

A meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in the Old School Hall Dorstone on **Wednesday April 8th 2009** at 7-30 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillor D James, Councillor N Davies.

Councillors were available from 7-15pm to facilitate any members of the public who wanted to discuss any matters not on the agenda.

Declaration of interest: None

Minutes. The minutes of March 11th & 26th 2009 which had been circulated, were confirmed by councillors & signed by the Chairman.

Planning Decisions:

Hill Hole, DCSW2009/0154/F, commence within three years, in accordance with plans 18/02/09, samples of materials to be used externally on walls & roofs to be submitted & approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Crossway House DCSW2009/0078F, commence within three year, approved as per drawing 5/2/09.

Reported work had been undertaken close to the road above Fallow Wood, also at site on Dorstone Hill. Clerk to add to monthly Highway report, concern regarding adjacent ditch. Information concerning possible work undertaken, at Upper Wood, to be discussed at the next meeting.

HALC, Newsletter, Councillors discussed training availability, Power of Wellbeing & other in house training. Clerk to obtain further information. Community Sustainable Energy Programme, 75% funding from lottery available for feasibility studies, hall & church may benefit, reported Hall already aware.

Lengthsmen Scheme, no invoices received. Reported land slippage into ditch at Ponty-Weston, to be added to work to be undertaken.

Highways

Councillor Rye reported that 3 Salt-Sand Bins need replacement & she has raised this with Herefordshire Council. Concern reported on Condition of Pitt Road, to be added to monthly report.

Village Hall, Information received on an increase in hire charges from 1st May, this would double existing charges, there was a 10% discount for 6 or more bookings, the small room would be free for upto 1 hour. There has been no increase in charges since 2006, the running costs have increased during this time. Councillors discussed the increase in charges, they were concerned over the rise in cost for small events, agreed to suggest an annual review was more appropriate, clarification also on the discount period was requested.

Outside Toilet facilities, Hall committee were concerned on the cost of maintaining the outside toilets, an estimate based on one hour cleaning a week equated to £301.60 per year. Assistance from the Parish Council was sought. Councillors discussed the request, from their own knowledge of the toilet facilities, one male & one female, an hour a week seemed excessive, very low usage, after discussion Councillor Smith proposed a contribution of £69.60, (£5.80 x 12, average of 1 hour a month), for continued availability, seconded by Councillor Gaze & carried unanimously.

Street Light, Following the request to review the amount paid toward the cost. Councillors reviewed the payment made. The cost was based on 4.2 units per day, 1 unit per night, daily charge & vat total of £86.65. Councillor Gaze had discussed the costs during a recent inspection, queries discussed if the units recorded had included the charging of the emergency lights, also the size of the light. It was estimated the cost for units used would be £25, Councillor Hession proposed a cheque for £15 was made, the difference between the payment made & revised estimate, seconded by Councillor Rye & carried unanimously. The clerk reminded councillors of capital set aside to replace the light, if brought upto Herefordshire Council standard, running costs & insurance would be saved. Councillors discussed replacement & requested the clerk obtain information on replacement costs.

Police Newsletter was discussed, reported four tractor tyres damaged on a Dorstone Farm.

CSO Kate Middleton was in attendance & answered questions raised, noisy speeding cars on the B4348 would be targeted, the police were always willing to attend an organised meeting of parishioners to discuss policing matters.

Sustainable Communities, this new law allows parishioners power to tell the government how communities can be prevented from declining. Implementation will be submitting ideas & proposals that must reach two criteria, it must promote sustainable communities as defined in the Act & only something central government can do. Information regarding the Act had been given in Herefordshire Matters. Councillors discussed the Act, whilst not identifying an idea/proposal currently, it may have been used to re-assess the need to close the post office, they had previously supported one idea listed several times, to encourage the establishment of a new rail station at Pontrilas.

Quality Council, Since the start of the year councillors had been available prior to meeting for parishioners to raise any item not on the agenda. Whilst initially parishioners had attended, lately none had attended. Both Councillor Gaze & Councillor Hession proposed the meeting should be timed to start at 7-30pm, if there were no attendees the meeting could commence, if there were attendees the start could be delayed. After discussion the proposal supported.

Website Councillor Gaze had previously discussed the cost of developing the web site with Mr Usher, no payment had been sought for the cost involved. Councillor Gaze highlighted the cost involved developing web sites, which could have been expensive for the parish. Councillors discussed the costs, grateful for the work undertaken. Councillor Gaze proposed £100 was paid to Mr Usher towards his costs in developing the web site, seconded by Councillor Smith & carried unanimously. Mr Usher had updated the web site, Councillors would evaluate.

Refuse Service At the recent PACT meeting, the introduction of wheeled bins was discussed. Parishioners who had difficulty either manoeuvring the bins, or their premise was unsuitable, was highlighted. Herefordshire Council needed to be informed. The clerk had managed to obtain two wheeled bins, for parishioners to compare, Dorstone Front Room had kindly agreed to display together with relevant information.

Parish Plan, Mr Thomas apologised for non attendance, he had sent a report which was read. Mr Platts Secretary/Treasurer is resigning in order to take a new post with the appeal fund for new cancer facilities at Herefordshire Hospital, his work has been a major factor in progress achieved. Only 14 out of 49 Parish Plans formally adopted, Planning Group met with Forward Planning & Conservation officers with interesting changes to planning guidelines, in respect of the conservation area, discussed. Potential recommendations in respect of Planning & Conservation issues

are not far away from Local Development Plan. Facilities Group have met, two major issues are the co-ordination of future development of facilities, future lease arrangements of the village hall. Traffic & Transport Group also Environmental Group to meet shortly, Youth group had a very good start with Youth Club going from strength to strength. There is some slippage in timetable with final plan not available until September.

Information:

Festival Housing, information available to councillors.

Dogs Trust, a charity which offers a free service that looks after a dog indefinitely in the event of the owner's death. Leaflet to be displayed

Robert Owen Procurement Services Ltd, A not for profit enterprise which supplies stationary products.

Volunteers of the Year Award 2009. Biennial award, open to those who give their time freely together with energy skills talents & experience to improve the lives of local people. Nominations Close April 21st

Community First Planning Champions, required people who have been involved with community Plan & could help those just beginning. To report at next Parish Plan meeting.

Parish Meeting Agreed to hold on May 20th at 7-30pm, theme "meet the neighbour", Clerk to follow up invitations for speakers on adapting your home & top ten items that may need complying with in the conservation area.

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

Signed:

Councillor S Gaze

May 13th 2009