

A meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in the Old School Hall Dorstone on **Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 7-30 pm.**

Present: Councillor P Rye, (Chairman), Councillor S Gaze, Councillor M Hession, Councillor D James & Mr C Hendy Parish Clerk.

Apologies: Councillor P Smith, Councillor E Lane.

Declaration of interest: none

Councillors were available for the public to discuss any matter not on the agenda.

**Minutes** The minutes of meeting September 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> which had been circulated were confirmed & signed.

Whilst the meeting was called to discuss a planning application, a full agenda was listed to allow time on November 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Casual Vacancy.

**Planning** A Planning Application for a portal framed building to cover sheep handling unit at FayreWays had been received & passed to Councillor Rye. A design & access statement indicated the building is to cover an existing unit for the housing & handling of sheep, no changes to existing access, existing screen planting at the south to be retained. Councillors discussed the application, Councillor Gaze proposed the Council support the application, seconded by Councillor James & carried unanimously.

**Long House**, permission granted for agricultural building within a working farm, started within three years, carried out in accordance with the amended plan of Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 2009.

**Fallow Wood**, The garage erected at the side of the holiday chalet is permitted development as the inspector did not remove permitted developments rights in his appeal decision 29<sup>th</sup> October 2002.

**Works on trees** information received from Herefordshire Council reported that due to IT software difficulties notifications of works on trees in conservation area will not be forwarded to the Parish Councils

**Lengthsmen Scheme** Managing the scheme has transferred to Amey. An account for £110.68 had been received, work carried out included mowing & removing/straightening/replacing road sign, Councillor James proposed a cheque for £110.68 was drawn, seconded by Councillor gaze & carried unanimously.

**Herefordshire Council Highways** Clarification on cutting on inside as well as outside visibility fences (railings) had been received, it is policy to cut both inside & outside, the width of cut depends on the curvature, the criteria is to be able to see across the bend. With difficulty contacting Amey a dedicated phone number has

been provided, a meeting to be held shortly will provide information on the new contract including a dedicated email address for clerks.

Reported a ditch at Scar Lane was blocked, partially covered over, Amey excavators working downstream of the bridge by Bridge Cottage. Clerk to report/obtain information.

**Dog Control Orders** Information received stated to make the playing field a dog ban area would be very difficult. The area would have to be fully enclosed, difficult to support being a dog ban area due to the size & the need to ban dogs from a large area. The legislation requires it to be shown that there is an existing problem with dogs, need for people especially children to have access to a dog free area, this needs to be balanced against the need for dog owners to have access to areas where their dogs can be exercised without undue restriction. With a footpath running through the centre of the field it would be impossible to ban dogs, except for the footpath, unless fences & gates were erected each side of the footpath.

If the problem is fouling, there is a county wide order covered by control order A, inappropriate dog behaviour would be covered by control order C.

Information from the Playing Field suggested Control order A should definitely apply to the entire Playing Field area, Control order B is very appropriate for the playing field; it allows dogs to use the footpath with owners, but not to roam freely and soil the playing field, Control order C is unworkable; how often would an 'authorised officer' be present at the playing field to issue such an order when required?

Control order D is inappropriate for the playing field due to the footpath, but essential for the bowls area and play area.

With Control order C a community protection team is available if required to attend & have powers to deal with offenders. Control order B (keeping a dog on a lead) would not apply to the footpath, The Councillors discussed the information, suggested the playing field order should include dog control A, "failing to remove dog faeces" & dog control C "not putting & keeping a dog on a lead when directed by an authorised person", the Children's Play Area & Bowls Green would be dog Control D "dog exclusion orders" as these have areas that have perimeter fencing & signs would be installed advising the public. The full information received would be forwarded to the Playing Field for consideration together with the council's suggestion.

**HALC** Information received on training courses, accounts for the year ending 2009 were available to councillors.

**Audit** The audit had been returned, minor items noted, the account for £138 received, Councillor Gaze proposed a cheque for £138 was drawn, seconded by Councillor James & carried unanimously.

**Cycle Track** Councillor Hession reported on the recent meeting she had with Fran Spreckley. There was support for a cycle track which could link to a Golden Valley track, if the parish council were in favour a feasibility study would be carried out.

After discussion Councillor Hession proposed the council were in principle in favour of a cycle track and requested a feasibility study was carried out, seconded by Councillor Gaze and carried unanimously.

**Street Light** Information from Herefordshire Council indicated a 35w sox lamp, as fitted to the Dorstone street light in 2006, running for 4200 hours at 1000 watts would cost £27.72. Based on 277.2 KW @ 0.10 p energy

The clerk had sought information from the hall committee re their electricity charges, day rate 9.1p, night rate 5.95p, standing charge 29p all plus vat, and clarified that there were separate meters, standing charge was for electricity used on the premise. Councillors discussed the figures, Councillor Gaze agreed to calculate the running costs of the street light using these figures.

Councillor Gaze reported the cells would be fitted at Dore View shortly

**Precept** This will be discussed at the December meeting for the year 2010/2011.

**Stream Cleaning** The work carried out by Peterchurch Firemen on Brooklands Bridge had been very successful, Councillor Rye proposed a donation was given to the Firemen Benevolent fund of £50, seconded by Councillor Smith & carried unanimously, the clerk to include a letter of thanks. Councillor Smith reported that Mr C Miles would not be sending an invoice for removing the stone. Council requested Councillor Smith thank Mr Miles for his assistance.

**Accounts re Daffodil Bulb Purchase** An invoice had been received for the 2 nets of bulbs ordered, DFR had paid for one net of bulbs, Councillor Smith proposed a cheque for £15 was drawn to pay for the second net, seconded by Councillor Hession & carried unanimously. The clerk was still awaiting guidance from highways on planting.

**Police News Letter** A tyre compressor stolen from a Dorstone Farm, thefts in the Golden Valley, speeding offences, Not in My Neighbourhood week meeting at Peterchurch Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Casual Vacancy** Councillor Rye reported she had received one application so far, closing date Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, it was agreed to invite applicant(s) at 7-45 pm next Wednesday for a short interview prior to discussion by the council.

**Dore View Salt Bin** Councillor Rye had received a letter from Mr & Mrs Fry, Dore View. "A yellow grit bin had been reinstalled opposite our house, it is an eyesore adjacent to conservation area, has no utility there, no need for winter treatment of the crossroads other than that provided by normal gritting measures, request the council take steps to have it placed in a location where it is less detrimental to the environment & might be more useful". Clerk was requested to raise with Amey & included on December agenda.

No further business, the chairman thanked those who had attended & closed the meeting.

Signed ..... Councillor P Rye

December 9<sup>th</sup> 2009

A meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in the Old School Hall Dorstone on **Wednesday November 11th 2009 at 7-30 pm.**

Present: Councillor P Rye (Chairman), Councillor S Gaze,, Councillor M Hession, Councillor P Smith, Councillor E Lane, Councillor C Thomas (after co-option) & Mr C Hendy Parish Clerk.

Apologies: Councillor D James

Declaration of interest: none

Councillors were available for the public to discuss any matter not on the agenda.

**Minutes** Agreed to defer minutes of November 4th meeting to next scheduled meeting.

**Casual Vacancy** Councillor Rye informed Councillors that one application had been received from Mr C Thomas, she had invited Mr Thomas to attend at 7-45pm. In his application, Mr Thomas indicated, having led the work on the parish plan, he would like the opportunity of helping follow through on the various action plans outlined in the plan and hopefully turn proposals into reality. Councillors discussed the application, Councillor Rye proposed Mr C Thomas was co-opted onto the council, seconded by Councillor Smith & carried unanimously. Mr Thomas was invited into the meeting, informed that the council had considered his application & unanimously co-opted him onto the council, he thanked the councillors & agreed to fill the casual vacancy, the declaration of office was signed, forms & code of conduct booklet issued.

**Water Testing** Quotation received for water testing, cost £25 per collection, bottle delivery £10, all plus VAT. The analysis was not clear, the parish council required the water to be tested to ensure it was safe as there discharges into the stream from bio-disc sewerage plants. Councillors requested clarification on the analysis & agreed the clerk should obtain a quotation from Herefordshire Council.

**Education Consultation Document** This had been circulated, councillors considered the document was incoherent in parts, difficult to make a considered response, clearer proposals needed with a table showing how each school would be affected may be beneficial. Councillor Gaze reported the document had been debated by school governors. The clerk to forward the Councillors views to Herefordshire Council.

**Ward Councillor Report** The report covered the school task force, the new cattle market has gone through all the procedures with building hopefully starting next year, this will release the current site as a "retail quarter". Regional spatial strategy with a recommendation for 18.000 new homes to be built by 2026, 8000 will be built in Hereford with the relevant proportion being affordable homes, these homes can

from a 106 agreement. The current river crossing carries 30,000 vehicle movements a day. Golden Valley sustainable living, Edgar Street Grid Project, it is important that opinions are heard from all residents of Herefordshire, discussed at the main council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Parish Plan, Turbines, Low Cost Housing, Traffic Blackspots** Councillor Thomas outlined the feedback on the Parish Plan, in the transport section suggestion that the number of times the 7 worst locations were mentioned was included.

Query on questionnaire results regarding wind turbines, question asked was views on 1-2 community wind turbines, response evenly matched, 36% in favour, 40% against, 24% no opinion. Suggestion that a sentence was added in the highlights of the responses stating what the response was to this specific question.

Conclusions on future housing needs, proposed action "to carry out further communications to check whether there is a demand for more detailed housing questionnaires". Suggestion changed from low to medium priority.

Councillors discussed these suggestions & agreed the parish plan should be amended. Councillor Thomas agreed to update the plan & forward where necessary.

**Herefordshire Council. Parish Freighter** The Parish Council have traditionally been charged a nominal sum of £38.78 for this service, this does not reflect the actual cost of £380 of each parish pick up to Herefordshire Council for this service. The Council is providing a very heavily subsidised service. In light of the current economic climate, the pressure on Council budgets and the fact that this service simply does not support the Waste Strategy it has been decided that from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 the Council will withdraw the subsidy to this service. Whilst many Parish Councils will, be upset that the subsidy is being withdrawn the commitment to providing better services to rural parishes is demonstrated by the introduction of a new recycling service in every parish in the County for the first time.

Rather than abandon the service completely it has been decided that from July next year Parishes that wish to continue with the service can, on the basis of full cost recovery, continue with the service. This means that the charge to Parishes will be £380. The Council will continue to operate its "Bulky Waste Collection" Service at a cost of £15 for up to three items and our contractors now have permission to establish a Household Waste Site in the Kington in 2010. Councillors were sorry to see the withdrawal of the subsidised service, attempts would be made to obtain the service before 1<sup>st</sup> April 10.

The clerk requested to check when the speed monitoring survey is taking place.

**Environment Agency** The existing boundaries are being changed from catchment based to ones aligned with administrative boundaries.

**Bonfires** Information from Herefordshire Council, regarding a query raised, advises having a bonfire in the garden can cause disturbance to neighbours, from the smoke, smell and smuts. The Environmental Health Service can investigate complaints

regarding bonfires. It is an offence to cause dark or black smoke from any trade or industrial premises (unless previously authorised by the authority).

**HALC** For the benefit of Councillor Thomas information on forthcoming HALC training courses was given.

No further business, chairman thanked those who had attended & closed the meeting.

Signed ..... Councillor P Rye      December 9th 2009