

WALFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING held on 14th October 2009
at BISHOPSWOOD VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT Cllr F Myers in the Chair, Cllrs SM Cole, SW Cole, M Downey, E Drummond, H Evans, P Heath, M Thomas, G Symonds, B Vine, A Whitlock, the Clerk, Ward Councillor J Jarvis, 5 members of the public.

APOLOGIES Cllrs D Allen, L Freeman

INTERESTS None declared

The chairman welcomed Mrs J Smailes, an applicant for the vacancy as clerk.

MINUTES of the 9th and 30th September meetings were approved and signed

The Chairman mentioned that further to the public meeting on 2nd September when the planning application for development at CATS, Leys Hill, (1229) had been considered, he had been informed that the application had been refused by the Southern Area Meeting. This refusal was understood to be on the grounds of a questionable mixture between activities for children and for adults but that the application was going on to be considered by the HC full planning committee of 19 members (23rd October). The Chairman said that he had looked at the CATS web-site and considered it appeared to be an advertisement for a night-club. Cllr Symonds mentioned other advertisements for hen/stag night parties with the concomitant music and noise and the obvious dangers of the road at its junction with B4234. Offering a point of information, Mr Duffield, a member of the public, said that he had information that the premises would be licensed from 9 am to 1 am.

Ward Cllr Jarvis said that the matter of the absence of licences to sell alcohol and for music and dancing was now being rectified but was a separate matter from the planning application. He had received c 25 letters from local residents stating their opinions and would welcome any fresh points of view. He would vote against the planning application principally on the grounds of its being a new separate building in an AONB.

It was decided that the Chairman should draft two separate letters to be sent to Hfd Council, one on the subject of licensing and the other on the planning application.

WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT Cllr Jarvis said that the Planning rules had been changed with the removal of the Area Planning Committees with a stronger role for parish councils. He added that the Ward Councillor responsible could give his/her opinion at local meetings. He urged that two Councillors should attend one of the sessions on 'Planning for the Future of Herefordshire' at Brockington on 19th October and 11th November that will be delivered by HC Planning Officers. Cllr Jarvis said that one of the most important documents to be produced recently was that on the **Future of Herefordshire Schools**. He asked that it be studied carefully and opinions returned. The plan included the concept of clusters of primary schools working together to produce a more cohesive and efficient system, which in our area would feed the John Kyrle High School in Ross. Schools with fewer than 39 pupils would be closed. With falling numbers there is less money available per pupil and it must be used efficiently. Walford School was in the West Cluster. He would be willing to address the Kerne Bridge Ward residents, perhaps hosted by Walford Parish Council at Bishopswood Village Hall as being the largest hall. Date and venue to be explored.

Ward Cllr Jarvis said that the plan for affordable housing in Coughton was to be applied for again with the matter of the overhead power lines being taken into consideration.

Cllr Heath asked Ward Cllr Jarvis about a matter raised with him at a Parish Council stall at a Volunteer Day in May concerning the probation service and Walford School. Ward Cllr Jarvis said that the matter was being officially addressed by a government department and no more information could be given.

FINANCE see **Appendix A** It was proposed by Cllr Drummond and seconded by Cllr Downey that the report be accepted together with the Chairman's recommendation that the current clerk be paid her full salary for the month of October.

Ward Cllr Jarvis said that there was a probability that the Lengthsman Scheme would have to be financed from the parish council precept. There had not yet been any official notice of this.

CORRESPONDENCE see Appendix B

Further Correspondence:

1. A reply had been received from the Green Colley Grove Residents Management Limited to say that the matter of a new permissive path connecting Whitings Lane to B4234 had been considered at a directors' meeting. It had been rejected on the grounds that it was not in the best interests of the residents.

2. **Forest of Dean Forum** on Wednesday 4th November in the Loft Beechenhurst Lodge 6.30 for coffee for 7.00pm start on the theme of 'Retaining our Heritage' :Presentations on interpreting the heritage to cyclists, supporting local mineral working, wood fuel, old landscapes and new technology and a film from a verderer on forest traditions. *Advice of attendance to clerk please.*

3. **Experimental Flashing Lights at Walford School.** Work to begin on 22nd October and lights were to be activated on 6th November (at school opening and closing times in term-time only). Map and text details had been posted on the notice-board outside the school.

4. HALC meetings to end of 2009

Monday 19th October 'Planning the Future for Herefordshire' Two identical evenings arranged
and by HALC and delivered by HC Planning Officers
Wednesday 11th November

Thursday 29th October 'Effective Financial Management, including budgeting and precepting'
Brockington 7-9pm Delivered by Peter Lacey from NALC
Buffet from 6.30

Tuesday 24th November 'An Evening with AMEY' New working arrangements between Parish &
Brockington 7-9pm Town Councils and AMEY
Refreshments

Wednesday 2nd December Working with Village Hall Committees (vat / interests/ trustees)
Brockington 7-9pm
Buffet from 6.30

Tuesday 8th December Understanding the Code of Conduct
Brockington 7-9pm HC monitoring officer, and PC members of Hfd Standards Committee
Buffet 6.30

Let clerk know for booking places

PLANNING see Appendix C

Further information:

1.(1220) The Cider Barn, Howle Hill. APPEAL ALLOWED for extension that had been refused by Hfd Council.

2. Cllr Cole had obtained a quotation for the repair of Bishopswood War Memorial from Mr G Green for £500.00. It was decided to obtain two further quotations.

PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

1. Mr Holland suggested that instead of receiving vague reports of work done to Rights of Way and Minor Roads that a schedule of needs be adopted and progress assessed. The Chairman said that all processes are to be reviewed.

2. Mr Daniels said that stone should be used to repair Bishopswood War Memorial and not concrete. Cllr Cole said that it was a part of an existing concrete slab. Should Cllr Freeman be asked to quote? He thanked the clerk for her past work for the Parish Council.

3. Mr Duffield asked that the gutters on the RHS of Leys Hill going down be cleared and repaired, especially down from Orchard House, where heavy machinery used on building work had damaged them. Storm water was not being drained away from the road now.

STATE OF ROADS

Ward Cllr Jarvis said he would mention this last matter to Mr Middlecote when he saw him the following day.

Before the meeting began, the clerk had received a complaint from a resident, as she left the previous meeting, about the fouling by dogs of the start of the Right of Way WA 6/8 from the B4234 opposite Fowbridge Gardens to Hom Green. She said that she cleaned the path every day, some days more than once. The clerk said she would report the matter for the dog warden's attention. Fouling by dogs in the parish was becoming an ever-increasing cause of complaint.

REPORTS see Appendix D

Further matters:

Bishopswood War Memorial

Further to a request for the repair of Bishopswood War Memorial, Cllr SW Cole had obtained a quotation from the Lengthsman for the figure of £500.00. It was decided to obtain two further quotations. There also a request for a safety rail to prevent people missing their step and possibly falling back onto the road when reading inscriptions.

Red Cross Village Warden Scheme

The clerk had forwarded the need for applicants to various organisations in the parish such as both village halls, Bishopswood WI, and Walford Church. Several people had expressed interest or promised to ask somebody who they thought would enjoy the job. The clerk had then contacted Dee White of the Red Cross to say that it was probably worth re-advertising the vacancy in the Ross Gazette.

Cllr Bridget Vine said that she had also spoken to Dee White about the matter at the HALC conference on the 10th October, Administrative Assistant The Chairman introduced Mr Robert Bettington to the meeting. Mr Bettington had been interviewed for the position of clerk and was being considered for the post of administrative assistant . He had been invited to the meeting in order to hear the presentation about to be made by Mrs J Smailes.

Presentation by Mrs J Smailes

The Chairman then asked Mrs Jayne Smailes to give her presentation to the Parish Council on her application for the post of clerk to Walford PC . She spoke about her qualifications and her experience and about the length of time it would take and the expense of becoming a Quality Council. She distributed copies of various sheets of figures and explanations. She had calculated that she would work between 15 and 20 hours per week as clerk and her assistant would work 10 hours. The Chairman thanked her for her presentation.

Closed Session

At this point the meeting was declared 'closed' under the provision of the Public (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) as the business to be discussed was considered to be of a confidential nature and relates directly to staff conditions and salaries

Chairman _____ Date _____ Deleted: ¶