

GARWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 29th July 2021 at 19.30hrs

Present ... Councillors: Tony Phillips (Chairman), Chris Strange, Rose Sparey, Phil Tucker and Cara Campbell.

Also, present were Ward Councillor Fagan, Mark Hearne (Parish Clerk) and five residents.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None
2. **Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensation** – None
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting on 24th June 2021** – It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record, and these were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Open Session**
 - 4.1 **Ward Councillor Toni Fagan** reported on the following issues:
 - 4.1.1 – Herefordshire Council have reported a seven-year housing land supply.
 - 4.1.2 – Herefordshire Council have launched a waste strategy. The contract for collection and disposal of waste is due for renewal at the end of 2022.
 - 4.1.3 – Grants are available for community groups in response to the climate and ecological emergency.
 - 4.1.4 – Herefordshire Council are rolling out nature recovery networks as part of the Nature Strategy.
 - 4.1.5 – Business will be offered support as part of the Covid recovery programme.
 - 4.1.6 – Herefordshire Council have reported a significant overspend on the City Link Road.
 - 4.1.7 – An Improvement Board is in place following the serious safeguarding issue in Herefordshire Council's Childrens Services.
 - 4.1.8 – Pollution in the River Wye remains a significant issue. Testing of phosphate levels in the river has been initiated by the CPRE. George Monbiot has produced a documentary (Rivercide) which deals with the challenges facing the River Wye.
 - 4.1.9 – Residents are encouraged to complete the bus survey which has been published by Herefordshire Council.
 - 4.1.10 – Grant funding is available for the specific purpose of re-connecting communities; details will be forwarded to the Clerk.
 - 4.1.11 – There was discussion on the old Garway Primary School, and it was agreed that action should be taken to list the building as a Community Asset to afford it some protection from the threat of demolition. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk apply accordingly.

4.1.12 – A resident had made the Ward Councillor aware of an accident on the 18th July 2021 on the B4521. There was a brief discussion on the merits of installing crash barriers on this part of the highway, but it was agreed that this would not be funded by the Parish Council.

4.2 **Local Residents**– A resident asked and was granted permission to use the croquet court on the 29th August 2021 for the Club Championship.

5. **Sale of the old village hall** – The Chairman reported that the exchange of contracts has not yet taken place as there are drainage issues still to be resolved.

6. **Planning** - To consider planning applications received from Herefordshire Council. None have been submitted.

7. Finance

7.1 The current bank balance is £42,482.29.

7.2 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:

7.2.1 Clerk's salary in accordance with his employment contract (July 2021)

7.2.2 PAYE (July 2021) - £186.40

7.2.3 Stationery - £22.35

8. **Clerk Correspondence** – A resident has written concerning the proposed governance arrangements for the common and expressed concern over the delay in the process. The same resident raised several questions seeking clarification on the scope of the proposed survey by Caroline Hanks. Councillor Tucker referred to the Legal and Administrative Framework provided by the Garway Hill Commoners Association which will be the catalyst for the resumption of the Working Group meetings set up to consider governance arrangements. Councillor Tucker also confirmed that he has spoken to Caroline Hanks who advised that the survey of the Upper Common will be undertaken as soon as her work schedule allows. It was noted that the situation on the Lower Common has changed little since 2011 and the recommendations offered at that time remain valid now.

9. **Commons** – There was nothing further to add to the discussion that had taken place under Clerk Correspondence.

10. **Lengthsman** – The only substantive issue raised concerned the emptying of dog bins on a permanent basis. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk place an advert in the Parish magazine asking if anyone is interested adding that a small remuneration is available.

11. **Children's Playground** – The Chairman reported that no progress has been achieved in acquiring private donations. The Clerk reported that a grant application has been submitted to Prime Foundation for £2k but Bernard Sunley were unable to consider an application because the playground belongs to the Parish Council.

12. Demolition of Old Garway Primary School – This was discussed earlier in the meeting and there was nothing further to add.

13. Fun Day – The Clerk reported that the Parish Council insurers had confirmed that its policy can be used to cover the event provided private stall holders have their own public liability insurance and a risk assessment is produced. It was noted that a risk assessment was produced for a previous Fun Day, and this could be used for the event on the 28th August 2021.

14. Matters for the next scheduled meeting on Thursday 30th September 2021.

- Recruitment of a new Clerk

Meeting closed at 20.50 hrs.

SIGNED DATE