

PENCOMBE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pencombe Group Council held on
Tuesday 25th February 2020
Pencombe & Little Cowarne Parish Hall, 7.30pm

Councillors Present;

Cllr. T. Brazier (Chairman)
Cllr. C Hayes
Cllr. C. Hadley
Cllr. D. Legge
Cllr. J. Barrett

In Attendance: Allan Drew (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: Susan Drew (Treasurer, Parish Hall), Jo Thomas of New House Farm

10/20 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Hope and Ward Cllr. Harrington

11/20 Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation

The Chairman declared an interest in the Lengthsman scheme. He is working on occasions for the Lengthsman, Sam Walsh, but so far has not received any payment. Any payments made will be declared in due course. Cllr. Hadley also declared an interest in the planning application to be discussed for Hennerwood Farm. His wife works at the farm

12/20 Draft minutes of the previous meeting on 28th January 2020

The Chairman signed the draft minutes as a true record of the meeting

13/20 Action Tracker.

The Clerk reported that one substantial action remained open (5.2/20) to work with Bromyard TC to jointly improve the roads that were shared between the Councils. The Clerk had met with the Bromyard TC Clerks and was hopeful that a system of working groups would be established to press Balfour Beatty to make improvements. Although the meeting had been successful the Clerk had not received a response to his note confirming next steps and he would now press Bromyard for a response. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Hadley raised the issue that the Little Cowarne road out to Stoke Lacey was in poor condition especially close to the junction with the A465. It was believed that this part of the road is the responsibility of Stoke Lacey Parish Council and the Clerk undertook to contact Stoke Lacey and see if a similar agreement could be reached. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Barrett also raised the same issue at the bottom of Hollybush Lane at the junction with the A417 which is the responsibility of Bodenham Parish Council. The root cause of flooding in that location appeared to be inadequate drainage and the Clerk undertook to raise the problem with Bodenham PC. **Action: Clerk**



grass around the damaged drain. The Wye and Usk Foundation had provided water maps produced by Salford University showing the water movements across farms and payments were available from Defra when farms joined the scheme to help improve water management.

16/20 Finance – to receive an update.

16.1/20 HSBC bank balances

Members were informed that the bank balances on 25/2/2020 were as follows:-

- Community Account: £2096.48
- Business Money Manager Account: £15,085.28

16.2/20 To note income received/due.

From the Parish Hall 24 January 2020 – loan repayment - £62.50.

Emma Bouston Interment fee Mr T Marling £300

N C Pegler Ltd Erection of headstone for Mr. L. L. Green £200

16.3/20 To consider and authorise payments due and note payments made since last meeting;

Payments due for authorisation

No.	Name	Amount £	Details
1	A M Drew		Clerk's salary for February 2020
2	A C Garden Services	£460	Grass cutting for October 2019 and tree trimming in churchyard
3	Worcestershire ciation of Local Authorities	£120	Cemetery procedures training

All payments were authorised by Council.

No payments had been made between meetings

17/20 Planning applications/decisions

17.1/20 Planning applications received.

P200258 Agricultural building at Hennerwood Farm. The proposal is for a small building added onto an existing building in the middle of the farm site. Members considered the proposal to have no impact whatsoever on the locality and had no comments to make.

18/20 Lengthsman scheme/Grass cutting

18.1/20 The grass cutting contract, currently held by A C Garden Services was reviewed by Council. The review concluded that the contract was working well and Council was very happy with the service provided by the contractor. The Clerk had contacted the contractor

who was happy to continue the contract on the current terms for the next year. It was agreed that the contract would be renewed on the current terms and the Clerk would inform A C Garden Services of Council's decision

Action: Clerk

18.2/20 To consider work to be undertaken.

Cllr Hadley raised the issue of the poorly working drain between the Three Horseshoes pub and the bank opposite the telephone kiosk. The Chairman reported that previous examinations had concluded that there must be a drain across the road in front of the kiosk but it could not be found. However, considerable progress had been made using the Lengthsman over the past few weeks with the following work outstanding and to be completed soon-

Hegdon Hill to Sparrington and around Emerald Drive

So far against an agreed budget of £1000 about £600 has been spent. Presently no further commissioning was required.

The Lengthsman had requested that the Council undertake the billing of the farmers for the work undertaken on their ditches. The Lengthsman wishes to give the Parish Council one bill for all the services he provides. The Chairman and the Clerk agreed to discuss the issue off-line and see how the billing/collection process could be made to work Action: Clerk & Chairman

There was concern about the state of the Causeway which following the flooding needed some urgent attention. The Chairman would check the Causeway and report to Council at the next meeting on the best way forward but discussion tended towards a village working party to carry out the work.

Cllr. Barrett raised an issue on behalf of a resident Mrs. Rosemary Brown who was concerned that a large ash tree might topple onto her property. The tree was on land owned by Mr Rushmore and it could be removed by the Council.

Another issue was a stuck telephone pole in the brook close to Mrs. Clarke's property which would need attention. After some discussion on the best way forward the decision was to await better weather and longer days to resolve these problems.

One of the side effects of the flooding was the amount of gravel washed out and deposited in the village centre. It had originated from driveways but had been a recurring problem over the years. Although in the past it had been recovered and put back in place there was growing frustration that these solutions were not permanent. Instead Council agreed that the Lengthsman would remove all the gravel from the village centre and dispose of it appropriately.

19/20 The Parish Noticeboard

The Clerk displayed some photographs of the current noticeboard which was in a poor condition. Panels were delaminating and the central door was rotting. Condensation is a big issue but the board is heavily used. Council agreed that the current board had reached end of life and it was not considered possible to refurbish. The Clerk reported that he had researched companies supplying wooden and aluminium noticeboards but prices were fairly high. However, the Parish Noticeboard Company appeared to offer better value with a 3 panel board costing in the region of £1050+VAT. Although a 2 panel board is a little cheaper the price difference is not sufficient to materially affect the decision either way. The possibility of charging for notices was considered but in the end rejected due to the

difficulty of collection and accounting. Cllr. Hayes proposed that a 3 panel board be purchased and Cllr. Legge seconded the motion. Dark green powder coating was agreed and the lettering would read "PENCOMBE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL" with central subscript "Public Notices" The Clerk was actioned to proceed with the purchase.

Action: Clerk

20/20 **Update on Allotments**

The Chairman summarised his discussions with Ms. Mercer-Wilson which were broadly favourable for allotments. It was agreed that the Chairman would continue his discussions and the Parish Hall would use their newsletter to gauge support.

Action: Chairman

21/20 **Matters for discussion at next meeting**

Council raised no matters for discussion at the present time

The date of next meeting is Tuesday 24th March 2020, at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed.......... Chairman of the Parish Council

Dated 25th August 2020