record after the meeting.
- 5. Finance**
 - 5.1 Financial statement to date:** The financial statement was **agreed**; the current account has a balance of £23,280.37 and the reserve account has a balance of £15,088.43.
 - 5.2 Cheques:** Cheques had been signed prior to the meeting as follows – Clerk wages £579.98, HMRC £5.40, Hi Trees (PROW) £1,734.00, Peter Greer (PROW map copying) £24.70, Kevin Davies - footpath work £357.50.
- 6. Planning**
 - 6.1 200626 - Rosebank Cottage, Lucton** – reconsultation on proposed demolition of an existing garage and the erection of a two storey detached new build dwelling within the curtilage of the Grade II listed Rose Bank Cottage: As the application remains largely unchanged since its previous iteration (in autumn 2020), aside from a Bat Roost report, the Parish Council agreed that their comments remained unchanged namely -" The Parish Council agreed that they wished to object to the plans. Policy YG6 of the adopted Neighbourhood plan states that development within the settlement boundary in Lucton is expected to compromise principally "extensions to existing properties and conversion of non-domestic buildings to dwellings." The plans fit neither of these categories, nor do they contribute to the provision of the defined need for small 2 bedroom properties and small housing for elderly people.

Policy YG6e) of the NDP directly refers to the need for “safe access for vehicles” and the Parish Council is concerned that the access to the property is from a road that is prone to flooding, and the allocated parking for 2 cars will be insufficient for a 3 bedroom house, with safe parking in Lucton already being a huge issue for residents. Policy YG6d) states that all development shall “protect and enhance heritage assets within the village in particular....its Listed Buildings and their settings” and considers the proposals, in the ground of the Grade II listed Rosebank Cottage to be in direct contradiction of this policy. Given the wildlife and natural habitat provided by the current site in an ecologically sensitive area, the plans are in direct contradiction of both NDP policies YG1c), which states that “ a high priority will be given to preserving and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment within the Group Parish” and Policy YG6c) which states that developments shall “not result in the loss of important features such as trees and hedgerows that contribute to the unique character of the village.” The Parish Council is also concerned that given the currently ‘failing’ conservation status of the Lugg Special Area of Conservation catchment, there is not sufficient information provided to show certainty that the drainage for the proposed dwelling will not have a detrimental impact on the Lugg SAC.” The Parish Council is also concerned that their comments from the previous iteration of this application are not showing on the planning portal.

6.2 Update on current planning applications/matters: Herefordshire Council is continuing to explore all appropriate legal avenues to secure the integrity of Knoll Cottage, particularly getting the tarpaulin replaced on the roof.

7. Updates and action

7.1 Lucton & Bircher Matters: A scarecrow competition has been held in Lucton, and thanks were expressed to Cllr Bowen for judging the competition and all those who took part. Thanks were also expressed to the three Lucton residents who cleaned the phone box. A resident has volunteered to revamp the notice board in Lucton, and the offer was gratefully accepted. The issue of the need to repair the Lucton burial ground railings was raised, and it was confirmed that this is an issue for the PCC. The Parish Council grant towards maintenance of the Lucton and Yarpole burial grounds (to the agreed formula of 100% of Lucton and 75% of Yarpole costs) has an annual maximum amount available set in the budget, and for 2021/22 this is £1,500.00

7.2 Parish Hall: Garden planting is ongoing around the hall and decoration of the interior of the hall will start soon.

7.3 Footpaths and Lengthsman (to include update on confirmation of correct route of footpath YP35): After a complaint from a walker about a blocked footpath (YP35 by Bircher Coppice), the Footpath officer had tried to resolve the issue of the correct route of the path with the landowner. A relative of the landowner had raised a complaint about the manner in which the issue was handled, and the Parish Council confirmed their support for the Footpath Officer’s attempts to resolve matters amicably with the landowner. As this has not been possible, the matter has been passed to the locality steward and Balfour Beatty, acting on behalf of Herefordshire Council, as they are the responsible authority for dealing with public rights of way. The issue of identification for those working as part of the footpath team was raised and agreed that the new Clerk will look into this.

8. **Items for next agenda:** Parking place in Lucton, dog fouling in Lucton, new working relationship between shop, PCC and Building Management Group in Yarpole, issues with Lucton school effluent system and impact on local residents, tractor damage to roads and verges in Lucton.
9. **Thanks and Farewell to Emma:** A note of thanks was expressed to the Clerk for all her work over the past years.
10. **Date of Next meeting:** Tuesday 4th May 2021 (Annual meeting of the Parish Council).

A resolution was passed to exclude members of the press and public from the following item (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

11. **Appointment of New Clerk to the Parish Council:** Following the interview panel, it was **agreed** to appoint Maggie Brown as Clerk to the Parish Council for 10 hours per week at SPC25, starting on the 12th April 2021. Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Middleton and Grant for their work on the interview panel.