



**Draft Minutes of The Parish Council Meeting of Lower Bullingham Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 5th February 2024 at 7.30pm at Dinedor Village Hall**

Cllr Neil Barrington, Cllr Barbara Frankham, Cllr Andrew Fisher & Cllr Cat Hornsey
In Attendance: Parish Clerk Kath Greenow, Ward Cllr Dave Davies & 3 member of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman & Vice Chairman Cllr Neil Barrington Chaired the meeting

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Chairman Cllr Nigel Jones & Cllr Darren Smith Vice Chairman

2. To receive declarations of interest on agenda items and any dispensation requests
None declared.

3. To approve & sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting Tuesday 6th January 2024
It was **RESOLVED:** to approve & sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting Tuesday 6th January 2024

4. Co-option to fill current vacancies

4.1 To consider co -option of Parish Councillor(s)

Three members of the parish in attendance at the meeting advised that they would like to be considered for co -option of Cllr. There were currently 4 vacancies on the Parish Council
It was **RESOLVED:** to Co-opt Adam Smith, Gillian Bastin & Fiona Barrington as Cllrs. Each Cllr signed their declaration of acceptance form and completed their register of interest form, which the clerk would send on to HFDC Governance team as required.
The new Cllrs then joined the meeting .

5. Public forum: Members of the public may raise subjects they wish to bring to the attention of the Parish council. (Restricted to 10 minutes)

no matters raised by the public.

5.1 Ward Cllrs Report

The ward Cllr gave the following report on the flooding issues.

The ward Councillor had meet with Council Officers BBLP Highways and Drainage engineers, and Environment Agency representatives and had walked around the flood areas of Lower Bullingham.

“The areas covered were, Holme Lacy Road from the Withybrook Bridge down to the Redbrook Bridge. Then Watery Lane from the junction with Lower Bullingham Lane up to and just beyond the railway bridge. Lower Bullingham Lane up to the Railway Bridge stopping at the Windsor Road junction at the barrier and discussed the flooding events of the last few years with photographic and video evidence. The footpath running on the South side of the railway line that

connects Hoarwithy Road to Lower Bullingham Lane. The field opposite that path where the water comes out onto the road and floods under the bridge. The Pastures entrance and the bottom end footpath access from Lower Bullingham Lane.

The bridges were examined and photographed that go under the railway line and under Hoarwithy Road, these were both clear of any obstruction and water was flowing freely! It seems the prime Issue was in the field! Opposite the Hoarwithy Road entrance into the field is a connecting path into the adjacent field. This crosses Redbrook, or should I say Redbrook goes into a 12 inch pipe beneath the crossing. The amount of water travelling down Redbrook post a significant rain event overcomes this pipe with ease and consequently the water spills into the field. Some goes West into the adjacent field (which now resembles a quagmire, some finds its way across the field and back into the streambed, and a significant amount makes it around the field onto the road and then down the footpath and into Lower Bullingham Lane.

The Environment Agency staff noted this and also the fact that the proposed building works that are to take place, could impact this issue by reducing absorption ability when fields become hard standing. They were also concerned with properties in Watery Lane that could become flooded and also on Holme Lacy Road, they were going to look at options for these for flood protection, and also were interested in identifying vulnerable individuals in the area, that may require a greater level of support during emergencies (environmental emergencies)."

Ward Cllrs February Report

Just before Christmas the government announced a preliminary settlement for all local authorities in England for the financial year 2024/25, which included recognition of the demands on those councils providing services to large geographical areas. As the Chair of the national lobbying group the Rural Services Network is our Chairman, Councillor Roger Phillips he stress upon him the need to improve the assistance for rural councils who have higher mileages to cover, less contact time per employee- particularly in provision of home care, less number of service providers and greater energy and fuel costs than their urban counterparts. As he represents a rural constituency in Dorset the arguments fell on fertile territory and additional funding has been received.

The Rural Services Delivery Grant was increased by 15% to 110 million with Herefordshire receiving an extra £945,000 giving a total of over 1.5 million in total rural grant. It is proposed that this extra 945K funding will be used to support-

- a lengthsman scheme 250K – which is a joint funding projects for parish highway and drainage projects which parish council can join;
- 250K to address issues currently closing our Public Rights of Way;
- 445K to address works across the highway network.

This is subject to the sign off at the budget meeting of the full council on the 9th February. I will be supporting these proposals. In this month update I look at the impact of the named storms and the difficulties it brought to our local community. I have been in contact with council officers to discuss options for Lower Bullingham in times of flood, when some areas are isolated! A site visit is planned at the beginning of February with Council Officers and the Environment Agency. An update will be provided once completed.

5.2 Police report

No police in attendance

6. Lengthsman

6.1 To consider lengthsman work required.

The clerk advised that the lengthsman had emailed to advise that he would be out on 7th Feb 2024

to attend to the work the PC had previously requested
No further work was identified for the lengthsman to carry out.
It was **RESOLVED**: to complete the BB expression of interest form 2024/25

7. Parish Footpaths

- 7.1 To consider Parish Footpaths work required in the parish.
No work identified.

8.Highways.

- 8.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty.
No new matters raised.

9. Finance

- 9.1 To note the finance report, bank reconciliation report and budget report as at 31/01/2024.
The finance report and bank reconciliation report was considered and noted as £ 55380.35 as at 31/01/2024
- 9.2 To approve payment of Clerks salary for February 2024 & paye due
It was **RESOLVED**: to pay the clerks salary for February as per contract.
No PAYE was due for payment.
- 9.3 To consider the following invoices for payment:
It was **RESOLVED**: to approve the following payments.
Eyelid Productions Annual Website support invoice 3480 £ 100.00
HALC – Membership 2024-25 invoice H2056 £1085.8 + vat

10. Planning

- 10.1 To consider commenting on: Planning Consultation – 232850 – 14 Redbrook Close Lower Bullingham Hereford
Description: Build on top of single storey extension.
It was **RESOLVED**: to support the application.
- 10.2 To consider commenting on: Planning Consultation 240030 Unit 11C Thorn Industrial Park, Rotherwas Hereford.
Description: Continued use of unit 11c as a veteran and community fitness rehabilitation and training centre -use classes E (c) (d) and (e) Retrospective.
It was **RESOLVED**: to support the application.
- 10.3 To consider further planning applications due for comment.
No further application for comment

11. Correspondence

- 11.1 To note correspondence received since last meeting, which has been sent to Cllrs.
All correspondence was noted.

12. Matters raised for consideration for placing on the next meeting's agenda. (No discussion)

- None raised.
12. To note date of next Parish Council Meeting as Tuesday 5th March 2024 7.30pm
at Dinedor Village Hall

Signed
Lower Bullingham Parish Council Chairman

Dated.....