

19/2022

KINNERSLEY & DISTRICT GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 19.30 in Norton Canon Village Hall

Present

Councillors: Patrick Wrixon (In the Chair), Rosie Davidson, Malcolm Lewis, Roger Marshall and Bert Thomas.

In attendance ... Lynda Wilcox (Acting Clerk-HALC), Ward Councillor Graham Jones & 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillors Roger Bowen, Janet Greenfield and Caius Hawkins.

1.1 The resignation of Councillor Sarah Smith was noted.

2. **Declarations of interest & written dispensation requests ...** There were none.

3. **Open Session**

3.1 Ward Councillor Graham Jones gave a brief verbal report including:

3.1.1 Herefordshire Council was £11.2m overspent and was facing a major deficit for the next financial year. A series of seminars had been set up around the county to discuss the budget for next year.

3.1.2 Spend on Care was now more than 50% of the overall budget.

3.1.3 Officers were endeavouring to turn around the difficulties in Childrens' Services.

3.1.4 In response to a challenge, an Inspector had confirmed that Herefordshire did have a 5-year land supply.

3.1.5 A new transport hub would be developed around the railway station in Hereford. The current bus station would be moved across to the railway station.

3.1.6 Following a recent meeting, it looked likely that the SID bases at Letton would be able to go ahead in December.

3.2 Views of local residents on parish matters:

3.2.1 A local resident commented that a landowner who had bought a local field on which numerous animals were kept, together with horse boxes and caravans, had also erected sheds and was now renting the field out on Air B&B. Loud music was being played, which was adversely affecting local residents and could be heard in Staunton.

Ward Councillor Jones offered to look into the situation.

3.2.2 Local resident, Donald Evans explained that he had been the parish council's representative on the Norton Canon Charities for a number of years, but his term of office was coming to an end. He outlined the role of the Charity which gave grants to deserving and older people in the parish of Norton, as well as educational grants.

There were six Trustees, including the Vicar and Mr Evans offered to serve another term as the parish council's representative.

It was suggested that the role of the charity should be publicised within the parish of Norton.

Following discussion, the Chair brought Agenda Item 8 forward and it was RESOLVED that Mr Evans should continue as the parish council's representative.

3.2.3 In response to a query as to whether the parish had a Lengthsman, Councillor Marshall confirmed that the parish council had appointed a Lengthsman who worked for around 13 hours per month on C roads within the parish, mainly ensuring the effective flow of rainwater in the roadside ditches.

4. Minutes of a meeting held on 27th September.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.

5. Road safety - SIDs at Letton

Rosie Davidson had been liaising with Herefordshire Council and reported that the SID by Bull Farm Cottages was on the roadside and the second SID could be sited in a roadside field by a private contractor.

6. Planning

6.1 Application 222767 – Lower Ailey, Kinnersley. Proposed Digestate Storage Tank adjacent to the current two tanks that make up the anaerobic digester.

It was RESOLVED that parish councillors did not feel able to comment on the application because they considered that the relevant experts (Environment Agency and Herefordshire Council Planning Officers) would have the required knowledge to consider the application appropriately.

6.2 Update on parish meeting re Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) ... It was noted that the meeting would be held at Kinnersley Castle on Friday 2nd December at 19.00. Lynda Wilcox from HALC would give a presentation to local residents and seek contact details from those willing to assist the parish council.

7. Finance

7.1 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:

7.1.1 Village Hall hire £16.00.

7.1.2 HALC Clerk Cover £200 + mileage for two meetings: £480.

7.2 Lengthsman:

- 7.2.1 Reimbursement to councillor for Lengthsman invoices:
July-£223.12, Aug-£218.75 & Sept.-£236.25 invoices, totalling £678.12.
- 7.2.2 Payment of October: £236.25 and November: £240.62 invoices.
- 7.3 Reimbursement to councillor for payment made to Namesco ... It was RESOLVED to defer this item, pending further information.

8. To consider representative on Norton Canon Charities

See agenda item 3 above.

9. Matters relating to hedge cutting.

It was noted that outgoing councillor Sarah Smith had reported the presence of debris on the road, resulting from a local contractor flailing hedges late into the evening. It was also noted that the contractor had not used signage for road safety measures. Parish councillors discussed the issue but felt they were unable to pursue the matter further.

10. Date of next meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 19.30 in the Norton Canon Village Hall.

A resolution was passed to exclude the public from the following item:

11. Employment of Clerk/RFO

- 11.1 Roger Marshall gave detailed feedback from the Interview Panel.
- 11.2 It was RESOLVED that Jennifer Wilkie be employed as Clerk/RFO for 7 hours per week from 1st December 2022 on SCP21.
- 11.3 Members considered and RESOLVED to adopt the terms of the draft contract of employment which included the requirement for the new clerk to obtain the CiLCA qualification, funded by the parish council.
- 11.4 It was RESOLVED that a payroll provider (Autela) be engaged.
- 11.5 It was RESOLVED to fund a laptop for use by the clerk who was content to use her own printer with cartridges funded by the parish council.
- 11.6 It was RESOLVED to pay HALC’s recruitment invoice for £200 + VAT.

SIGNED DATE