

COLWALL PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th July 2016
At 7.30 pm in Colwall Village Hall**

PRESENT

Parish Councillors

Nicky Carless (in the Chair), Jim Beard, Paul Butler, Ian Cooper, Edith Haynes, Phil Kendrick, Gwyneth Rees, John Stock, Diane Taylor.

In attendance

Lynda Wilcox (HALC) ... Acting Clerk.

Ward Councillor ... Tony Johnson.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the clerk was on sick leave and it was unanimously approved to access HALC clerk cover service for the meeting. It was further noted that previous clerk, Charlie Walker, was happy to cover telephone calls and emails on a temporary basis, during the clerk's absence.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from:

1.1 Wendy Cottam.

1.2 Matthew Fraser.

1.3 Rick James.

1.4 Roland Trafford-Roberts.

It was noted that Mark Hughes had not attended a meeting of the parish council nor represented the council at an outside body for a period of six months and he had therefore disqualified himself from serving as a parish councillor. The clerk would notify him accordingly and Herefordshire Council Elections Officer would be informed that there was a vacancy.

OPEN SESSION

Ward Councillor Tony Johnson reported:

- a) Herefordshire Council (HC) had applied to become a non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- b) HC was likely to take up the offer to sign up to a Government funding plan which would enable it to receive a fixed sum of £40m over the next 10-15 years, rather than a variable rate.
- c) HC was working with Worcestershire on NHS issues.
- d) Although the Revenue Support Grant had been decreasing and would be zero by 2020, principal authorities were likely to be able to get 100% of the local business rate instead of the current 40%.
- e) With a budget of £140-150m, HC had reduced costs by £59m so far and another £28m reduction would be required by 2020.
- f) HC would be consulting parish councils on the HC budget at a meeting the following evening in the Shire Hall, Hereford, at 6.30pm.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ... 29th June 2016.

3.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. PROGRESS REPORT

- 4.1 Library Group ... Councillor Kendrick spoke to a tabled report from the Library Group (appendix a) which was noted with thanks. A comment was made about the absence of opening times on the door.
- 4.2 A draft specification for discussion with HC would be considered at the October meeting.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 5.1 Colwall Parish Council considered the Income and Expenditure for July 2016, as per the list circulated at the meeting. IT WAS RESOLVED that the payments be made, subject to the Chairman clarifying the time period for the pension payment with the clerk.
- 5.2 The following appointments were made to the Finance and General Purposes Committee:
 - a) Jim Beard, Paul Butler, Edith Haynes, Phil Kendrick, Gwyneth Rees, John Stock.
 - b) Gwyneth Rees was elected as Chairman and John Stock as Vice Chairman.
 - c) It was noted that the Chairman's first task was to become conversant with pension arrangements.

6. PROTOCOL FOR INTRODUCTIONS AT PARISH MEETINGS

- 6.1 The Chairman showed the meeting a 'welcome sheet' from HALC for parishioners attending parish council meetings. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would circulate the HALC document to all members and Ian Cooper would tweak it to suit Colwall Parish Council's requirements.

7. BUS SERVICES IN HEREFORDSHIRE

- 7.1 The Chairman outlined a consultation by Herefordshire Council in which it appeared that main route services such as the 675 would not be adversely affected.
- 7.2 It was noted that a bus subsidy reduction of almost £1m was anticipated and parish councils were being encouraged to support services where necessary.
- 7.3 It was RESOLVED that Charlie Walker and Roland Trafford-Roberts would liaise with other local parish councils.

8. CORRESPONDENCE FOR PROCESSING

- 8.1 A resident of Crescent Road had requested works be undertaken to a cherry tree which was damaging her guttering. It was RESOLVED that a letter would be written to the local resident, informing her that any works would be undertaken in the autumn. Cllr Beard would visit the site.
- 8.2 Parish Councils were invited to attend a Balfour Beatty meeting on 4th August at 6.00 pm at Rotherwas, to receive information on proposed new traffic regulation procedures.
- 8.3 Traveller site consultation document ... Cllr Kendrick would study the document.
- 8.4 Members noted the email newsletter from the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward and asked that the clerk forward it to all councillors in future.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- 9.1 The AONB newsletter would be sent out electronically by the clerk.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- 10.1 A report from the Village Amenities Committee meeting held on 6th July 2016, included:
 - a) The Committee is awaiting a report on investigations into the seat at Old Church Road.
 - b) A quote for replacement timber (kiln dried oak) had been obtained in the sum of £415.00, which excludes the cost of repairs to the metal work and time for the restoration thereof.
 - c) The clerk would undertake further investigation into the origins of the seat and how it originally looked (including the commemorative plaque).

d) Committee members would view the existing seat and decide if they feel it should be repaired (subject to a quotation) or a new seat installed to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's 90th Birthday. The clerk (in accordance with c) had reported that metal work and restoration would be about £700 and a metal plaque about £100. The seat repairer used by the parish council on previous occasions had retired and the Conservators were unable to recommend anyone. In the light of 10.1 and 10.2 above, members discussed what action should be taken and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Rees would obtain quotes for wood and metal circular seats with a view to replacing the current seat. The matter would be discussed by the next Amenities Committee and quotes would be available for the parish council meeting in October.

11. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- 11.1 Malvern Hills Conservators ... Cllr Rees reported that she was working on a 'Little Switzerland' feature on the Malvern Hills Conservators' website. The public were being consulted on works at 'Thirds Wood', where some dangerous trees (i.e. overhanging the road) were being taken out but would be replaced.
- 11.2 The W.I. had been re-established in the village and now had 75 members.
- 11.3 The recent 'Treasure Map' event had been very successful.
- 11.4 HALC Eastern Area Meeting (EAM) had been attended by Cllr Carless. The HALC Chief Executive had given an update on current topics for parish councils. The next meeting was scheduled for 31st October.

SIGNED DATE