

A meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in the Old School Hall Dorstone on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 7-30 pm.

Present: Councillor P Rye, (Chairman), Councillor D James, Councillor E Lane, Councillor P Smith & Mr C Hendy Parish Clerk.

Apologies: Councillor S Gaze, Councillor M Hession , Councillor N Davies

Also in attendance: Three parishioners. Police Sergeant

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: Councillor Smith, stream cleaning, tender submitted.

Councillors were informed that Councillor Davies was in Hospital, Best wishes were sent for a full recovery.

**Minutes.** The minutes of January 14th 2009 which had been circulated, were confirmed by councillors & signed by the Chairman.

### **Planning**

Following a query from a parishioner the process regarding planning applications was outlined. Herefordshire Council notify neighbours of planning applications & display a notice on the application site, if within the Conservation Area or affecting a listed building notice appears in the Hereford Times. A copy of the application is sent to the Parish Council from Herefordshire Council. Dorstone Council policy is for the Clerk to inform the chairman, application is passed to a councillor to check & show affected neighbours. The plans are on display prior to the meeting in which they are discussed. Councillors can consider any written representation received. Plans are also available to view on Herefordshire Council web site.

The following Planning applications were on display prior to the meeting.

**Lower Sydcombe DCSW2009/0046/F** Planning application to replace existing building with garage, office, implement and secure store. This was a site adjoining the parish, Dorstone had been consulted out of courtesy. The plans had been passed to Councillor Rye. Councillors inspected the plans, agreed this application was an improvement to the existing building & no further action was necessary.

**Crossway House DCSW2009/0078/F** Planning application for the erection of a detached timber framed garage. Materials listed: walls treated weatherboard, roof clay tiles. No further information received. Plans had been passed to Councillor Rye who had checked the plans & inform affected neighbours. No letters support or objection received. Since the application the clerk had received an amended drawing which shows a tower on the roof apex. Councillor Rye reported she had been informed the roofing material was to be slate. After discussion Councillor James

proposed the council support the revised plan, noting the information on roof material, seconded by Councillor Lane & carried unanimously.

**Hill Hole Farm DCSW2009/0154/F** Planning application for a two storey extension. Material listed: walls untreated oak boards, roof in natural slate, dormer flat roof in lead. Supporting evidence indicates the property has two bedrooms, objectives are to relocate existing staircase, provide new family kitchen/breakfast room, provide two additional bedrooms & family bathroom, extension to the rear south west elevation replacing single storey conservatory, porch & toilet, ridge height 150mm below existing ridge, due to materials used the extension will compare & contrast with existing farm house. Plans passed to Councillor Rye, subsequently Councillor Smith who had informed affected neighbours. After discussion Councillor Lane proposed council support the application, seconded by Councillor James & carried unanimously.

**Court House** Planning & listed building consent **DCSW2008/2794F** Permission granted, commence within three years, in accordance with plans 2 & 3, additional drawings & specifications of roof slate, rendered areas, rainwater goods, surfacing material under cantilevered section of property, finishes on external joinery timber plaster & masonry surfaces, architectural details of windows & their openings etc to be submitted & approved in writing prior to commencement of work.

**St Faith's Church** Erection of notice boards in Churchyard & Churchyard extension, **DCSW2008/3013A** advertisement consent given, a detailed scheme of any lighting to be used to be submitted & approved by planning authority. Consent expires 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**Lengthsmen Scheme** invoice received for work carried out £416.30, work on cleaning silt off the road at The Bage, cleaning drains & sumps, washing signs. Councillor Smith proposed a cheque for £416.30 was drawn, seconded by Councillor James & carried unanimously. Clerk reported invitation to tender poster displayed, existing contractor & interested contractor letter sent, closing date March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Glebe Ground** Clerk reported the PCC were awaiting reply .Chairman reported Councillor Gaze was following up the offer by a parishioner to rent the field whilst negotiations take place.

**Footpaths DO6, DO7,DO8,** Councillor James & Councillor Lane had walked the paths, work was required to stiles, replacement finger post, replacement gate. After discussion agreed gate & post to be purchased & erected by landowner, Councillor James to obtain replacement finger posts & arrange repairs to stiles. Clerk had receive information regarding continuing with the Parish Paths Partnership 2009/2010, Councillors agreed to apply for 2009/2010, information & application to be completed when costs of work undertaken known..

**Highway work** Clerk reported the rails around the culvert at Crossway had been replaced, tree lopped at Brooklands. Councillor Rye reported on follow up work from recent meeting, request to farmers to clean ditches at the Bage , stones removed on verge at Bage & reflective posts erected, the trees planted adjacent to Typerllan railings appeared to be a breach of planning, after discussion agreed this was better dealt with by highways. Stream cleaning tenders had been received, £400 +Vat for cleaning Ponty-Weston stream from Mr Miles, £200 for cleaning River Dore bridge at the Station by Mr P Smith. Councillor Smith declared an interest & left the meeting whilst this was discussed. After discussion councillors agreed to both tenders, work to be carried out & invoiced before 21<sup>st</sup> March. Parishioners query regarding salting of the road through Dorstone had been received, Clerk understood the salting route followed the B4348, he would make enquiries.

**Police** Sergeant Timothy Dugmore introduced himself to Councillors, he had been in post three weeks, transferring from Ross where he was in the CID, to lead the local policing team. Sergeant gave a short presentation on team, answered queries raised, gave contact details, outlined a new initiative called CrimeMapper, easy way to find out information about crime, [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk), he would make arrangements to visit the youth club, reminded Councillors of the forthcoming PACT meeting February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Monthly newsletter reported no local crime, information given on a suspicious vehicle which had been observed around the area of shed burglaries.

Smartwater signs, account for £30 received, Councillor Rye proposed a cheque was drawn, seconded by Councillor Smith & carried unanimously. Councillor Rye was erecting the signs on approaches to the village.

**Play equipment/Playbuilder Funding** Clerk had contacted Herefordshire Council regarding funding, information regarding applications, distribution of Play builder funding not yet decided. Information provided on alternative funding, suppliers used by the council, the offer of attendance at a meeting to discuss funding & equipment. Clerk had subsequently attended meeting of Playing Field Committee, informed them of the funding, contact details.

**Post Office:** update had been received, Post Office noted the concerns raised: regarding facilities not being available on usual pension day, inconvenience local community wishing to post items, disappointment around the decision taken, they will not be reconsidering retaining the current branch within the existing premises. The consultation was conducted precisely in accordance with the terms required, Postwatch has not asked a further review is undertaken, the decision is final with no appeal procedure to the Post Office Ltd.

A core sub postmaster has been appointed, serving the community of Gladestry since October 2008, will serve the six communities. The initial timetable ensures the mobile service operates in the most cost effective way, any alteration would have a

knock on effect on other communities. Post Office Ltd stipulates there should be no change for six months, if after the first six months any of the time table is giving difficulties from an operational perspective, sub postmaster can bring this to the attention of the field change supervisor at monthly meetings. Post Office Ltd apologised for delay in finalising arrangements, unable to proceed until parking arrangements have been agreed.

Councillors discussed the update, shared the disappointment on the decision taken, agreed to monitor the service provided, follow up on any difficulties and seek to ensure the changes to post office facilities in Dorstone meets the needs of the community. A copy of the information will be available in DFR.

**Herefordshire Council information:** funding newsletter from the project development team available to councillors.

**HALC,** no reply received.

**Precept,** Estimated Council Tax for Parish Council precept was £9.73 per Band D property. 174.70 Band D equivalent properties.

**Website administration** Councillor Rye reported Councillor Gaze had discussed the website with Mr Usher, There would be a hosting fee for the website, no charge to run the web site. After discussion it was agreed to defer to next meeting .

**Parish Plan,** Request had been received from the Parish Plan Committee for the chairman to attend the council meetings & give a monthly update. After discussion, councillors unanimously agreed to this. Mr Thomas, who was present, he thanked the councillors, in a short presentation he reported that following a meeting with the parish plan implementation officer the committee were advised it was essential to have a close working relationship with the parish council. Sub groups had been formed on Planning Conservation & Housing, Traffic & Transport, Village Facilities, services & communications, Environmental Issues, Youth Issues. The sub groups task is to hold discussions with all relevant organisations and service providers, carry out research into possible improvements, investigate funding.. Welcome to anyone with a strong interest & knowledge, further open meetings will be held with parishioners when the sub group has reported back. Quick wins had been achieved, Dorstone Front room, Oil bulk purchase scheme. Mr Thomas answered queries raised.

**Litter Bin,** reply received from village shop committee, currently not a litter problem, concern introduction of a bin could cause a litter problem, concern with policy/procedure for ensuring bin would be emptied on long term ongoing basis. Councillors discussed the reply, whilst they had considered a bin would be an asset, especially for users of the car park, they would investigate alternative locations where a bin would be beneficial.

**Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity** Councillor Gaze had read the document & produced a report, this was discussed together with the consultation questions. Councillors agreed a copy of Councillor Gaze report should be submitted as the council's response. Items raised included more emphasis on targeted advertising, politics should not be included in local authority publications & web site, make publicity as quickly as possible whilst ensuring accuracy, more information on type of assistance.

**Information:** PACT meeting Peterchurch 26th February 2009, Information Market Herefordshire Voluntary Action Ewyas Harold 4<sup>th</sup> March, Hospice Flower Festival 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> July at Lyde Arundel.

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

Signed: .....

Councillor P Rye

March 11<sup>th</sup> 2009