

A Meeting of Dorstone Parish Council was held in Old School Hall Dorstone on **Wednesday 25th October 2017 at 7.30pm.**

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

Also present Councillor P Price. 16 Members of the public

Acceptable apologies received from; Councillor K Meredith, work commitment

Declaration of interest, Councillor Hession on the highway report at Rectory Corner

Representation from the public, none requested.

The **minutes** of meeting September 13th 2017, having been circulated, were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.

Reports; Ward Councillor P Price had circulated the September report, October report would be sent out shortly. He gave information on the Challenge Fund where £5million of Government funding had been secured for road re-surfacing & explained the need for road closure when work was being carried out. The recent overspend by Herefordshire Council on a building refurbishment contract had necessitated other contracts being looked at; some officials involved in the refurbishment contract had left the council.

Golden Valley Police not in attendance

Planning

Application no: 172894

Site: Land South East of Bage Court, Dorstone, Hereford, Herefordshire HR3 5SU

Description; Erection of an agricultural building for free range egg production with associated egg packing area and feed bin (amended scheme of 161909)

Additional information available on web site, response date extended to 9th November. No letters support or objection received.

Councillors considered the additional information, Councillor Usher queried the difference between permitted development and the application applied for. It is understood permitted development applies to size, usage, frequency of applications for agriculture buildings, the clerk would seek advice from the planning officer.

Councillor A Phillips proposed the council should not comment on the additional information until the landscape officer report was available, this was supported by councillors.

Decisions

Application No 172816

Site; Pandy Lodge Dorstone Hereford, Herefordshire HR3 6AN

Description: Proposed improvements and alterations to existing detached house.

Approved with conditions

Application No 171802

Site: St Faiths Church Dorstone Hereford Herefordshire HR3 6AW

Description: proposed installation of oak louvres to tower roof associated with bells restoration project.

Approved with conditions

For information;

Hedge removal at the Bage Court, Clerk & councillors had received queries regarding the removal of a hedgerow. Planning had been given in October 2014 for a new hedgerow outside the visibility splay, work to be begun by 31st October 2017

Site: Lower Crossway Farm Dorstone Hereford Herefordshire HR3 6AT

Application: for prior notification of agricultural development - proposed general purpose agricultural store.

Prior approval not required

Site: Llan Farm Dorstone Hereford Herefordshire HR3 6AS

Application: Proposed roof over existing farm yard area and existing part of collapsed shed.

Prior Approval Not Required

HALC, The date of the HALC Conference and AGM has been postponed until Saturday 25th November 2017.

Finance

Clerk's salary; £125 August, £125 September.

Payment authorised

Audited accounts 2016/2017 had been received back from the external auditor, one observation the internal auditor had incorrectly ticked "yes" to the question on petty cash, should have ticked "not covered".

Precept 2018-2019, Councillor Thomas, Councillor Usher & the clerk had met & discussed a budget for 2018/19 which was presented to councillors. Funding for the lengthsman scheme from Herefordshire Council will cease, funding for footpaths will continue with the PC contribution being £142.50. To maintain spending on the lengthsman a figure of £2857.50 was suggested. Budget proposed expenditure would be £7155. Future use of the telephone kiosk agreed to add £100 to the budget also to enquire if the street light could be converted to LED. After considering the budget & current financial statements it was resolved to increase the precept to £6500, to be confirmed at the December meeting following consultation with parishioners. Using the current Band D properties parish rate per Band D property 2018/19 would be £35.70

Highways

Dorstone Hill Hedge; The Locality Steward had visited Dorstone Hill, observed the hedge cutting is not the best with some smaller branches still hanging on.

The level of obstruction of the highway is nowhere near intervention, whilst the hedges on the opposite side is not blocking the highway enquire who the landowner is and ask for it to be cut back”.

Rectory Corner

Parishioner has raised concern about the increasing damage to the verges on the B4348 around the Dorstone House section. Damage to the fire hydrant cover on the bend, also the breakup of the road edge by the church gate has been reported to Herefordshire Council. Request passed onto Locality Steward

Stile on footpath adjacent to village hall

Request from a visitor to this area, with a big dog, during her few days has have found many public right of way styles which simply cannot be traversed by a large dog as they are high and sheep fenced in. Stiles identified adjacent to village hall & two stiles in Peterchurch. Councillor Usher reported a gate had been obtained to erect on the footpath adjacent to the hall, the owners had not given permission for the gate, he undertook to discuss with them again. The clerk had written to Locality Steward regarding footpaths in Peterchurch.

Road condition Common Bach

Copy of note sent to Ward Councillor from parishioner about the condition of Common Bach. No maintenance has been done for several years although other potholes in the area have been dealt with. This had been forwarded to the Locality Steward

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan is an objective and strategic view of the rights of way network in the county and looks at how to benefit different types of user. Herefordshire Council is reviewing Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP), in accordance with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Comments on the plan can be made up to 10 November 2017.

Community Governance Review

Councillors considered the review and the response they had given in 2015; they resolved to suggest consideration is given to the following changes;
To extend the parish boundary to include in Dorstone the following;
Snodhill, a small hamlet,
Sydcombe, where access is through Dorstone,
Caperthy, to include the whole of the property.

Properties at the edge of the parish, Lower Bodcott Farm, (Bredwardine side of Dorstone Hill) to consider including in Wyeseide

The residents of these properties have not been consulted nor the relevant PC"

Boundary Commission

The next stage of the 2018 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review will be the publishing of revised proposals for new constituency boundaries on Tuesday 17 October 2017. Consultation on these proposals will last until 11 December 2017. This will be the last consultation during this review of constituencies.

EE telephone mast 4g upgrade whilst the mast had been upgraded there was still difficulty at times with the signal, Vodafone reception was better. Councillor A Phillips would continue to monitor the EE signal in the area.

Community Broker

Information received from the Golden Valley Community broker whose role will recognise a key focus of the Care Act 2014, this aims to promote people's wellbeing and independence helping people to access resources, both professional and volunteer within their own community. Request received to meet the council, agreed to arrange a date

Kiosk

Suggestions received; Mini library where you can exchange/ swap books with a chair included for a quiet read. Tourist Information Box showing all about Dorstone. Councillors had budgeted for £100 for alterations

Information; Invitation to coffee morning with Hereford Council cabinet member, Age UK request for support, availability of Rural Hub newsletter. Warm Home discount scheme, Village Asset seminar will take place on Thursday 26th October Representatives from the PC had attended a previous seminar.

Next meeting will be held on November 8th 2017; Councillor Thomas gave his apologies, on holiday.

No further business the chairman thanked those who had attended & closed the meeting at 09.20pm.

Signed..... Councillor T Usher
November 8th 2017