

YARPOLE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 4 May 2021 via Zoom

Present: Cllrs Audrey Bott; Andrew Daniels; Michael Denny; Duncan Grant; Harold Holder; Linda Middleton; Barbara Nurse; Diane Russell; Ian Salmon and Geoff Trotter.

In attendance: 4 members of the public; Ward Cllr Sebastian Bowen and Parish Clerk Mrs Maggie Brown.

1. **Nomination and election of Office of Chairman.** Ian Salmon was nominated and seconded, and agreed to accept the position. **Agreed** - Declaration of Acceptance of Office be signed at a later date.
2. **Nomination and election of Office of Vice Chairman.** Duncan Grant was nominated and seconded, and agreed to accept the position. **Agreed** - Declaration of Acceptance of Office be signed at a later date.
3. Cllr Andrew Daniels was present at the meeting. No extension to period of non-attendance was required.
4. **Apologies for absence.** All councillors present. Apologies received from PCSO Steph Harper.
5. **Declaration of interest** received from Cllr Barbara Nurse in Item 11 as a member of the PCC.
6. **Public Participation (limited to 20 minutes)**
 - 6.1. **Report from Ward Councillor:** Tribute paid to Audrey Bott who has served as Chairman for many years. There has been a High Court judgement against Herefordshire Council's Children & Families Directorate, lessons have been learned, and the service must improve as quickly as possible. New Chief Executive, Paul Walker, has joined Herefordshire Council. Officers determined to rescue Little Cottage; legal processes are slow.
 - 6.2. **Report from West Mercia Police.** None received.
 - 6.3. **Views of local residents on Parish matters.**
 - 6.3.1. A resident reported - new cattle grid at the end of the exit drive from Croft Castle adjacent to the junction with the B4362. The National Trust confirms it has no plans to add a gate for pedestrians, animals and cyclists. Residents are encouraged to enter and exit through the gate on the entrance drive or on the Public Footpath (CR7). Noted: Residents have access to Croft Church. Stock can be boisterous and a hazard to walkers. Response from NT is inconsistent with message in The Parishioner. **Action:** Check rights of way status on the estate using current and old maps. Check with Footpaths Officer. Set up meeting with National Trust.
 - 6.3.2. Tractors are driving through a hedge replanted by a landowner causing potential damage. Hedge will not be visible when crops have grown.
7. **Minutes** of Parish Council meeting held on 6 April 2021. The minutes were **agreed** and will be signed as a correct record at a later date.
8. **Appointments of members to working groups and outside bodies:** Members were agreed as follows: **Parish Hall Committee** – Andrew Daniels & Diane Russell, Barbara Nurse stood down from this role. **Temporary Footpath Officer** – Peter Greer + volunteers (to be confirmed) with Geoff Trotter as assistant to Peter Greer, covering Lucton PROW. **Tree Warden** – position to be advertised or suggested to interested residents. **Finance Working Group** – meetings open to any councillor who wishes to attend.
9. **Agreed** to renew the Clerk's devolved power to raise cheques below value of £500.
10. **Finance:**
 - 10.1. **Financial statement to date.** The financial statement was agreed. The current account has a balance of £25,547.10 and the business reserve account has a balance of £15,088.57.
 - 10.2. Cheques in accordance with the budget: **Agreed** that cheques be signed as follows: HALC Recruitment £240; Clerk Payroll 12th -30th April £337.62; HMRC PAYE £84.20
 - 10.3. Appointment of internal auditor for 2021/22 deferred. Clerk to check if current auditor willing to continue.

11. **Planning:** 11.1 and 11.2 were considered together.

11.1. P210811/F - Planning Permission, St Leonards Church Green Lane Yarpole Leominster Herefordshire HR6 0BB, Proposed removal of redundant wood pellet boiler along with associated flue and pellet storage container. To site 2 no. external ASHP units, Valid.

11.2. P210812/L - Listed Building Consent, St Leonards Church Green Lane Yarpole Leominster Herefordshire HR6 0BB, Proposed removal of redundant wood pellet boiler along with associated flue and pellet storage container. To site 2 no. external ASHP units, Valid.

Agreed: Yarpole Group Parish Council has no objection to these planning applications.

12. Noted: **Updates on current planning applications/matters** as follows:

12.1. The condition of Knoll Cottage raised by a resident. Panels removed from listed building, and subsequently front wall demolished. **Agreed** work to be documented and photographs sent to Planning Enforcement (Mark Tansley) and the Conservation Officer Elizabeth Duberley.

12.2. Reports of development at Croft Crescent potentially being connected to mains drains. Planning conditions checked – they refer to surface water and/or land drainage, and appear to have been discharged under planning application 200562.

12.3. Report from a resident on Rosebank noted. Yarpole Group Parish Council has already submitted its comments on this application.

13. **Community Field Dog Fouling. Reported** Shortage of bins for dog faeces. **Agreed** Clerk to ascertain cost of waste bins.

14. **New Working Relationship between Yarpole Shop, Parochial Church Council and Building Management Group.**

Reported: The three parties are considering joining forces as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in order to work together and establish an integrated vision for the parishes. Other groups, including the Parish Council are invited to become involved. The results of a questionnaire have been analysed, and the Parish Council is asked to consider or take action on the following:

- Poor parking outside the Church / off-road parking.
- Dangerous turning at the top of Green Lane.
- Children's play area.
- Poor mobile signal.
- Electric vehicle charging point.
- Allotments.
- Outdoor meeting place.
- Adult exercise equipment.
- Convex mirrors on bends in Lucton.

Agreed Further information on the CIO is required before YGPC commits to becoming involved.

15. **Information, Consultation & Response:**

15.1. **Minerals & Waste Policy.** **Agreed** Yarpole Group Parish Council will send no response to this consultation.

16. **Updates and action**

16.1. **Lucton & Bircher Matters:** Reported: Erosion of the verge in Bircher is a danger to pedestrians. Cllr Bowen will speak to the Balfour Beatty (BBLP) Locality Steward, Clerk to write to BBLP and report online.

16.1.1. **Contribution to cost of grounds maintenance and painting of railings at Lucton Burial Ground.** Cllr Barbara Nurse declared an interest.

Noted: Request for contribution towards maintenance of railings, rather than mowing expenses, was not expected by YGPC. **Agreed** Finance Working Group to consider finances and report to full council.

16.1.2. **Parking place in Lucton.** **Agreed** - Cllr Salmon to look into ownership of a passing place being used for parking.

16.1.3. **Dog fouling in Lucton.** Noted: Dog walkers are encouraged to pick up faeces and dispose of it at home. Clerk to produce notice for Lucton board asking owners to clean up after their pets.

16.1.4. Issues with **Lucton School effluent system** and impact on local residents. Reported: A visit had been made to the site, and an apology given for doing so without permission. A representative of Lucton School explained issues involved, and the involvement of the Environment Agency. The School will keep the Clerk updated on progress. The Parish Council is welcome to arrange a visit if it wishes.

16.1.5. **Tractor damage to roads and verges in Lucton.** Agreed Cllr Salmon will speak to the landowner and report back.

16.2. **Parish Hall.** Decoration of the Hall is nearly complete.

16.3. **PROW and Lengthsman.** No actions outstanding.

17. Items for next agenda.

Report from Finance Working Group on contributions to Lucton Burial Ground.

Update on tractor damage to roads and verges in Lucton

Appointment of internal auditor

18. **Dates of next meetings:** Tuesday 18 May 2021, Annual Parish Meetings for Lucton & Yarpole
Tuesday 1 June 2021, scheduled Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm

Meeting closed 21:21

Original copy signed and on file.

Signed
Cllr Ian Salmon, Chairman

Date: 1 June 2021