

ORCOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held remotely on Wednesday 18th November 2020 at 19.00 hrs.

Councillors Present ... Ben Thomas (Chairman), Jane Rigler, Ian Garlick, Barry Shaw, Peter Garratt and Margaret Serle. Also, in attendance were Ward Councillor Fagan, Mark Hearne (Parish Clerk) and six residents.

1. **Apologies for absence** – None.
2. **Declarations of interest & written dispensation requests** - None.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting – 23rd September 2020.** It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record of the meeting and these will be signed by the Chairman in due course
4. **Public Forum** –
 - 4.1 A verbal report from the Ward Councillor included the following issues:
 - 4.1.1 Councillors were reminded of the recent newsletter from the Leader of Herefordshire Council which included reference to sustainable energy and an NHS initiative entitled “healthy minds”. There is also mention of a Stronger Hereford fund.
 - 4.1.2 Gigaclear are planning to install fibre broadband in Orcop during the first quarter of 2021 and will write to residents setting out their plans in due course plus offering an on-line community meeting. Councillor Shaw reported a notice advising of a road closure in the village and Ward Councillor Fagan agreed to investigate.
 - 4.1.3 An outbreak of avian flu at Leominster.
 - 4.1.4 Climate emergency planning through the Great Collaboration initiative is a good resource for communities looking to de-carbonise.
 - 4.1.5 Hereford will become part of a national campaign for the rollout of the Covid 19 vaccine which may begin as early as December 2020.
 - 4.2 Views of residents on parish matters – no issues were raised.
5. **NDP** – Councillor Serle advised that a report on the latest developments on the NDP had been circulated to Councillors and published on the Parish Council website. Copies of the Housing Delivery Report plus the notes from a Steering Group meeting held on the 21st September 2020 were also on the website. Councillor Serle added that the Steering Group had been very pleased

that Herefordshire Council had indicated support for the approach proposed for delivering the NDP.

6. **Planning** – Comments on Planning Applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council. Whilst no formal planning applications had been submitted it was RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the owners of three holiday lets seeking an update on their respective application for retrospective planning approval.

7. Finance

- 7.1 The following payments were approved
 - 7.1.1 Clerk's salary (October & November 2020) in accordance with his employment contract
 - 7.1.2 PAYE (October & November 2020)
 - 7.1.3 Postage - £7.80
 - 7.1.4 Stationery - £37.00
 - 7.1.5 DC Gardening Services - £96.00
 - 7.1.6 DJN Planning - £300.00
 - 7.1.7 Remembrance Day Wreath Donation - £26.00
- 7.2 Precept & Budget – 2021/22 – It was RESOLVED to approve the budget for 2021/22 and it was further RESOLVED to leave the precept unchanged at £9,200.
- 7.3 It was RESOLVED to donate £500 to Dore Community Transport.

8. **Lengthsman** – There was brief discussion on a ditch owned by John Bayliss which had become blocked due to an accumulation of grit and sewage. It was noted that ditch maintenance is a riparian responsibility, but Councillors decided to review the situation at the next meeting.

9. **Copywell** – It was reported that no substantive progress has been made concerning the new treatment works to service properties on Wilkes Row. Ward Councillor Fagan understood that the landowner was progressing the issue but agreed to seek an update from the Environmental Agency.

10. **Footpaths** – The Footpaths Officer reported that work has been completed on OC14 and OC16 with the installation of a new stile. No further work has been undertaken since the start of the second lockdown but will recommence when the situation allows. The Footpath Officer briefed the meeting on Green Lane reporting that he is seeking to include it on the definitive map as a PROW. Progress will be reviewed on a regular basis. The Footpaths Officer also referred to a pilot scheme being organised by Balfour Beatty which will follow a similar pattern to the now defunct P3 scheme, but it will not involve any funding. Councillors were supportive of the scheme and the Footpath Officer's participation and it was RESOLVED that the Footpaths Officer submit his name to Balfour Beatty.

11. **Highway Issues** – Councillor Shaw mentioned road damage at The Heights on the C1235 which will be reported to Balfour Beatty via the Herefordshire Council website.

12. **The War Memorial** – The Clerk confirmed that action on the war memorial is unlikely until the Spring of 2021 and so it was RESOLVED to remove this topic from the agenda until March 2021.

13. **Review into Code of Conduct Complaints Against Councillors** - Councillors were invited to submit thoughts on the review to the Clerk no later than the 1st December 2020.

14. **Clerk Correspondence** – A representative from the Royal British Legion had written to express disappointment over the appearance of the area around the war memorial and considered this reflected badly on the village especially on Remembrance Sunday.

15. **Date of the next meeting and matters for discussion** – The next meeting will take place on the 20 January 2021

The meeting closed at 19.55hrs

SIGNED DATE