

A Meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in Old School Hall Dorstone on **Wednesday February 10th 2016 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Councillor C Thomas, Chairman, Councillor Usher, Councillor Gethin, Councillor Hession, Councillor Meredith, Councillor A Phillips, Councillor D Phillips & Mr C Hendy Parish Council Clerk

Also present Ward Councillor P Price, Ward Councillor G Powell, one parishioner.

Declaration of Interest from Councillor D Phillips, he was a co-opted member of the playing field who had made a donation application.

The **minutes** of meeting January 13th 2016 having been circulated, were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.

Reports

Ward Councillor P Price, Herefordshire Council are proposing a council tax rise of 1.9% + a 2% rise to cover adult care making overall increase of 3.9%. Recent announcement was a further £4.5 million from central government together with the council keeping the business rate in 2020.

Golden Valley Police not in attendance

Broadband, Councillor Powell gave an update on the Fastershire project covering Herefordshire, referring to the updated Herefordshire Council agreement, which had been circulated to councillors. Work on the installation of fibre optics was under-way, the cabinet had been installed on the corner of Chapel Lane, connections should be completed in the spring, whilst this would increase broadband speed in the village the full benefit will not be received until fibre optics are connected to properties. Work required to improve broadband to outlying properties is being investigated. It was agreed to keep in contact with Councillor Powell regarding the project

EE mobile phone coverage from Peterchurch mast, clerk reported acknowledgement letter received from MP, no response from EE, Chief operating officer has left following BT takeover. Councillor Phillips reported he has been in contact with EE, they have confirmed the mast at Poston was switched off in November, reason was nearby trees have obscured the line of sight from the aerial that it became necessary to turn off the system, EE are looking at both short and long term solutions, estimate mobile signal will be restored by April 2016.

Finance;

Clerks salary £122.54

Lengthsman £704.50

DFR £20 room hire

All payments authorised

Highways

Balfour Beatty letter circulated

A Parish Walk had recently been carried out by Councillor Usher, Locality Steward, Lengthsman. Over 74 defects logged

Lengthsman Scheme 2016/17, no increase in grant, Councillors agreed to participate in the Lengthsman Scheme/Parish Paths 2016/2017

Clerk had attended a presentation by BB, discussion on replacement sandbags and who was going to pay, BB or Parish Councils, awaiting decision.

Lengthsman scheme 2017/2018, proposal that the budget will be cut by 25% & will require funds from PC, funding eliminated by 2020

Proposed resurfacing programme 2016-17, this was due out shortly with a short period of time to reply, concern raised over this as last year a longer period of consultation promised.

Councillor Gethin requested clarification on responsibility for pot hole on ground adjacent to highway/Cella. Clerk has logged defect with Balfour Beatty (BB) & awaiting inspection/report.

Flooding issues re Ponty Weston & Dore bridge Councillor Price reported he had no update but was meeting the locality steward on Friday.

Neighbourhood Plan, Regulation 14 consultation update

Responses received; Natural England, Historic England, Vowchurch &

Turnastone PC , Welsh Water Herefordshire Council & Cusop Council

Underspend on grant from the Community Rights Programme Team was

£2098.97 information. Clerk to complete end of grant report and obtain guidance on repayment process.

Heritage Map Councillor Usher indicated that alterations are to be carried out to the Shop Association building which includes a new window, suggestion had been raised that the heritage map was incorporated in the window. Clerk gave a brief outline of the map; ownership was with the parish council. Agreed to discuss when plans of the proposed alteration available.

Donation Policy applications received from;

Playing field, (set of goal posts and corner posts to allow younger members of recently formed football club to use),

Church, (maintenance of footpath & churchyard),

Village Hall (augment and replace glassware stocks for functions at village hall).

Councillors considered all the applications against the donation policy & agreed to give a grant of £400 towards the goal posts for the younger members to use.

Information: Herefordshire Rural Hub enews, Community Responders appeal, Funding update

Consultation; sites for gypsies & travellers closes February 14th 2016

Date of next meeting; agreed to delay the scheduled March until the 30th 2016.

No further business the chairman thanked those who had attended and closed the meeting at 09-30pm.

Signed..... Councillor T Usher

March 29th 2016