

**MINUTES OF NORTH BROMYARD GROUP ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Tuesday, 22nd May 2012 in Upper Sapey Village Hall.**

In Attendance

Chairman	Mr J Wheeler
Vice Chairman	Mr B Civil
Councillors	Mr E Carpenter, Mr A Dennis, Mrs K Harris, Mr R Wilks,
Clerk	Mrs L Butler
Public	One

1. Election of Chairman

Mr Wheeler agreed to be nominated. On the proposal of Mr Carpenter, seconded by Mr Wilks and there being no other nominations Mr Wheeler was unanimously elected chairman.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Mr Civil agreed to be nominated. On the proposal of Mr Dennis, seconded by Mrs Harris and there being no other nominations Mr Civil was unanimously elected vice-chairman.

3. Apologies - were received from Mr Coldicott, Mr Richards and Mr Swinford.

4. Declaration of Interest - none.

At this point Mr Tom Fisher was asked by the chairman to give an update on the footpaths. He stated that he has now walked all paths in the five parishes.

In Upper Sapey there were no major problems just some small obstructions and Amey have been asked to put in some way markers.

Wolferlow, two diversions: one through Wolferlow Court which is due to a broken bridge and needs diverting over an alternate bridge. The one at Cockshutts Farm is a public interest diversion which will be paid for by Herefordshire Council.

In Edvin Loach there are no problems. Tedstone Wafre, some cropping issues but he will check later. Tedstone Delamere: there are three bridleway problems, the footbridge near Line House is closed. The ones at Pixhill Farm and Tedstone Court are open to pedestrians but not horses. It was asked if the necessary work in Tedstone Delamere will be done to open these paths to horses? Mr Fisher replied that it is down to the landowner but it could be expensive. It needs pressure to be maintained on Herefordshire Council to deal with it.

Mr Fisher was thanked by the chairman for his update.

5. Minutes of March Parish Council meeting

Mr Dennis was erroneously noted as being in attendance, when he was absent.

With this amendment the minutes were approved on the proposal of Mr Civil, seconded by Mr Wheeler and unanimous.

6. Matters Arising

6.1 Follow up pothole repairs and status of resurfacing of road from Tedstone Court to Line House.

6.2 Mr Civil asked if Cllr Swinford could ensure that Tedstone Delamere are a high priority for Broadband. Clerk to pass comment to Cllr Swinford.

6.3 Grit bins are needed in Upper Sapey and Tedstone Delamere. Herefordshire have already informed the parish council that they have not given priority to any of the recent grit bin requests noting that none will be replaced at Herefordshire Council's expense.

Following lengthy discussion it was agreed to purchase ten bins from Herefordshire Council (Amey) to be located in the parishes. The cost quoted is £78.40 each including VAT, effectively £65.33 each as the parish council can reclaim the VAT.

On the proposal of Mr Carpenter, seconded by Mr Wilks and unanimous it was agreed to purchase ten grit bins from Amey. Clarification to be sought on installation, refilling and replacement if damaged.

7. Planning

7.1 For Consideration

7.1.1 N120780/FH The Lea, Upper Sapey, Worcester, WR6 6XS
Various internal and external alterations to include: demolition of 1970's single storey extension and replacement of storm porch to west elevation Full Householder

7.1.2 N120782/L The Lea, Upper Sapey, Worcester, WR6 6XS
Various internal and external alterations to include: demolition of 1970's single storey extension and replacement of storm porch to west elevation Listed Building Consent
The Parish Council has no objections.

On the proposal of Mr Dennis, seconded by Mr Wilks and unanimous.

7.2 Decisions

7.2.1 N120590/FH Highfield, Hedge House Lane, Tedstone Wafre, HR7 4PU
Erection of UPVC and part brick porch. Full Householder Full GRANTED

7.2.2 N120435/L St Agnes House, Delamere Road, Tedstone Delamere, HR7 4PS
Retention of internal alterations to loft space Listed Building Consent GRANTED
Both decisions noted by the parish council.

8. Highways - none

9. Finance

9.1 Approval of 2011/12 accounts and completion of annual return
The account for the financial year 2011/12, having been previously circulated, were approved on the proposal of Mr Carpenter, seconded by Mr Wheeler and unanimous. Questions contained in Section 2 - Annual Governance Statement on the annual return were answered by the parish council.

9.2 Clerks salary £ 412.43 April - June 2012

9.3 HMRC tax £103 April - June 2012

Both paid on the proposal of Mr Wheeler, seconded by Mr Wilks and unanimous.

9.4 Bank balances as at April 2012 – Current a/c £826.41 Deposit a/c £3,828.63
Bank balances noted by the parish council.

10. Ward Councillors Report -

Cllr Swinford submitted a report which, in his absence was read by the chairman.

I am pleased to report that Herefordshire Council has signed off the agreement with the newly formed management body for Bromyard Downs - the Bromyard Downs Common Association. The BDCA is entirely independent of Brockhampton Group Parish Council with an independent Chairman; until the election in May 2011 the former management body was a subset of the Parish Council, with a common Chairman. The newly formed body is enthusiastically addressing all the issues regarding the management of the Downs and Members will start to see significant improvements over the coming months and years.

A review of Herefordshire Council's planning system has recently been completed. Those recommendations and comments most relevant to Parish Councils are:-

1/That the Chairman of the Planning Committee (rather than an Officer) should make the final decision on whether a planning application is redirected to the Planning Committee.

2/That in view of the enhanced responsibilities arising from the Localism Act parish councils should take the opportunity to provide further training for their members on the planning system, including guidance on using the new planning website.

3/That a short planning guidance note be provided to parish clerks for use as a reminder of their Council's role in the planning process and the aspects they are invited to comment on.

4/The issue of retrospective applications can create a high degree of public unrest as it is seen as flouting the planning procedures. For a variety of reasons, whether intentionally or by accident, some development works are commenced before a planning application has been submitted or granted. This is itself is not a criminal act. However, Herefordshire Council, in common with other authorities, has been lobbying government to reverse this to make enforcement action easier to undertake.

5/Parish Council Members should receive training on the planning enforcement policy.

The application by Marstern Developments to build 127 dwellings at Porthouse Farm in Bromyard was refused by Herefordshire Council's Planning Committee on the 4th April. The application may be subject to an appeal.

May I remind everyone of the Neighbourhood Planning seminar on Friday 25th May at Bishop's Frome Village Hall, commencing at 6:30 pm. Hopefully some Members will be able to attend.

11. Correspondence

11.1 Herefordshire Council - Neighbourhood Planning Training during May & June

No one expressed an interest to attend.

11.2 Herefordshire Council - Planning Application Process

Move to electronic processing next year. Will continue to send paper plans until the end of the year. Decision will no longer be sent to clerks but will be available to download from Herefordshire Councils website.

11.3 HALC membership

Deferred to next months meeting.

11.4 Local Government Boundary Commission - Electoral review of Herefordshire

Consulting on reducing the size of Herefordshire Council to 54 members.

Noted by the parish council.

11.5 Church Commissioners - Closed church of Wolferlow St Andrew

The Church Commissioners have considered representations made and '...have come to the conclusion that the Scheme should proceed notwithstanding the representations made against it'. This means that the church will be offered for sale for residential use along with part of the annexed land.

11.6 Jubilee Mugs

Prices were available for different styles of mugs which could be given to the children of the parish. It was agreed not to pursue.

12. Parish Matters and future agenda items - none

13. Public Questions - none