

A meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in the Old School Hall Dorstone on **Wednesday March 11th 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.

Also in attendance: Councillor P Price

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 February 11th 2009 which had been circulated, were confirmed by councillors & signed by the Chairman.

Planning Decisions: Lower Sydcombe, **DCSW2009/0046/F** Permission granted, commence within three years, in accordance with the plans, building to be used solely for purposes incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling known as Lower Sydcombe & for purposes associated with the maintenance of the wider property & not for carrying out of a separate business or office use.

Lengthsmen Scheme: The budget for 2009/10 had been increased to £3240.00

The Clerk had received two tenders for 2009/10, Mr R Mills, charges as per 2008/9, DG Gardening Services £15 per hour. After discussion Councillor Smith proposed R Mills tender was accepted, seconded by Councillor Gaze & carried unanimously. Councillor Rye reported that the ditches along Scar Lane would be cleaned by the farmers, work to be carried out at Moorlands to reduce flooding. The condition of the road surface Pitt Road was noted, had been raised with Herefordshire Council.

Glebe Ground, Reported this has been let on an agricultural tenancy, the PCC were in discussion with both the Glebe Committee and the Agent regarding acquisition of the ground.

Footpaths DO6, DO7, DO8, Councillor James had informed the clerk that materials had been obtained & the work carried out on the footpaths. Finger Posts had been ordered & delivery waited. An account for materials £322.22 had been received, Councillor Hession proposed a cheque for £322.22 was drawn, seconded by

Councillor Gaze & carried unanimously. Parish Paths Partnership would be completed at next meeting.

Highway. Clerk confirmed the priority route was the B4348, if resources allowed additional gritting could be included. Leaflets were also obtained. After discussion Councillors would request the route through the village was included in the gritting run, Clerk to reply to the parishioner regarding information obtained. Councillor Price indicated the cost per gritting run for the county was £9000, recently due to the extreme weather conditions gritting materials were very low. Councillor Price reported he was trying to have Dorstone Hill included in the gritting priority.

PACT/Local police newsletter: Clerk reported on the recent PACT meeting he attended, issues discussed included mud left on road by farmers/size of tractors, *most farmers are behaving responsibly during the wet weather conditions experienced recently, enforcement action would be taken if necessary, maximum width 3 metres.* Condition of road repairs, *longevity of repair affected by weather conditions,* Hazards caused by parked vehicles at Bredwardine Bridge, *yellow lines introduced, this has caused further problems by parking on a corner, review parking & safety restrictions before introducing further restrictions.* Change of speed limit at Clehonger, *regulated speed had been changed, motorists needed to be aware.* Council tax, will there be cuts & economies? *Real efforts being made to come in on budget and ensure no overspend Increase in council tax 3.9%.* Erosion of county roads at edges by wide vehicles/tractors, *normally wait until next scheduled maintenance, exception can be made if it affects safety, continuous maintenance expensive, government funding only available for flood drainage, not preventative, report specific problems.*

Local newsletter discussed, nothing reported in Dorstone. Police were not in attendance.

Dog Control Order, this had previously been circulated both to councillors also Playing Field & Church. Councillor agreed with a dog control order being made for:

A) Failing to remove dog faeces, B) not keeping a dog on a lead, C) not putting & keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, D) permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded, E) no comment on taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land.

Area where orders would apply:

Village Green (A), Area around telephone kiosk (A), Churchyard & churchyard extension (A) (B), Playing Field (A),(B),(C), Children's Play Area (D)

Website administration Councillor Gaze had spoken to Mr Usher regarding the cost of hosting the web site, this would be £100 for 2009/2010, confirmed that there would be no cost to run the web site.

Herefordshire Council; Parish Council Services Questionnaire Council was asked to identify five key services/facilities from the list provided in helping work towards sustainability of a village, after discussion agreed Village Hall(1), Church (2), Recreational Area/Play Facilities (3), Public House (4), Regular Bus Service (5), no new services/facilities needed in parish which would make it more sustainable, the recent closure of the Post Office was highlighted which made the village sustainable, new development that could help or sustain services/facilities, Parish Plan which planning was currently being discussed in a sub group

Adapting your home for independent living. Information leaflet discussed, further copies requested to be displayed in DFR & Church

Biodiversity Action. Information available on county projects

Briefing on the Sustainable Communities Act, this new law allows parishioners power to tell the government how communities can be prevented from declining. Herefordshire Council is inviting ideas/proposals from local people on what the government can do by changing laws and their policies for the benefit of local communities. Using the criteria it must promote sustainable communities by promotion of local economies, environmental protection, social inclusion, democratic participation, also something only central government can do (not already doing). From February 9th to April 17th communities & Councils are invited to submit proposals. Initial ideas include new rail station at Pontrilas. After discussion councillors agreed to further consider at next meeting.

No Wrong Door (Locality Teams for children/young people), this sets out what Herefordshire Council is trying to achieve, why & the questions being consulted on. Those who work in the children and young people's work force or those who have a vested interest in children's services should read the document. A meeting is being held on March 25th, after discussion no councillor available to attend the meeting

Funding Directory updated version available to Councillors.

Parish Plan, Colin Thomas was unable to attend, report received indicated five sub groups had been formed, Planning /Development, Facilities/ Communications, Traffic/Transport, Youth, Environment..

Local Bus Service, information received that the Sunday Service Hereford - Brecon, was to be put out for tender from September 2009, however due to proposed reductions in area based grants, the need to eliminate overspending in the Councils own budgets “efficiency savings”& a projected cost of providing free travel for the elderly & disabled this would reduce the amount of money available to renew bus services by 58% , low passenger numbers do not meet the subsidy criteria therefore the Sunday Service may be curtailed to operate only in the summer. Councillors discussed this & referred to the recent Parish Plan, this indicated low usage of the bus service, the proposal to operate only in the summer months was noted.

Information : Hospice Flower Festival 17th 18th,19th July at Lyde Arundel, Playground Services advice & design to be forwarded to Playing Field.

Campaign to Protect Rural England, information received on report produced by CPRE West Midlands. Full report available at wmcpred.org.uk . Further information “Thinking about Rural Transport” www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk ,

A number of parish councils are members with information available on wmcpredherefordshire.org.uk A Parish Council Toolkit is available which gives information on combating litter & fly tipping. Councillors discussed the information & noted the availability of further information, agreed not to seek membership.

Waste Management Strategy, this sets out how the strategy for managing waste and the aims to achieve sustainability by treating waste as a resource. Consultation period to 15th May 2009, on April 13th a questionnaire for residents will be published. Further information is available on www.herefordshirewastestrategy.gov.uk.

A Meeting to be held on March 26th, for the end of year accounts.

Chairman thanked those who had attended & closed the meeting.

Signed:

Councillor P Rye

April 8th 2009

An extra meeting of Dorstone Parish Council, to deal with end of year accounts, was held in the Old School Hall Dorstone on **Thursday March 26th 2009** at 7-30 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillor D James.

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

Declaration of interest: Councillor Rye, account for Honorary Surveyor, Councillor Smith, River Dore stream cleaning account. Councillors took no part in the decision when their respective accounts discussed.

Minutes. The minutes were adjourned to next scheduled meeting.

Accounts:

An invoice for £565.80 had been received from the Lengthsmen for drainage work at Scar Lane, around village green, replacing sign post at the Bell & mowing grass. Councillor Smith proposed a cheque for £565.80 was drawn, seconded by Councillor Lane & carried unanimously.

An invoice for £460 had been received from Mr C Miles for cleaning Ponty-Weston stream, Councillor Smith proposed a cheque was drawn for £460, seconded by Councillor Rye & carried unanimously.

An invoice for £200 had been received from Mr P Smith for cleaning Dore stream at the Railway Bridge, Councillor Rye proposed a cheque for £200 was drawn, seconded by Councillor Gaze & carried unanimously.

An invoice for £832, (salary £748+£84 expenses) had been received from the clerk. Councillor Smith proposed a cheque was drawn for £832, seconded by Councillor Rye & carried unanimously.

An invoice for £100 had been received from GV web design for hosting the web site 2009/2010 had been received. Councillor Gaze proposed a cheque for £100 was drawn, seconded by Councillor Lane & carried unanimously.

An invoice for £110 had been received for the hire of the hall, Councillor Rye proposed a cheque for £110 was drawn, seconded by Councillor Lane & carried unanimously. Information on increases for hiring charges to be discussed at the next meeting.

Councillors discussed the street light & information received on the estimated cost, previous year £10 given for electricity used. Councillor Smith proposed a payment of

£10, street light facility to be discussed next meeting, seconded by Councillor Rye & carried unanimously.

An invoice for £149.25 for subscription to HALC 2009/10 had been received. Councillor Gaze proposed a cheque for £149.25 was drawn seconded by Councillor Smith & carried unanimously.

An invoice for £280 had been received from Mrs Rye for her work as Honorary Surveyor during the year 2008/9. Councillor Smith proposed a cheque was drawn for £280, seconded by Councillor Lane & carried unanimously. Councillors thanked Councillor Rye for the work she had carried out during the year.

Parish Paths application, no further invoices received, the clerk to complete the application for 2009/10.

Conservation Area, an application to fell 6 Lawsons Cypress at the Coach House had been received. The supporting information indicated the multi-branched trees were 6.0m to 7.0m tall, planning permission had been granted to convert the Coach House & the space occupied by the trees is required for the purpose of vehicular access & turning area. The plans had been passed to Councillor Rye to check & inform affected neighbours. No letters of support or objection received. Councillors discussed the application. Councillor Gaze proposed the council have no objection, seconded by Councillor Rye & carried unanimously.

HALC On April 4th 10-00 to 12-00 there is a presentation on how the youth of Herefordshire would like to communicate with Parish Councils.

On April 8th at Birmingham, there is a presentation on how the work of Parish Councils links to regional decision making.

Chairman thanked those who had attended & closed the meeting.

Signed:

Councillor P Rye

April 8th 2009

