

A meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in the Old School Hall Dorstone on **Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 7-30 pm.**

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

Apologies: Councillor P Rye, Councillor N Davies

Also in attendance: Councillor P Price, Five parishioners.

In the absence of Councillor Rye the meeting was chaired by Councillor Gaze

Declaration of interest: none

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

**Election of Chairman**, Councillor Lane proposed Councillor P Rye was elected chairman, seconded by Councillor Gaze, no other nominations, Councillor P Rye unanimously elected

**Election of Vice Chairman**, Councillor Hession proposed Councillor S Gaze, seconded by Councillor Smith, no other nominations, Councillor S Gaze was unanimously elected.

**Minutes**: The minutes of April 8th 2009 which had been circulated, were confirmed by councillors & signed by the Chairman.

**Planning**: Application **DCSW2009/0668F** for field access gate (3.6 metre wide) to the field opposite Orchard Place (Common Bach Road junction) had been received. The plans had been passed to Councillor Rye to check & show neighbours. The design statement indicated the field access gate, for agricultural access only, was required to replace the existing access to the field which will shortly be offered for sale with the Coach House. The location had been chosen to be central to that field, once a gate in about that position, speed survey carried out in 2008 which showed very low traffic volumes & speeds, without a new field access gate it would be impossible to drive farm machinery into that field. The drawing did not show the existing entrance or ground to be made available to the purchaser of Coach House. No letters of support or objection received. Councillors discussed the application, Councillor James proposed that an access was not needed as there was already an access to the field, seconded by Councillor Hession & carried unanimously.

An Application **SW09/0782/F** to remove section 106 agreements at the Coach House had been received. The 106 agreement relates to the financial contributions requirement in the planning conditions. Application had been passed to Councillor

Gaze, as it did not affect the site no need to show neighbours. The application indicated the reason for the conditions being removed was in accordance with recent cabinet member decision concerning 106 thresholds. The Clerk had researched the cabinet decision, the introduction was the increasing deepening of the recession, falling development activity in both employment and housing development, the decision was to temporarily suspend Section 106 agreements on all housing proposals involving 5 units or more, this will come into effect from applications submitted on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, reviewed at the end of six months & six months hereafter, the development commences within 12 months of issuing decision notice. Whilst it did not specify if these were new applications or applications made after 1st April to remove the 106 agreement, Councillor Price indicated he understood new applications. After discussion Councillor Hession proposed the council do not support the application, seconded by Councillor Smith & carried unanimously. The clerk to seek further information on the decision.

**Lengthsmen Scheme** An Invoice for work carried out had been received for £105. 80, this included mowing, improving sign visibility. Councillor James proposed a cheque for £105.80 was drawn, seconded by Councillor Lane & carried unanimously.

**Village Hall**, letter received regarding following:

Street Light, even with the payment of £25 Committee were being left to foot the bill for the village light when it should be the responsibility of Parish Council, how was the figure worked out, if the Council is not prepared to make a further contribution or speed up the process of replacing the light then sadly consideration will be made to switch the light off. Councillor Gaze had met the street light engineer from Herefordshire Council, he gave information on a replacement lamp that would meet the council's requirement, the intention was to connect to the un-metered supply from the hall, estimate was £250 for the light & £350 for the work, since the meeting information from the electric supplier indicated not possible to connect to un-metered supply, if connected to nearest supply pole could cost £1200. Further information was being obtained, it may need consideration to replace or remove the light.

Clerk had also received information that a timer could be installed to switch off lights at specified night time periods, this could also be fitted to lights at Dore View & Oaklands Place. Council to consider further including consulting neighbours before a decision is made.

Toilets, Committee amazed that consideration of 1 hour a month would suffice for cleaning to keep in satisfactory condition, estimate would take at least ten minutes a

day. The best way was council to take over management of toilets. The clerk had contacted Herefordshire Council, whilst not sure of any legal requirements, toilets are cleaned & checked twice a day, they have calls regarding cleanliness & vandalism. Councillors discussed further, whilst they consider a time of daily cleaning high, they agreed to request the hall committee supply a costing to inspect & clean the toilets for a period from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**Hall Charges** 6% discount applies to six or more bookings, minimum payment for small room will be £10, not available if others have booked the whole hall, the fees now on the basis of time used, not purpose. The charges for educational purpose are solely with the Meredith Maddy Trust.

The clerk had been requested by Councillor Hession to obtain information from council records regarding the original lease agreement & meetings held when the Old School changed to a village Hall. This had been carried out, a copy sent to the Village Hall Committee together with information on the inventory & deeds of the sale of School House.

**Youth Club** Mrs Catterall gave a presentation to the council, the youth club members are keen to get involved in caring for the community & offered to help to clean up the river. A financial contribution was also to be requested to “sponsor a plant” for the forthcoming plant day, however this was not needed as local nurseries had provided pots, plants & containers which the youth club will place around the village. The clerk had supplied information to Mrs Catterall on the council & riparian ownership of the stream, also contacting road surveyor if considering placing the pots on the highway verge. Councillors thanked Mrs Catterall for the presentation, which they then discussed, they were very pleased that the youth were keen to get involved in caring for the community & the effort & success in “sponsor a plant” .With regard to the stream cleaning, as had been explained, this was outside the council’s jurisdiction, suggested the club could offer their help to the Parochial Church Council, perhaps in the churchyard.

**Parish Plan** An account of £386.75 for the Data Entry for the parish plan had been received. Councillor Hession proposed a cheque for £368.75 was drawn, seconded by Councillor Smith & carried unanimously.

Mr C Thomas gave a update on the Parish Plan, draft objectives for each area to be prepared by June 5<sup>th</sup>, steering group agreed a definition of priorities high/medium and low to help gain a consistent approach to the list of action areas. The final Parish Plan report would be as short as possible, concentrate on the Action Plan, reasoning behind these actions. An important issue will be responsible for monitoring &

progressing the plan once it is finalised and published. The work is being carried out by the Steering Group on behalf of the Parish Council/Parishioners. Options are;

Steering Group continue as a means of progressing actions identified in the plan, or

Parish Council who use the plan as their “business plan”, Concentrate on dealing with those issues raised by the Parish as important. Mr Thomas was thanked for his presentation, councillors decided to discuss the options next meeting.

**Insurance**, the renewal premium was £302, optional to increase upper age limit cover to aged 85 years. After discussion it was agreed not to increase the upper age limit. Councillor Lane proposed a cheque was drawn for £302, seconded by Councillor Hession & carried unanimously.

**Footpath Scheme** a Grant allocated of £347 had been made & will be paid within 14days. This will top up to the full allocation available. Councillors would monitor work required.

**HALC** Newsletter discussed, Councillor Rye would be representing the council on June 12<sup>th</sup> on finding ways to support village pubs. The appointment of an emergency co-ordinator would be discussed next meeting.

**Police Matters** Local Sergeants plan outlined, responding to speeding/disorderly driving, driver improvement awareness and possibly training, foot or cycle patrol for upto at least an hour & half prior to the meeting attended, if operational & other commitments allow, monthly team meeting with policing team. Newsbeat, requested to keep a look out for any unusual vehicles following several thefts.

Next PACT meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.00pm in Peterchurch, Policing Matters Ross on Wye June 11<sup>th</sup>, an opportunity for members of the public to meet the Divisional Commander/Police Authority Members to find out/discuss policing matters in Herefordshire.

**Equality & Human Rights Act** Forthcoming Equality Bill will harmonise existing three public sector duties into one equality duty, also extend cover all seven equality strands. Under existing duties required to pay “due regard” to race, disability and gender equality, and take appropriate and proportionate action to deliver better equality outcomes.

**Freighter service** Clerk reported it was hoped to re-introduce the freighter service, further clarification would shortly be available.

**Freedom of Information** Councillors discussed the new model scheme & associated guidance. After discussion Councillor Hession proposed the new model scheme was adopted, seconded by Councillor Gaze & carried unanimously.

**Information**, European Parliamentary election 4th June, bus shelters for the community, Swine Fever advice, (available on [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)).

**Dial a Ride** Councillors discussed the letter from Dial a Ride for financial help, whilst the council did not usually support requests Councillor Hession considered support should be given as parishioners used the service. After discussion Councillor Hession proposed a cheque for £50 was drawn to donate to Dial a Ride, seconded by Councillor Lane & carried unanimously.

**Recycling update**, from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009 a weekly wheeled bin recyclable material collection service is being introduced, from all properties suitable. Residual household waste will continue to be collected on a weekly basis. Elderly or disabled can request assisted collection, opportunity to request a smaller wheeled bin.

**Parish Meeting** May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7-30pm, Meet the neighbour, speakers on Conservation Area, Help with adapting properties/handyman scheme.

**Ward Councillor** there was insufficient time for Councillor Price to deliver his report, agreed to be dealt with at next meeting.

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

Signed: .....

Councillor P Rye

June 10<sup>th</sup> 2009