

A Meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in Old School Hall Dorstone on **Wednesday January 13th 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, two parishioners & PCSO K Witcher Golden Valley Police for report.

Declaration of Interest, none declared

Representation from the Public

Mr Preece spoke about the flooding at Ponty Weston, had raised with Herefordshire Council & Balfour Beatty, informed road was low priority, if he carried out any work he may be prosecuted. Later informed by Balfour Beatty it was Welsh Water Authority responsibility, contacted Welsh Water, not their responsibility, Herefordshire Council responsibility.

The **minutes** of meeting December 11th 2015, having been circulated, were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.

Reports; Councillor Price gave an update on Herefordshire Council matters. Recent flooding had only affected a very small number of properties; government grant was available to those properties affected for flood prevention. PCSO Witcher, Golden Valley Police reported the crime rate in the area currently was very low.

Planning application

Site address; Hafod, Mill Lane, Dorstone, Hereford, Herefordshire HR3 6BE

Application no; 153364

Description: Proposed repair work to rotten external boarding .two new windows to workshop and one dormer window to cottage to accommodate new staircase.

Councillor C Gethin had shown affected neighbours, one letter received regarding position of windows; this had also been sent by the parishioner to Herefordshire Council.

It had not been possible for the clerk to arrange/attend a meeting by 1st Jan to discuss application.

Planning permission has been granted.

Decisions:

The Fold, Dorstone, Planning permission granted

Bage Court, Dorstone, Planning appeal dismissed by Planning Inspectorate

HALC

Information included;

Community Infrastructure Review, currently charging authorities are required to transfer to parish councils 15% of levy of receipts from development in their area,

25% to those with adopted neighbourhood plan, proposal is to raise to 35% those PC with adopted neighbourhood plan
Audit Commission will be abolished and new external audit arrangements made for 2016/17. A new sector led body has been set up & the parish council will automatically be included as a customer unless it opts out by 31st March 2016. HALC advice is to use the new body.
Spending Review, briefing note had been circulated
Pension scheme, information circulated on the Pension Act 2008.

Finance;

Clerks salary £122.54
Lengthsman account £142

Payments authorised

Financial update to the end of December 2015 presented to the council and agreed.

Highways

BB newsletter circulated

Ponty Weston, Mr Phillips concerns discussed, Councillor Price agreed to raise issues, including information regarding prosecution, with Balfour Beatty
Flooding, the recent weather had caused flooding issues in the parish, all stock of sand bags used, lack of knowledge on geography of area by emergency helpline staff reported. Councillor Usher reported that he had been informed there was no money to clear Dore Bridge, water level raising concern of flooding Bridge Cottage. Councillor Price agreed to discuss with Herefordshire Council.
Clerk to request sand bag replenishment & enquire if the stock level could be increased.

Lengthsman scheme, spend to date £830, Balance to 31st March £2986 (Grant allocated 2015/16 £3816)

Parish Paths Scheme, spend to date £209, Balance to 31st March £266 (Grant allocated 2015/16 £475).

Neighbourhood Plan, Regulation 14 consultation update, replies expected shortly from those who had indicated they were responding. The two open sessions at DFR had been poorly attended.

Neighbourhood planning champion, DCLG is currently recruiting to expand the network of Neighbourhood Planning Champions.

Mobile Phone Update

Councillor D Phillips had circulated information that he had received on Facebook of parishioners problems with the EE mast at Peterchurch, various reasons had been given including access to cut trees, problems with the base, and improving mast for next generation signal. The mast had been out of action since November and probably out of action until April 2016. This was having a significant affect in particular on small businesses and farmers.

Councillors were concerned about the lack of service, noted Councillor Phillips was pursuing the problems further, agreed that Councillor Phillips should liase with the clerk on a letter to be sent to the MP, Chief Executive EE, Ward Councillors and also inform Peterchurch PC of action.

Broadband update Councillor D Phillips had circulated information on Facebook of parishioner's problems with the speed of broadband & the effect especially on the business users in the parish. Information had been received since 2013 that speed would increase under the Fastershire project; unfortunately engineering difficulties had been encountered, new contract in the process of being awarded. Councillors had seen the latest proposals from Herefordshire Council, agreed to request Cabinet Councillor Graham Powell attends the next PC meeting.

Information; Jan 2016 funding information circulated, Good Neighbour Scheme meeting, Defibrillator funding, Fuel Poverty Training January 15th Hereford, Local Transport Plan consultation ends Jan 29th

Agreed the date of next meeting; February 10th 2016

No further business the chairman thanked those who had attended & closed the meeting at 09.25pm

Signed Councillor C Thomas

February 10th 2016