

GARWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held remotely on Thursday 2 July 2020 at 19.00hrs

Present ... Councillors: Tony Phillips (Chairman), Chris Strange, Cara Campbell and Phil Tucker (following co-option)

A resolution was passed to exclude the public for a confidential item during which it was RESOLVED to co-opt Phil Tucker onto the Parish Council.

Also present were: Ward Councillor Fagan, Parish Clerk Mark Hearne and eight residents.

1. **Apologies for Absence...** Councillors Rose and Richard Sparey.
2. **Declarations of Interest & Dispensation** – There were none
3. **Minutes of two previous meetings on 21st May 2020** - It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record and these will be signed by the Chairman in due course.

4. Open Session

4.1 **Ward Councillor Toni Fagan** raised the following issues:

4.1.1 – It is not expected that any referendum on the NDP will take place until early 2021 but as it has completed the Regulation 16 consultation it carries more weight when considering planning applications.

4.1.2 – Two outstanding planning applications at Broad Oak. The application for 2 dwellings at Broad Oak have been approved by Herefordshire Planning Committee. A decision on a second application has been deferred until a site visit has taken place.

4.2 **Local Residents**– The following issues were raised:

4.2.1 – A resident raised concerns over the sale of the old village hall where he suggested that the trustees were acting in bad faith by reneging on a commitment to incorporate a ransom strip as part of the sale and, if true, this issue would need to be referred back to the public. Craig Hooper, Chairman Village Hall Charity, advised that the trustees remained committed to preventing any development through the site but would defer to the conveyancing lawyer on the most appropriate instrument for delivering that commitment whether that be a ransom strip or a suitable alternative. The Chairman suggested that it would be appropriate to await the recommendations of the trustee solicitor before deciding whether the sale of the old village hall should be brought back to the public.

4.2.2 – A resident raised the issue of hedgehog signage which had been discussed in the past. The Parish Council was asked for permission to approve the installation of signs

warning motorists of the presence of hedgehogs. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk investigate the suitable signage and this would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Planning ... Comments on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council. Planning Consultation – 201587 – Rock Mount Rocks, Garway Hill, Hereford, HR2 8RX – Replacement of a single storey side extension with a 2 storey extension. Following discussion, Councillors approved the proposals set out in the planning application and it was RESOLVED to inform the LPA accordingly.

6. Finance

- 6.1 The bank balance on 31st May 2020 was £30, 919.95
- 6.2 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:
 - 6.2.1 – HALC Internal Audit - £240.00
 - 6.2.2 – Herefordshire Council – election fee - £913.73
 - 6.2.3 – Legal fees – H Vaughan Vaughan & Co - £300.00
 - 6.2.4 – Clerk’s salary in accordance with his employment contract (June 2020)
 - 6.2.5 – PAYE (June 2020) - £93.60
- 6.3 – Internal Audit Report 2019/20 - Councillors noted the recommendations included in the Internal Audit Report and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk address these issues as appropriate.
- 6.4 – Annual Governance Statements 2019/20 – It was RESOLVED to approve the Certificate of Exemption and Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance Statement.

7. Clerk Correspondence –

- 7.1 - A resident raised the following issues:
 - 7.2.1 - The pursuance of a loan of a speed camera given the speeding of larger vehicles in the village. It was RESOLVED that this issue be included on the agenda for the next meeting. It was further RESOLVED that the Clerk seek an update from West Mercia Police on progress with the Community Speed Watch initiative.
 - 7.2.2 – Offered suggestions on the membership of the proposed working group required for the governance of the Common.
 - 7.2.3 – Suggested that an informed survey by an arboriculturist should be arranged to ensure the trees on the Common are maintained properly. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk approach the resident concerned for the name of the arboriculturist and similarly approach the lengthsman. It was further RESOLVED that the Chairman approach Dennis Walker & Sons who are suitably qualified in this area.
- 7.2 – A resident raised an issue connected with the sale of the old village hall, but this had been addressed earlier in the meeting.

7.3 – A resident raised issues about the enhancement and protection of biodiversity on the Commons which were noted by Councillors.

8. Common –

8.1 There was a brief discussion on the future governance arrangements for the Common but it was considered prudent to invite Caroline Hanks to undertake a survey and consider her findings before deciding next steps. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Caroline Hanks to arrange the survey of the lower common.

8.2 – It was RESOLVED to defer any further consideration of a possible refund to those who donated funds to support the acquisition of the Commons until an analysis of what had been spent on legal fees. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk checks the statement of accounts and reports back to the next Parish Council meeting. It was also RESOLVED to defer the release of a letter of thanks to the donors until a decision is reached on the refund issue.

9. NDP – There was no further update on the NDP and the Parish Council will await contact from the Examiner.

10. Footpaths – The Footpaths Officer highlighted the following issues in his report.

10.1 The reports of a dangerous dog on GW17 has been resolved.

10.2 Work has still not progressed on erecting a fence and kissing gate on GW32. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk instruct the lengthsmen to resolve the issue.

10.3 GW10 is overgrown and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk instruct the lengthsmen to clear the footpath.

10.4 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk ask the lengthsmen to repair the broken stile at GW3.

10.5 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk instruct the lengthsmen to remove overgrown vegetation and remove fallen branches from GW31.

11. Lengthsman – Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the lengthsmen asking him to expedite the tasks approved at the last meeting. It was also RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the lengthsmen offering an annual maintenance plan of one working day per month but ask for confirmation of his daily rate.

12. Matters for the next scheduled meeting on 30th July 2020

- Children’s playground.
- Speed camera

Meeting closed at 20.39 hrs

SIGNED DATE

