

A meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in the Old School Hall Dorstone on **Wednesday March 10th 2010 at 7-30 pm.**

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

Apologies: Councillor D James, Councillor E Lane, Councillor P Smith.

Also present Councillor P Price, Ward Councillor, PC C Griffiths.

Declaration of interest: none

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

Minutes The minutes of meeting February 10th & February 24th 2010, which had been circulated, were confirmed & signed.

Report from Ward Councillor: Council tax will rise by 2.54%. An additional £1.2 m allocated to Adult social care (Free intensive home care package comes into being in October 2010). £1 m extra to Children's services for care aspects, 10% increase in Highway maintenance to just over £18 million pounds. **Roads.** Because of the demand for repairs many are done as a temporary repair if this was not done and all potholes waited for a more permanent repair, the standard of the roads in some places would markedly deteriorate waiting for maintenance. Lack of ditch and drain maintenance leads to many of the issues. It would be great if locally we could have lengthsman or others that could clearly give reasons to Amey why certain things are or aren't working. **Schools** the birth rate in Herefordshire has levelled out recently, a falling number of children are still working their way through the system and will do at least for the next several years. It is inevitable that changes will take place especially if any Public Spending cuts impact on Education and young people. **Young Farmers** Congratulations to Golden Valley young farmers for winning the County Drama competition. **Dorstone Front room** has opened its doors to the Council to come and explain its services and how they could be delivered to outlying areas in different ways. **Planning** The senior Planning officers are very much aware of how rural people of the Golden Valley feel about supporting rural young people and starting and supporting start up businesses and entrepreneurial businessmen to establish business in our area. **Livestock Market** The Market will be built this year and should be ready by late spring 2011. The overall plan for the old market site and the larger area of the Edgar Street Grid plan is still being consulted on and the latest thoughts are producing the blue print for a single city centre and how Newmarket Street will become a shared space and integrate the areas effectively. Pedestrianisation of Widemarsh Street is underway and should be completed in time for Christmas retail period later this year. Councillor Price answered questions on the report.

Report from Local Police Pc Griffiths gave an update on changes to the policing team in the area. Crime reported was theft of a chain saw in Dorstone. Just commenced is a national campaign to promote the risks posed by distraction burglars. Current police priorities in the Golden Valley include excess speed on B4348 at Peterchurch.

Planning: Decisions; Coach House, Planning permission refused. Proposed extension would detract from the character and appearance of this former farm building and therefore will not retain the character and appearance of the original conversion scheme as required by policies. The proposed extension to this prominent solitary stone building would neither preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Dorstone Conservation Area.

Brickleys information received the application is withdrawn. Copy of letter sent to Herefordshire Council by Mr & Mrs Meredith: "objections to application as sewage disposal outlet has been situated on our property, due to proximity of engineering site concerns over the storage of fuels, lubricants & waste products that will be produced by an increase in business which is suggested by the need for accommodation for apprentices, inappropriate application is based on business appraisal which is five years old"

Top Wood letter from Planning Enforcement Officer, on a site visit in addition to static caravan sited on the land for many years also touring caravan stationed there. No evidence to suggest permanent residential occupation of the site. Owner of the site written to, replied touring caravan is there because static van in poor condition, intention to remove static caravan & build wooden shed to provide a clean dry space in association with woodland management. He was advised planning permission required, this has not been sought, attempting to contact owner again.

Clerk has sent information again regarding the portal frame barn at the top of Dorstone Hill where recent access improvements have been made.

Signage at Bell Corner, Bridge Cottage. The clerk had received information from Herefordshire Council that they are investigating a complaint regarding signage at Bell Corner & Bridge Cottage. The siting of the structure holding the signage for Pandy Inn & DFR at Bell Corner is being discussed with officers in Herefordshire Council. When resolved the signs will require advertising consent.

Copies of letters, regarding display of advertising signs at Bell Corner, between Herefordshire Council & Hall Committee had been received. This indicated if the signs met certain conditions with regard to type of event, size of sign & lettering, period of time displayed, the signs could fall within deemed advertising consent, the Hall Committee confirmed the signs met these requirements. Request from the Hall Committee, open meeting was called to put a stop to the constant, unjustified,

complaints on signage. After discussion agreed to call an open meeting on March 31st & invite Herefordshire Council Planning & Enforcement Officers, Amey Hereford.

Winter Weather , Councillors discussed the impact of the severe winter weather on the community & response for Herefordshire Council Scrutiny Committee. **What Went Well**: Good response to the weather conditions, Salt Bins filled when requested & at other times, weather reports accurate, use of tractors to clear local roads. **What did not go well**: Bus route through village centre not included in gritting run, communication regarding school closures/liasing with school transport providers, advising parents. **Action Parish Council took**: lengthsman used to spread salt, parishioners spread salt from bins at strategic locations. **What Improvements you think could be made**, Communication regarding school closures, if parents submitted email address to school, message could be transmitted on closures either centrally or local school. Include bus route through Dorstone on Gritting Route. Use local farmers/contractors to clear local roads, make Parish Council aware of the contractors

Bus Shelter/relocation of Bus Stop The information from the February meeting was discussed, possibility of the school bus continuing to stop at the village green, service bus stop moved adjacent DFR facilities, if shelter provided consider asking shop association if this could be erected on car park, not suitable to have shelter on green or practical alongside village hall.

Village Hall Energy Challenge Reported the Village Hall Committee have registered for the challenge.

Shaping Our Place 2026 Councillors have individually replied to the questionnaire. HALC has suggested Parish Councils should respond on relevant sections for their parish. Councillors discussed the Rural Areas & in particular Dorstone, which is defined as a Local Centre and made the following comments:
Need for local affordable homes suitable for all age groups, Mains sewerage would be required for new developments, Suitable IT needs to be available within the area. Employment opportunities need to be established.
Dorstone does not have a shop, only mobile post office twice weekly, no primary school, and no employment site.

Speed Survey Clerk had requested update, no reply received

Parish Plan Councillor Thomas reported feedback received three & half months after submission, that Planning Supplementary Guidance had not been produced. Councillor Thomas was unhappy with this length of time, he was working on a draft guidance for the forthcoming joint parish plan steering group/parish council meeting. After discussion agreed the joint meeting would be on 19th April at 7-30pm & chaired by Councillor Rye with the intention of updating the plan produced

Lengthsmen Scheme invoice received for £219.72, work carried out included drainage work, clearing silt, erecting footpath sign, clearing fallen tree Councillor Gaze proposed a cheque was drawn for £219.72 seconded by Councillor Thomas & carried unanimously. The clerk would request tenders for 2010/11 for the scheme

HALC, availability of courses, increase in pay submitted not affordable, New Standing orders now available.

Correspondence Revised register of electors, register had to be re-published due to errors on database, clerk had noticed error on new register & informed the manager. Herefordshire council were offering playground inspection to be carried out by ROSP, information passed to playing field secretary. Community Broadband conference on 18th March. Latest edition of Herefordshire Funding Directory available to councillors.

Emergency Co-ordinator Meeting Information received proposed that parish councils nominate an “emergency coordinator” for the area. The role could include Pre-Emergency, During an Emergency, During recovery phase. Information evening was being held on March 22nd. After discussion Councillor Thomas agreed to attend.

Date of next scheduled meeting April 14th 2010. Agreed to hold a meeting on March 31st to deal with end of year accounts & the open meeting on signage

The chairman thanked those who had attended & closed the meeting.

Signed..... Councillor P Rye

April 14th 2010

A meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in the Old School Hall Dorstone on **Wednesday March 31st 2010 at 7-30 pm.**

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

Apologies: Councillor D James, Councillor P Price Ward Councillor

Declaration of interest: Councillor P Rye, account Honorary Surveyor

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

Minutes Councillors agreed to adjourn the minutes of meeting March 10th 2010 until the next scheduled meeting.

Advertisement signage

The meeting was opened to discuss the guidelines regarding the display of advertisement signage, issued by Herefordshire Council, and how this applies to signage displayed by local organisations in Dorstone.

Also present Mr J Neil, Amey Herefordshire & 6 parishioners.

Apologies received from Mrs A Tyler & Ms L Hughes Herefordshire Council, Mr D Fry.

The Clerk outlined recent events, when the salt bin at Bell Corner was removed two signs, advertising events at the Village Hall, were also removed, understood to be at the request of a parishioner. Letters were exchanged between the Hall Committee & Herefordshire Council. The signs had been manufactured to, and displayed within the guidelines issued.

Letter received, from Herefordshire Council, outlined deemed consent under schedule 3 Class 3D of the regulations, sign size is not to exceed 0.6 square metre in area, signs can be displayed no more than 28 days before the first day of the event, removed within 14 days after the event, height of characters & symbols & also height the advertisement can be displayed is specified. Owner's permission to be obtained, not to endanger any persons using the highway....., maintained not to impair the visual amenity of the site, maintained in condition not to endanger public. Outdoor Advertisement Consent, this enables local planning authorities to control advertisements when it is justified in the interests of amenity & public safety. Local Policy DR1 & DR4 & Policy HBA11 information read out.

Herefordshire Council, not Amey, will assess signs where they are placed within the highway boundary. The primary concern if they are within the highway, is whether the signs are located so that it would obstruct visibility from side road junctions &

accesses & forward visibility through bends: causes a visual distraction that divert drivers attention away from the road ahead, construction of the signs because they may be dangerous & potentially lethal object for vehicles to hit should they leave the carriageway. A recommendation is given to the Planning section for a decision regarding public safety. If the sign is away from the highway boundary then the decision will be given by the planning section in terms of amenity.

To retain the DFR signs would cost £95 for an application for each sign, if permission given would be valid for five years. The Pandy Inn sign at Bridge cottage has been established over ten years, this sign should stay, the sign at the Bell Corner was relocated prior to development of the site where 10 Dore View is situated, the position of the structure is being investigated, when a decision is reached permission would have to be obtained for the Pandy Inn sign.

The clerk had discussed with Herefordshire Council the Tourist Signing Policy, (Brown Signs), these are judged on considerations of traffic management needs, local amenity, environmental issues & road safety. Final decision for applying rests with the Councils Highway Department.

Letter from Mr Fry: seen numerous near misses with traffic approaching at excessive speed, inexplicable no specific speed limit, already eight public signs at this location. guidelines are provided for temporary signs to be displayed for limited period, farm gate has become a temporary billboard, one poster replaced by another, not only for events in Dorstone. Urge council to provide for local signage to be placed at Playing Fields, better and safer location, minimise any liability for any incidents arising at Bell Crossroads minimised, drivers not distracted by temporary advertisements.

The Clerk had informed Mr Fry of the speed measurement taking place currently through the village, later on B4348.

During discussion Mr Neil indicated he had no concerns with the position of the structure for the Pandy Inn sign, no records of accidents at the location, he considered repositioning the signs at the Playing Field would distract drivers.

Whilst signs may on occasions replace another, several local organisations had functions which used the location to advertise events, concern if the signs were displayed at the playing field causing a distraction to motorists could increase risk to pedestrians crossing the road, YFC & Country Market signs displayed were not local events, the Pandy Inn sign provided specific information on facilities offered, suggested due to the circumstances of the relocation of the sign the Planning Officers were asked to look sympathetically at allowing the sign to remain. Whilst the Brown Signs could be requested, the cost of supply & erection could be high.

The Open Meeting then closed.

Advertisement Signage

Councillors discussed the information circulated & the views expressed in the open meeting, Councillor Hession proposed the Planning Officers are asked to look favourably at the retention of the Pandy Inn sign, Amey Hereford have no objections to the location, the sign had been relocated & sited at its current position following development of Dore View, seconded by Councillor Lane & carried unanimously.

Pandy Inn

Planning: Pandy Inn correspondence regarding development & letter received, Clerk had provided information on events.

Clerk & Councillor received a telephone call from a parishioner concerned about the development at the Pandy Inn, allegation structure did not align to the drawings submitted, violation of the planning condition regarding the schedule of times the process was carried out, the structure resembles "log cabin" i.e. rectangular beams interlocked on the end, colour very white. Agreed for clerk to obtain confirmation from Herefordshire Council that the condition regarding samples of materials on the walls & roof have been submitted to the council for approval & written approval has been given, the type & finished colour of the material authorised, clarification regarding use of machinery.

Mr Prior, Planning Officer, has subsequently visited the site and discussed certain matters with the applicants. The material approved is spruce which is very blight in appearance, but which will darken naturally. The roof will be covered in much darker shingles; the height of the building is in accordance with the approved plans. The applicants were aware of the condition controlling use of machinery, most of the planing had already been carried out. Neighbours have spoken to them about the noise. Interpret machinery to be powered tools. Therefore work could be carried out at other times i.e. into evenings, Sunday mornings so long as powered tools were not used.

Councillor Thomas reported Mr Gannon had visited him, he was disappointed that no-one from the Parish Council had spoken to him first before contact was made with the Planners. Working Times; Mr Gannon had been informed that the time restrictions applied only to the use of heavy machinery on site before and after the stipulated hours. Finish of the building and materials used: all materials had been discussed and approved by the Planners. The larch wood finish currently on view will be the finished material, although as with any newly planed wood it will darken in due course. Height of the building - overall height of the building is less than originally proposed and is further away from the boundary fence. Design of the Building: initiative for the modern design of the building came from the Planners. In Poland the building had small windows but that the Planners wanted a modern design with large windows. Sewage: completion of a new drainage system was required before the new building could be used.

Letter received from Mr Gannon: "I have followed all the legal requirements for planning permission as required in the country. The plans were submitted to the planners and as with all buildings the materials were approved. The parish council were given copies of the plans and according to your minutes there were no letters

of objection. At no time during this period did any councillor discuss the type of building or any other query with this project. I am doing my best to keep the Pandy Inn as a viable business and I would appreciate support from you in doing so, not an implication that I am dishonest as your recent actions suggest”.

Councillors discussed the information & letter, concern raised that the drawing submitted with the planning application suggested structure was covered in horizontal boarding, information the building proposed was similar but smaller in size to that previously authorised, whilst timber clad the roof was tiles, building erected not in keeping with adjacent buildings due to the external material & colour, nor in appearance as the drawing indicated. Copy of the letter requested, which specified material to be used, had not been received Considered it would be beneficial to meet Planning Officers to discuss the application & guidance on observations on future Planning Applications.

Councillor Thomas had drafted a reply letter to Mr Gannon, this was circulated & discussed. The letter indicated applications received in 2007 & 2009 had been supported, recent one Parish Council requested element of construction might be completed in stone. Complaint received concerning the working hours on the site and the appearance of the building. Subsequently other comments received “log cabin” style of the building and the very light colour of the wood. The Parish Council has no direct control over these matters. Approval was required of materials used in construction, felt appropriate request information of what had been agreed, the final style of the building and also to check out the working hours issues. Following his visit on March 16th Mr Prior has confirmed that, in his view, all aspects of the building are in accordance with the Plans submitted and agreed. He has also clarified certain issues regarding working times.

On behalf of the council can I make the following comments:-

The Parish Council should have mentioned the fact that they were contacting the Planning Officer so that you were aware of the complaint and that you would probably be contacted by Mr. Prior. Councillors are sorry for any embarrassment caused by this omission.

As a Parish Council part of our duty is to respond to the views of Parishioners. You will appreciate that Planning matters are sensitive and that this is particularly important in a Conservation Area. The Planning Officers have imposed many detailed requirements in the past on new developments, extensions and changes within the Conservation Area, and therefore new buildings arouse critical interest amongst Parishioners. The Parish Council has also attempted over the years to maintain the existing environment and character of the Village, an objective which were fully supported by the recently completed Parish Planning process.

The Parish Council has looked again at the outline design of the building as set out in your application and in their view it does not make absolutely clear the log cabin style of the building, for example, the overlapping logs at the corners of the construction. The light wood used does stand out at the moment, although it is appreciated that this will darken over time and the darker colour of the roof may reduce the impact. We appreciate your efforts in making the Pandy Inn a viable business and will continue to support you and Mrs Gannon in any way we can. However there are aspects of the planning approval process which we need to discuss with Mr Prior in order to satisfy other Parishioners that we are listening to

their views and passing on their concerns to Herefordshire Council. In doing so however there has never been any suggestion that you have acted dishonestly. I hope this letter helps to clarify the Parish Council position but if you wish to discuss the matter further, I or any of my colleagues would be pleased to meet you. Signed by Councillor Rye. After discussion Councillors agreed for the letter to be sent.

Caemawr Hard standing for four vehicles on the verge, amended plans had been received. Plan circulated to those councillors on e mail. The plan was only slightly different to that previously agreed, plan incorporated pole mounted parking signage. Following support from councillors, the application was discussed with the chairman, agreed application supported with observation regarding the parking signage & what conditions will be placed by Amey on the sign.

Lower Sydcombe: Amendment to planning permission of 2009. Increase size of garage/store & workshop. Plans had been passed to Councillor Rye to check & inform any affected neighbours. Application is for replacement for existing timber framed profiled steel clad building, will be of timber frame construction consisting of two open bays, natural weather board walls, window work to be dark stained, roof covered with slate to match house. No letters of support or objection received. Councillors discussed the application, Councillor Lane proposed the council support the application, Garage/store not to be separated/sold off from Lower Sydcombe and to be used in conjunction with the property Lower Sydcome not for separate residential accommodation, seconded by Councillor Thomas & carried unanimously.

Home Farm: Amendment to that previously authorised. Clerk had observed advertised on Herefordshire Council Planning website, Plans requested as none received. Information from Planning Officer, new type of application which was introduced on 1st Jan 2010, minor amendments to approved schemes, previously been approved as minor, i.e. new window or required planning permission. Minor changes now require a fee and are not subject to public consultation. Amendment moved a chimney breast & squared off a corner of a building with the addition of 1 to 1.5 sq m in ground floor area. Local planning authority need to be aware of previous observations.

Dorstone Front Room Consent granted for addition of sign, outside building, expires 15th March 2015, non- illuminated. Planning permission granted for change of use from shop to community use facility only. Any proposed alterations or additions to the premises to be submitted to and approved in writing before development is commenced.

Accounts Lengthsmen Scheme, Invoice received for £426.52, work carried out included drain clearance, Councillor Smith proposed a cheque for £426.52 was drawn, seconded by Councillor Hession & carried unanimously.

Honorary Surveyor Invoice for £324 received from Mrs Rye for work carried out managing the lengthsman scheme, Councillor Gaze proposed cheque for £324 drawn, seconded by Councillor Thomas carried unanimously. Councillor Rye was not involved in this payment.

Village Hall invoice received for £180 for room hire, (£200 less 10% discount) also the agreed contribution to the street light of £30, total of £210. Councillor Smith proposed a cheque for £210, seconded by Councillor Thomas & carried unanimously.

Clerks salary & expenses invoice received for salary £780, expenses £98.50, computer provision £100, Councillor Rye proposed a cheque for £978.5 was drawn, seconded by Councillor Gaze & carried unanimously

Clerks training courses, two invoices received, one from HALC for £30 for recent Planning & Community Action course, one from SLCC-CiLCA Management for registration for course in Local Council Administration for £150. Both amounts were covered by Bursary's granted. Councillor Rye proposed cheques for £30 & £150 were drawn, seconded by Councillor Smith & carried unanimously.

Chairman Course, invoice received £20 from HALC for course which Councillor Rye had attended. Councillor Gaze proposed a cheque for £20 was drawn, seconded by Councillor Hession & carried unanimously.

Local Council Administration Eighth Edition. Invoice received for £59.05 (£53.60 + £5.45 p&p). Council previously agreed the book was purchased. Councillor Gaze proposed a cheque for £59.05 was drawn, seconded by Councillor Smith & carried unanimously

Parish Footpaths documentation, this included a report of complaints received by Herefordshire Council & request if defects had been rectified. The clerk had discussed the report with Councillor James, three paths would require inspecting with regard to complaints. Clerk had spoken to Herefordshire Council, if an alternative route was suggested by the landowner this could be signed as a permissive route, the designated route must be kept clear to use if required. This could apply to the footpath through Mill Wood. Report on work carried out 2009/10 completed & signed. After discussion the councillors agreed to continue with the Parish Paths Partnership for 2010/11.

Speed Survey Information received that the survey will be carried out by Great House, Brooklands (C1207) and the playing field (B4348) on 22nd March and recovered on 30th March. Surveys are normally carried out during school term time. The sites at The Bage and Llanafon are in scheduled to take place after the Easter break.

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

Signed..... Councillor P Rye

April 14th 2010 March

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