

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING held on 21 January 2009
at WALFORD VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT Vice-Chairman P Heath in the Chair, Cllrs. SM Cole, SW Cole, M Downey, E Drummond, H Evans, G Jones, M Thomas, B Vine, the Clerk, 9 members of the public.

CSO's Lisa Austin and James Cook, Speaker Alison Fletcher, Cllr F Myers (arrived later)

APOLOGIES Cllrs G Symonds, F Myers, L Freeman

SPEAKER Ms Alison Fletcher, Rural Development Officer of Age Concern Ross, explained the new Outreach Programme. She wanted to make contact with people over 50 who needed help in any form. There was already an exercise group held in Walford Village Hall every week. Age Concern could offer classes in various subjects such as cookery, Heart Start training or a footcare service, and a visiting scheme. She would be prepared to man a stall at any general fair held locally to give information out to a wider public. There would be an information day at Goodrich on 26 May. Cllr She would like to build a team of volunteers in the parish. Cllr Michael Downey offered to be the point of contact for the Parish Council. The clerk would pass on his contact numbers. Ms Fletcher was thanked for her talk.

CSO Lisa Austin and James Cook. Lisa emphasised the necessity of checking the credentials of any callers by a telephone call to their headquarters, before letting them into the house (they usually work in pairs). Also beware of tarmac traders: they are inclined to inflate the quoted charge after the tarmac is on the ground. There have been many thefts from outbuildings, especially quad –bikes: make them secure. The **new phone number for non-urgent police contact is 0300 333 3000** and is cheaper to ring than the former number.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jones declared an interest in Forest Green and left the room when this was discussed

MINUTES of October meeting

Cllr SW Cole objected to changes made in the item about Forest Green. These were noted and the Minutes signed.

MINUTES of November Meeting

Cllr Cole said that specific names were not now to be mentioned in the Minutes because of possible litigation. The method would be changed subject to advice after briefing from HALC had been received.

Cllr Evans asked that the news of the death of Mrs Hoddinott be recorded.

Cllr Jones read out a letter registering that he had been embarrassed and degraded by the behaviour of the Chairman at the November meeting, that he was making a complaint to the Standards Board and that he had no confidence in Cllr Myers as chairman of the parish council.

Proposal that the Minutes be accepted and signed (Downey, Thomas). Carried. There were three abstentions.

FINANCE for January see Appendix A

The Clerk presented the report for January. This included the statutory NALC rise in salary for the clerk and the amount of back-pay due from April 1st 2008. These were both proposed, seconded and carried. She also asked that a cheque be signed for the lengthsman's work from July to January. She had received an invoice for £1190 but it contained a discrepancy and she had returned it for correction. She did not wish to delay payment until the next meeting. This was agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE for January See Appendix B

1. Freedom of Information Model Publication Scheme

A resolution was proposed by Cllr Drummond, seconded by Cllr Myers, that the model scheme be adopted by Walford Parish Council. Carried.

It was agreed that the Clerk should circulate her suggestions for new items to be included and the method of publication within the parish and other suggestions could be added as requested.

2. It was asked that a letter be written to the Red Cross Village Warden Scheme about a misunderstanding of the report of a church scheme already existing in Walford. This had helped with seasonal agricultural workers and did not target the lonely and elderly within the parish. Walford should be re-considered as a parish suitable for a pilot scheme. Clerk to write.

Further Correspondence:

1. Local Authority Publicity Consultation. Clerk to reply

2. Rural Services Network. Clerk would apply for details
3. Police and Communities Together (PACT) would post details on our web-site.
4. Bio-Diversity Action leaflet
5. H C Quarterly Economic Review
6. Ross and District Directory for Local Community and Voluntary groups

PLANNING See Appendix C

New applications considered at meeting:

1209 Doctor's Place, Kiln Green. Extension of dwelling house, erection of detached garage with studio over, new driveway and turning area. WPC: There were no objections to this scheme. It was thought to be an improvement to the dwelling. It was asked that the historic limestone-block current access road be not damaged

1210 Walled Garden, Howle Hill. Conversion of outbuilding to self-contained accommodation annex and installation of ground heat pump (amended plans) WPC: No objections to scheme. Asked for condition of no future sale separately from main dwelling. Some concern that the design and materials were not in keeping with older buildings in the area.

1211 Next to Willerby, Coughton. Erection of single storey family dwelling & detached double garage. WPC : Same objections were raised as against the nine houses asked for at the site i.e. outside the Coughton boundary so would be a new dwelling in open countryside; underneath power cables; and site still liable to flood from Chase Hill storm water.

New HC Planning decisions:

1207 Coleraine Farm, Coughton. Accommodation site for seasonal workers. REFUSED

Cllr Evans asked that the Enforcement Officer check again the wooden building at Dunderhole Farm. She had seen it lit up at night. Clerk to inform EO

RIGHTS OF WAY

Cllr Downey reported that no work had been done on new/repaired signposts due to frozen ground.

LENGTHSMAN

No report but the invoice received had listed work on grips and bus shelters through the parish.

PARISH PLAN & OTHER PROJECTS

Cllr Jones asked why there had been no attempt yet by the Lead Team to refer the Parish Plan back to HC for their formal approval as promised. Cllr Heath explained that HC wanted the plan in another format although there was no need to change the content. Unfortunately, this was a time-consuming task. Cllr Myers took a note of the work that was actually needed.

Recreation Land Mrs Carpenter (Chairman of Committee) added to her report (included with the papers for the meeting) that she would apply to win an American TV competition for support of a recreation area. The application had to be completed by May.

Forest Green A letter from Mr Edmunds about its being already a green had sadly not been corroborated by referral to the Minutes of the time (1973). It was decided that the clerk should begin the application for the registration of the area as a green. She had received many letters detailing past usage of the land by the community. It was also asked that the path behind Bishopswood Village Hall be included so that it could not be developed in any way now that it has been well-surfaced to take walkers and residents away from the dangerous B4234 road. Agreed. There was one abstention.

Walford Cycle Link Cllr Heath reported that he was waiting to hear the name of the Hereford Council's RoW officer that had been appointed to lead the negotiations.

MEETINGS

Cllr F Myers apologised to the Council for the change of date of this meeting which had caused disquiet. On consultation with the Vice-Chairman, who had also been unavailable on 14th January, they had decided to change the date. This would have to be adopted as a Standing Order if it were needed again.

In-House Training Session with HALC.

It was agreed that the CEO of HALC be asked to take a session with members of the parish council. A Monday evening seemed to be the most suitable. Clerk to arrange

Cllr Cole had attended a Local Development Framework study day. The Clerk had not been informed of the date for this. She was asked to pursue the matter as the parish response to the consultation had been returned to Herefordshire Council in July 2008 as requested.

The Clerk asked that any councillor attending a training session or other meeting should write a summary of the most important points and send it to the clerk, so that it could be included with the papers for the following parish meeting to inform other councillors.

Cllr Cole was asked by the Chairman to submit a précis of the LDF Study Day

Section 106 Agreements

It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the councillors with the notes that had accompanied the Rose Farm planning application (1208). Councillors could then decide what they wanted to add/delete to accompany future application responses.

Cllr Jones said that in Gloucestershire Section 137 agreements were often requested with planning applications. He would like to know the difference. Clerk to ask Ward Councillor Jarvis.

PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

1. Mr Daniels said that there was a green at Cockshoot Wood, Bishopswood (or Old Quarry). This was confirmed by the clerk.

2. Mr Preece, who had left the meeting earlier as he felt unwell, had brought copies of a newspaper article recommending that the government should prevent new houses' being built near overhead power lines to protect children's health. (With reference to PI Application 1211)

3. Mrs Exton said that the path sign on Daycroft Lane had not yet been replaced. Cllr Downey said that the ground was frozen but the work would be done as soon as feasible.

The Clerk informed Mrs Exton that the TPO Black Poplar tree on Bulls Hill that she reported on some time ago had been visited at last by the HC arboriculturist. He had reported by telephone that the tree was showing signs of old age but not disease. It was not an immediate danger.

STATE OF ROADS

1. Cllr Jones asked that under the Freedom of Information Act we should obtain the cost of the road surfacing to the steep slope of U70417 (Bishopswood Church Hill). He complained that the steep slope of U70416 (Howle Hill, especially between Sharman Cottages and Woodside Cottage) had not been attended to, despite many requests. The excuse was always that there was not enough money in the budget. This road carried much heavier traffic and was used when the Bishopswood Hill road was inaccessible through river flooding. Cllr Vine added that the repaired drain at the cross-roads was still not working properly. Clerk to pursue.

2. Mrs Walshaw had reported to the Clerk that the edges of the road at Bulls Hill needed clearing of debris. She thought that the verges had been damaged by large vehicles turning into the building site at South View. Clerk to inform Cllr Freeman for the lengthsman's attention. Clerk to enquire.

ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA

1. Complaints in a letter from the Bishopswood area that they felt unrepresented at the Parish Council

2. Dog Control in Parish (deferred from January meeting)

3. Standing Orders to be reviewed (deferred from January meeting)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1. Wednesday 11 February 2009 at Walford Village Hall at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Chairman

Date

FINANCE REPORT for WPC meeting 11 February 2009

		Current Account	Deposit Account	Lengthsman Account No. 2	
BALANCE	at 02.02.09	1,043.89	19,897.04		1006.55
PAID IN since last meeting	A &L Bank interest Lengthsman (2 tranches- transferred to LM account)		13.97 9.33 (due to be paid in on 16 Feb)	1438.04	
PAID OUT since last meeting	Lengthsman (cheque signed at Jan mtg; invoice was to be queried)				1,130.00
PAYMENTS DUE at this meeting	<i>Clerk – expenses</i> BB connec (vat 1.50) Tel Postage Miles 19x 58.7p (Vat .30) Stationery Vat 17p Total 1. February salary (post-dated) 2. Back-dated pay increase of £7.30 per month for 9 months (Agreed at Jan meeting-cheque not made out)	11.50 <u>1.20</u> 12.70 2.42 11.15 <u>2.01</u> <u>28.28</u> 305.38 65.70			

1. Precept- formal notification of 1st payment 21 Apr £4000, 2nd payment, 15 Sept. £4000. No of Band D equivalent properties:652.19. Estimated Council Tax per Band D property: £12.27

CORRESPONDENCE for 11 February 2009 meeting from 21.01.09 to 02.02.09
(All letters will be brought to the meeting if you wish to have further details)

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

1. Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 **Dog Control Orders** . Consultation to be completed. Please see paper included with Jan papers. We also have to indicate which areas of land within the parish we wish to be considered.

2. **Parish Council Services Questionnaire: Will be completed at meeting for LDF**

Please consider the following key services/facilities and be prepared to name your five most important, ranking from 1 –most important – to 5:

Church/place of worship	Regular bus service to market town
Post office	Doctor/health centre
Convenience store (food)	Village hall/community centre
Library	Retail outlet (non-food)
Public house	Takeaway (hot food)
Primary school	Secondary school
Employment site	Service outlet (hairdresser/solicitor etc)
Cash point facility	Infant/nursery school
Open recreational area/play facilities	

Two further questions: a) Any new services/facilities needed in parish which would make parish/hamlets more sustainable b) Would P Council consider new devt within parish that could help to provide or sustain the services/facilities there?

3. Funding opportunities

4. BioDiversity Action News magazine

5. Adapting Your Home for Independent Living leaflet

6. Auktion 392. Nazi Spoiliated Art Exhibition Art Gallery Broad ST Hfd 17 Jan – 7 March

HALC (Herefordshire Association of Local Councils)

LOCAL

1. Letter of concerns from Bishopswood Village Hall Committee (Copy inc with papers)

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Age Concern Leaflet from Alison Fletcher (speaker at Jan mtg) on Housing Support Services, aiming to improve the quality of life in neighbourhoods and to increase access to care and support for vulnerable customers. Support referral form with Clerk. Also leaflets about the Rural Outreach Programme and business cards for contact
2. Full Council meeting at Shire Hall 10.30 am Thursday 6th February when sell-off by HC of their small – holdings will be discussed. Notice of Motion raised by Sarah Carr, Lib Dem candidate.

WPC PLANNING REPORT for 11 February 2009 meeting from 21.01.09 to 02.02.09

H C Consent

1208 Rose Farm, Kiln Green. Conversion and alterations to two period barns to create one dwelling.

Section 106 to be completed before devt. commences: To provide off-site highway works and improved public and sustainable transport infrastructure to serve the devt, waste recycling, public open space, refuse facilities and library facilities with the County in accordance with Policy DR5 of UDP 2007.

Many conditions set on materials, even down to the profile of the cast iron rain-water goods, and on soft and hard landscaping

HC Refusals

New Applications

1212 SE2009/0096/F The Brow, Bulls Hill (formerly Rose Cottage) : single storey extension to lounge

Notice received that Permission is not required as proposal would constitute permitted development

NOTE with Reference to Planning Application 1208 above

Section 106 Agreements Planning Obligations

"Where Parish Plans or Village Design Statements are adopted by the Council as further Planning Guidance, they can also be used to inform the Council's position regarding developer contributions associated with development proposals within the area. This would make contributions in line with the European Union Landscape Convention i.e. 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors' "

The "Council" here means Herefordshire Council.

Reports for 11th February 2009 Walford Parish Council Meeting

1. Walford Cycle Links

My input for Walford Links Project remains the same to date, i.e. we await the nomination of a RoW negotiator by HC. (P Heath)

2. Lengthsman

The works the lengthsman has completed since the last invoice is as follows:

- 1) Clean grips by CATS on Leys Hill
- 2) Clean grip by stile on Leys Hill
- 3) Clean signs in parish
- 4) Clean out grips on Sharman
- 5) Clean out grips on Lincoln Hill
- 6) Clean by bus shelters on Deep Dean and Walford (L Freeman)

3. Footpath report.

The sign posts are now being installed or replaced as necessary and the way marker post on Bulls Hill has been replaced. (M Downey)

