

**Minutes of the Brampton Abbots & Foy Group Parish Council meeting on
Tuesday 28th January 2020 at Upton Bishop Millennium Hall at 19:30**

Present: Cllrs R Lewis (Chairman), Cllrs D Teague (Vice Chairman), G Watts, C Gething-Lewis, I Pebody and O Marshall.

In attendance Jennifer Eva - Parish Clerk and Ward Cllr B Durkin.

Public: 19

1. To accept any apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: E Evans (personal) and J Scudamore (work).

2. To record any declarations of interest and consider any requests for dispensation

Declarations of interest were provided by Cllrs:

- Cllr Lewis pecuniary interests in items 6.3, 6.4 and 7.1.
- Cllr Marshall pecuniary interest in items 6.4, 6.6 and 7.1.

3. To co-opt five new councillors to fill the current vacancies

The Parish Council currently has five vacancies for new Councillors. This item will be deferred to the next meeting as there were no candidates for the vacancies. Residents are asked to contact the Clerk before the meeting for more information on the role of a Councillor bramptonfoypc@gmail.com

4. To consider the minutes of the previous two meetings;

4.1 Meeting held on 26th November 2019

4.2 Meeting held on 7th January 2020

It was RESOLVED to approve both sets of minutes which were duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Open Session (10 minutes):

5.1 Public participation points raised;

- Several drains and gullies around Brampton Abbots are not draining properly and need attention.

5.2 To receive a brief report from Ward Councillor Barry Durkin

Cllr Durkin's written report will be circulated to members in the coming days.

6. Planning – to consider planning applications to be decided by Herefordshire Council;

The agenda for items 6.1 – 6.8 was amended slightly as two councillors had declared several interests and as such, they had to leave the meeting accordingly.

6.1 P194276/F Tonna Cottage ... Proposed removal of raised area of garden, construction of a retaining wall. Construction of two storey extension and alteration to roof of neighbouring property's single storey roof. It was RESOLVED that the PC has no objections to this application.

6.2 P194403 Land to the east of the A40 Ross on Wye Herefordshire ... Erection of up to 175 dwellings together with associated development. It was RESOLVED to note this application which is outside the Brampton Abbots and Foy parish boundary.

Cllrs Lewis left the meeting for the duration of items 6.3 & 6.4; Cllr Teague took over as Chairman.

6.3 P200098/FH The Byres ... Single storey extension to side and convert adjoining barn. It was RESOLVED that the PC has no objections to this application.

Cllr Marshall left the meeting for the duration of this item.

- 6.4 P200131 ... Erection of metal clad barn and covered storage areas for the storage of goods and material relevant to the use of the land to growing & keeping crops, plant and or animals of these activities.

With only 4 members remaining the meeting was not quorate to consider this item and no decisions were made. It was deferred to the next meeting on 26th Feb 2020, pending an extension from the Case Officer at Herefordshire Council (HC).

Cllrs Lewis and Marshall returned to the meeting.

- 6.5 APP/W1850/W/19/3232285, erection of 2 detached dwellings with associated development at Highfield, Overton Lane. It was RESOLVED to note that this appeal was dismissed on 13th December 2019.
- 6.6 Condition of Turners Lane – members agreed to consider this item later in the meeting. Cllr Marshall left the meeting for the duration of item 6.6
- 6.7 Open planning applications – members noted the current list of open applications for the parish.
- 6.8 Light Pollution – *to consider how the Council could minimise the effects on the Parish.* Cllr Pebody has contacted Environmental Health regarding the light pollution from Ross Industrial Estate. It was RESOLVED for the Clerk to invite the Environmental Health Officer to the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Lewis left the meeting for the duration of item 7, Cllr Teague took over as Chairman. Cllr Marshall left the meeting for the duration of item 7

7. Village Hall

- 7.1 To consider the Clerk's report and consider how the Parish Council should proceed. Councillors referred to the Clerk's report and noted the costings in the business will be updated, as reported by Graham Marshall.

Cllrs Watts and Scudamore to progress the PWL application.

Cllr Lewis returned to the meeting and resumed as Chairman.

- 6.6 Condition of Turners Lane – *to consider sending a formal response to the Planning Inspector.* Several parishioners reported the development works to three properties along Turners Lane have left the road very muddy and have damaged a small grassed triangle junction. Cllr Durkin reported that he and the BBLP Locality Steward met on-site to inspect the lane and speak to the site manager, who guaranteed the mud would be cleared later that day. Members agreed that the report produced by the Enforcement Officer (HC) was disappointing and Cllr Durkin will address this with Planning Managers at HC.

Residents commented on the permanent steady flow of water that is running off this site, down the lane and blocking the drains on the Ross Road. It was RESOLVED for the Clerk to report this to BBLP and Cllr Durkin via email.

Cllr Durkin thanked Cllr Marshall for cleaning the mud off the lane outside his property. Cllr Marshall returned to the meeting and Cllr Durkin left the meeting.

8. Finance

- 8.1 To consider January finance report – including budget monitoring and bank reconciliation. It was RESOLVED to note the information as provided.

8.2 To consider invoices for payment;

- 8.2.1 HALC/NALC ... subs and affiliation fees at £470.98.
- 8.2.2 St Peter's Hall ... hall hire 7th January 2020 at £15.00.
- 8.2.3 Clerk's salary for January 2020.
- 8.2.4 Clerk's mileage and parking expenses at £33.88.
- 8.2.5 ICO ... annual data protection fee at £40.00.
- 8.2.6 SLCC ... part payment of Clerk's annual subscription at £48.00.

It was RESOLVED to approve the above invoices for payment.

8.3 To consider the draft budget/precept 2020/21 for approval.

Members considered the draft budget which included all standard items, plus a new heading for the PWL repayments for the Village Hall project. The £400 budget for churchyard maintenance has been removed as the Clerk reminded members of official guidance from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) which considers funding towards the benefit of church property as unlawful. The Clerk will check if this also applies to open burial grounds.

A discussion ensued, and members considered the Council's reserves total and how an increase to the precept will affect parishioners.

Members RESOLVED to;

- To increase the 'contingency' budget by £400.00.
- To approve the 2020/21 budget at £16,552,
- To approve the 2020/21 precept at £13,552,

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work on preparing the budget.

9. Risk Management – *to consider any risks that may impact the Parish Council*

The following risks were highlighted by members;

- The lack of a quorum at this meeting – the Parish Council has five current vacancies. Clerk to check whether we can put in place a process which allows proxies.
- Should the Parish Council consider providing official email addresses to all Councillors. Clerk to check.

10. Climate Change network meeting

10.1 Verbal update from Cllr Pebody on the initial BA&F Environmental Group meeting;

- Positive interest received locally from 12 residents, 9 attended the first meeting to discuss how best to combat the negative impacts of climate change on a local level.
- 5 main focus areas were identified; transport, buildings, waste, green energy and the green infrastructure.
- Potential areas for action locally include; tree planting programme, recycling education, sharing ideas about where to recycle certain items and discussions with local land managers.

10.2 To consider how the Parish Council may work with the group going forwards.

Members welcomed Cllr Pebody's work to establish this group and confirmed that the Parish Council does support the initiative. Going forwards Cllr Pebody will continue to keep the Parish Council updated.

11. Highways/Footpaths

11.1 To consider any highways issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

- Turners Lane – mud on road, water running off building site, damage to grassed triangle area.
- Blocked gullies at along Turners Lane and on the Ross Road.

- Foy suspension bridge – needs painting as very rusty.

Members of the public are encouraged to take photos of any issues and report them directly to the Herefordshire Council via the reporting app. <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-it>

11.2 To receive an update from the Parish Footpaths Officer – the report will be circulated to members.

11.3 To consider any work for the Lengthsman

The Chairman and Clerk will again contact the Lengthsman about the outstanding jobs.

11.4 Managing roadside verges to improve biodiversity

Members considered a request from BBLP to nominate roadside verges within the parish to be excluded from mowing to improve flora and fauna biodiversity. It was difficult to identify any particular areas for this scheme as the parish roads are narrow and traffic sightlines need to be maintained, by under the village hall wall and near a gas unit at the hole in the wall junction was suggested.

12. BAcRG – no update was available.

A statement from BAcRG, on 10th December 2019, confirmed their intention to withdraw the two planning applications – members observed both applications remain open and have been amended.

The Chairman read out a statement on behalf of St Michael's and All Angels PCC which was noted by members; the PCC has appointed a surveyor to produce a draft Heads of Terms for the church car park for the PCC to consider. The Rev'd Sean Semple will arrange a meeting between the PCC, Sam Hines (BAcRG) and Sam Pratley, the Diocesan Secretary, within the next two-weeks.

13. Correspondence – it was noted that the clerk has emailed correspondence to members.

14. To raise items for the next scheduled parish council meeting (*no discussion*)

- Planning extension request to HC for application P200131.
- Cllrs to email the Clerk some suggestions for the agenda if required.

15. Extraordinary meeting – *to consider whether to hold an extra meeting on 26th February*
It was RESOLVED to hold this meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:32pm

Signed: **Date:**