

A meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in the Old School Hall Dorstone on January 14th 2009 at 7-30 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillor N Davies

Also in attendance: one parishioner

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 January 7<sup>th</sup> 2009, which had been circulated, were confirmed by Councillors & signed by the Chairman.

**Lengthsmen Scheme** No invoices had been presented. Councillor Rye reported work had been ordered & was currently being carried out. A copy of the specification for work to be undertaken was shown to councillors. After discussion it was agreed to request charges from 1<sup>st</sup> April from the current contractor & to invite DC Gardening Services, who had expressed an interest in quoting for the work, also to tender. Information inviting tenders would also be displayed in the Parish Council notice board.

**Highway Work** Councillor Rye reported on the recent visit by a technician from the highway department. The existing outstanding list of work required together with additional work observed had been discussed. Highlighted by the technician were blocked ditches causing flooding on the highway, stones on grass verges, trees encroaching onto the highway. A report would be sent. The Clerk reported he had discussed the flooding at Mynddbrith with the land owner's wife, remedial action was to be taken. Councillor James reported work had been carried out. Temporary fencing had been erected around the culvert at Crossway.

Access/blocking of Spoon Lane to be raised with Herefordshire Council

Councillor Smith reported he had inspected the Ponty-Weston Stream & River Dore adjacent to the bridges, stone had accumulated & required removal. After discussion it was agreed to obtain tenders for removal of the stone, the bridge adjacent kiosk to have the stone removed to line of kiosk (approx 3 metres from bridge). Councillor Hession declared an interest in River Dore cleaning, access would be required through family owned ground which permission was given.

**Post Office** Clerk reported no reply received.

**Provision of Litter Bin** clerk reported initially no reply received, re contacted, information requested given, Shop Association meeting shortly.

**Footpaths** Letter received from Ramblers Association regarding the condition of footpaths DO6, DO7, DO8. Concerns raised included condition of gates, way markers broken missing, condition of stiles, obstructions. The three footpaths were to be used for a forthcoming walking festival. After discussion Councillor James, footpath officer, together with Councillor Lane, would check the footpaths & report at the next meeting on work required. The Clerk to obtain further information on the walking festival as this may be of a benefit to local businesses.

**Playbuilder Funding** Information from a playing field equipment manufacturer reported that Herefordshire Council had been awarded £1.1 million to improve play facilities. Clerk to obtain information from Council & pass to Playing Field Committee.

**Code Of Conduct on Local Authority** Consultation received on proposed Code of Conduct, Councillor Gaze agreed to read & report on next meeting.  
[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk).

**Glebe Ground** Councillor Gaze had received a suggestion that the ground, adjacent to the churchyard extension with access from B4348, currently advertised to let would be suitable for use for car parking. Comments in the Parish Plan indicated the church should be used for more parish functions. A local person was willing to rent the ground whilst discussions were entered into. The Clerk reported the PCC were also investigating the possibility of renting or purchasing the ground for car parking. After discussion it was agreed this was a very good idea & would check progress with the PCC. Councillor Gaze to follow up offer of short term rent.

**Herefordshire Council** information received;

Updated bus time table

Information regarding PACT (Partners & Communities Together), this requested information on the website & contact details. Clerk to supply

Rural Services Network, this has been established to argue the case on behalf of rural services in a joined up fashion particularly about the often inadequate financial provision to them which so often fails to pick up the additional cost of rurality. Membership is being offered free, after discussion agreed to join, clerk to provide contact details.

Biodiversity newsletter

“householder permitted development rights” information on  
[www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk).

**Dog Control Orders** information circulated to councillors, this requested information on areas within the parish where a dog control order was required. Herefordshire Council would consider the information & make the order.

Dog Control orders could be placed on failing to remove dog faeces, not keeping a dog on a lead, (also when directed to do so by an authorised officer), permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded, taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land. Return date March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.

Councillors agreed to consult parishioners/organisations regarding the orders & discuss a reply at the March meeting.

**Brooklands Ground Improvement** After careful consideration on the additional parking that would be available , the comments raised in the Parish Plan, capital money which had been identified for the work, a suggestion that kerbing should be laid along the edge of the highway, Councillor James proposed that the work should not proceed, seconded by Councillor Hession & carried unanimously.

**Information Technology Equipment** As requested the clerk had sought information on provision of equipment by councils. Some council's purchased equipment, with a write down over three years, cost of internet access & insurance additional, whilst others paid an annual expense to the clerk who provided equipment. The clerk had obtained prices, Lap top £300 to £450, printer & internet access extra, annual expense offered by councils £100, to provide computer, internet access, printer. With increased information being sent electronically postage would be reduced, cost of printing may increase, the clerk offered to provide equipment for £90, internet access would be shared, from 1<sup>st</sup> April for a year as a trial. After discussion Councillor Gaze proposed paying the clerk as an expense £90 per year to provide Lap top, printer & internet access, seconded by Councillor Rye & carried unanimously. This would be reviewed in 2010.

Agendas & minutes would be sent electronically to all councillors with email address & for inputting on the parish web site.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that when the web site was instigated Mr Usher offered to build & maintain for a couple of years without charge, this period had now expired. Following the Parish Plan more information would be required to be entered onto the site. Councillors discussed this & agreed Councillor Gaze should meet & discuss with Mr Usher.

**Library Visits** 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> April between 3-45pm & 4-45pm

Saturdays 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> April between 1-30pm & 2-30pm

**Police Newsletter/Neighbourhood Watch** 2 males arrested in Dorstone for sexual offences. Clerk had received request from Golden Valley Team for a copy of Parish Plan, this had been sent, discussions had subsequently taken place, which included Dorstone Front Room with an agreement for a member of the officers, based at Peterchurch, being available monthly at Front Room. Parishioners could discuss any relevant matters with them.

Following information from the Parish Plan the clerk had written to three parishioners who had volunteered to be Neighbourhood/Farm Watch co-ordinators. One had replied confirming his willingness to be farm watch co-ordinator.

**Parish Plan** Councillors congratulated the Parish Plan Committee for the excellent presentation made to those who attended the meeting on the 11th. A meeting would be held to discuss issues raised regarding the council.

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

Signed: P Rye.....

Councillor P Rye

February 11<sup>th</sup>2009