

# Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council

## Minutes of an Ordinary “ZOOM” Meeting of Abbeydore and Bacton Group Parish Council held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

No ABPC/MW/107z

### Present

Councillor Mr D Watkins Chairman  
Councillor Mr T Murcott Vice - Chairman  
Councillor Mrs A Booth  
Councillor Mr D Cook  
Councillor Mr R Fenton  
Councillor Mrs W Gunn  
Councillor Mr M Jenkins  
  
Clerk Mr M Walker

### Also Present

Golden Valley South Ward Councillor Mr Peter Jinman and three further members of the public.

The Parish Clerk stated that the “ZOOM” meeting would be recorded.

**The Parish Council Meeting was formally opened by the Chairman at 7.30pm**

### **1.0 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies received  
Councillor Mr D Bannister, Parish Lengthsman/Contractor Mr Terry Griffiths and  
Locality Steward Mr Paul Norris not present

### **2.0 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Group Parish Council Meeting No ABPC/MW/106z held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 via “ZOOM” were unanimously confirmed as a true record and would be signed by the Chairman. (Clerk to obtain signature from Chairman when convenient)

### **3.0 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

**3.1** To receive any declarations of interest in agenda items from Councillors  
No Declarations of Interest were made

**3.2** To consider any written applications for dispensation  
There were no written applications for dispensation made

### **4.0 Financial Report**

#### **4.1 Receipts**

No receipts received

#### **4.2 Payments**

Clerk's Salary January 2021 Gross £369.87

Postage £2.71

Tax £74.00 NIC £0.00

Nett Pay £298.58

**Cheque Number 000907**

Clerk's Salary February 2021 Gross £369.97

Tax £74.00 NIC £0.00

Nett Pay £295.97

**Cheque Number 000908**

\*Terry Griffiths Contracts Invoice No TGC1376 447.60

**Cheque Number 000911**

**Resolved unanimously** that all payments are approved



Plusnet 31/12/2020 Invoice 00002570640-3 £26.99

**DD Payment**

Plusnet 29/01/2021 Invoice 00002570640-3 £26.99

**DD Payment**

**4.3 Bank Balance**

Bank Statement @ 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 No 78  
Business Bank Instant Account £13,069.45

**Bank Balance**

Bank Statement @ 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 No 35  
Treasurers Current Account £8,502.84

**5.0 Public Question Time**

A 10 minute period is to be allocated if required to facilitate any member of the public to address the assembled Parish Councillors

Jackie Edwards gave an overview of the Black Hill Communities Network

“Black Hill Communities Network The Story so Far – January 2021

**1. Background** The Black Hill Communities Network (formerly Longtown Community Network) was formed in March 2020 by two volunteers concerned about ensuring access to food and other services for people in the Longtown and surrounding areas during the initial months of the COVID pandemic. The two volunteers shortly became a core group of 5, plus; due to generous donations from the community, the assistance of another charity volunteer in the role of treasurer.

Using the varied skills and contacts of this core group a web presence, telephone line, register of volunteers and the skills/support they could offer was formed, and more importantly a process of registering the people within our local communities wanting support, short or longer term, was put in place.

**2. Activity Summary** Core Group: 4 volunteers, plus volunteer treasurer from another local charity  
Current list of registered Volunteers: 56

Current list of people registered for support: 18

Support Utilised:

- Donations – Currently stands at around £1200
- Food Bank – donation collection and parcel delivery, regular delivery of one or two parcels each month since March 2020
- Food Boxes – 13 delivered for Christmas and a similar level planned for January/February 2021
- Prescriptions – Weekly deliveries from March 2020, reduced to one or two regular monthly pick- ups and ad-hoc requests from people having to isolate.

One off support also given around the areas of o Dog Walking

o Lifts to GP appointments

o Carer support

**3. Community Partners** Between lockdowns the group considered the level of activity that had been undertaken and discussed concerns about maybe not reaching everyone who might want some level of support and so agreed to consider the way forward via telephone discussions with some of the leads of groups within the area – this included (amongst others) Parish Council representatives, Primary School Headteachers, WI, and representatives from the Black Mountains Group of Churches

Discussion prompts were

- What do you/your group know about the Longtown Community Network?
- Are your group doing anything similar to us?
- What your/your groups views are on whether or not the local community might have people with a variety of needs (economic, health, social) that are not being met and why that might be/how we might be able to support them better?
- Do you think there is a need for the network to continue (during and post Covid)?
- Any suggestions for future closer working together?

The general summary of comments and views were:

Knowledge of the Network

- Everyone knew of the network – initial leaflets were noted as very good several times;
- Very positive about the network – early set up, good feedback from people that they know who have used it, glad that it is there – *brilliant idea, have heard lots of really good stuff about it;*



- Some knew about what the network could offer, or where to find information about the offer – usually via the BMG of C's Newsletter back page;
- Not so much knowledge of the website and range of support on offer;
- Confusion about the geographical area covered, or where one support group might stop and another start
- Some unsure about how to make contact with organisers and/or point us towards people who need help.

#### Other People/Groups Support Offer

- General view that people (individually or through contact within their group e.g. WI) are looking out for neighbours that they know and offering shopping (actual and on line), checking up on them generally and collecting prescriptions on occasion;
- The approach to supporting people by both Hopes and the Ewyas Harold Village Shop was noted as *fantastic*;
- The work of the Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy was noted – particularly in support of isolated farmers (often male);
- Church foodbank collection currently transferring contents to Hereford Foodbank when no uptake in the Black Mountains area;
- Newton St Margaret's doing similar work but finding it difficult to contact people/be sure that they are reaching those who need support;

#### Are Needs Being Met?

- All contacts agreed that it is hard to be sure that the people who really need support are getting it/want it/know how to ask for it;
- A shared view was that although the number of people taking up support offers might seem to be low, the fact that these had been provided was very good – and worrying too much i.e. feeling guilty about missing folk - might not be helpful;
- Some conversations about wider needs for support, e.g. around safe and warm homes, finances and so a need to know where/who to refer people to;

#### Should the Network Continue?

- All felt that there was a need for the group to continue, both from a COVID perspective and an ongoing community wellbeing perspective;
- Strong sense of; this (the network) is good and needs to be built upon.

#### Suggestions (For Closer Working Together)

##### About the network structure and process:

- Having the single number, email address and the website is excellent and gives an opportunity to be built upon;
- Change the email name from Ewyas Lacey as this can cause confusion;
- Community Network is good but Longtown suggests only within Longtown and can seem to exclude other areas;
- Should the group be more formally constituted as dealing with money and personal information;
- The relationship/fit with the Parish Council(s) and Herefordshire/Talk Community should be agreed and included in information.

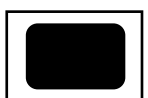
##### About Collaboration:

These suggestions fell into two key areas – one about maximising the reach to people needing support and the other about removing geographical/political boundaries and so making best use of all available resources.

- **Reach** – Key groups and leads to establish a way to keep in touch and keep each other informed around activities and support required and/or offered to people (within any confidential requirements). E.g Church Warden and Safeguarding Officers, Schools, WI (*recommendation that we work alongside your group (we think you should keep going), with us helping with support when and where it's needed, co-ordinated by you (LCN).*)

**Boundaries** – View that Parish Council Boundaries should form the basis for general organisation and ownership of delivery of support, but an acknowledgement that people, skills and capacity will vary between areas and so pooling these by being flexible and working together could help those in need. o Suggestion made that the Chairs of the Black Mountain Parish Councils should have a conversation about community support and working together actively supporting key networks and hubs.

**4. The Next Steps** As a result of the discussions we felt that we should both celebrate what has been achieved and been much appreciated so far and then consider one or a mix of the following actions:



- **Carry on as is – very informal** – reliant on two or three people and the pool of volunteers;
- **Review current processes and update information;** o (re) establish co-ordinators' for the key support areas,

To improve communication messaging and information exchange with people who want or may want support, other community providers/enablers/supporters, Parish Councils and Herefordshire Council, Golden Valley Practice;

- **Do one of the above whilst developing a longer term approach with the Black Hill communities working with** the Parish Councils, Herefordshire Council and Golden Valley Practice and other community groups and individual enablers.

We realise that the initial informality of the network was key to getting things done, not worrying about potential barriers or challenges and just making sure that where there was a need identified something appropriate could be offered to help as quickly and as effectively as possible.

However with success comes responsibility, and indeed opportunity, and so the network now finds itself on the cusp of change, which, with the collaboration of the people, groups and organisations within the multiple Black Hill Communities, could be very exciting both for the communities and the people involved within the network.

**Our proposed plan, taking on board comments to date, is summarised below:**

We will continue with the network under the new name of ***Black Hill Communities Network***.

We share the philosophy beautifully expressed by the Social Care Future Vision (Social Care Future) which is that

***We all want to live in the place we call home with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing the things that matter to us.***

Within the parishes of Black Hill we are very lucky to live in communities that do generally feel like this, **but** what we know is that we all, as individuals, families or groups, have times when we might need some temporary or longer term support in order to stay well and be able to do the things that we would want to do as part of our community.

**The Black Hill Communities Network aim is** *To work alongside people within our communities in order to identify when and what support might be needed and how best that can be offered – our direct concerns are around access to food, health and care services, and transport, but we will also work with community partners who will have broader skills and areas of interest.*

**We have two main objectives**

1. *Enabling people who may want support to make this need known, confidentially, so that we can respond to those needs via our registered volunteers in a safe and effective way.*
2. *Working as a collaborative and enabling partner with other community groups in order to promote the opportunities for people to identify their areas of interest and the activities that they would like to participate in.*

**Our Action Plan** Our plan for 2021 is in development and will be built carefully and organically based upon discussion from and within the community.

At this point we will

- maintain *business as usual* transferring our current information and processes to a new web page with the new name (Objective 1);
- develop further conversations with our community partners and Herefordshire Talk Community in order to implement Objective 2."

*Question* Member asked What can we do for you?

*Answer* Food Boxes, Prescriptions, Dog Walking etc. see item 2 above of Activity Summary.

The organisation requires funds for administration and leaflet printing etc.

*Question* Member stated that hopefully we will be out of lockdown soon as the economy is suffering.

Vision to grow partnerships network, promote food, transport network, warm homes and jobs etc.

Longtown and Vowchurch Parish Councils have offered support and could Abbeydore & Bacton also be a Community Partner.

*Question* Member asked *what area is covered?*



Answer Longtown, Vowchurch and hopefully Abbeydore & Bacton. Ewyas Harold, Peterchurch and Kentchurch already have “Community Hubs.”

The Parish Council resolved to form a Working Group consisting of Councillor Mr T Murcott Vice – Chairman, Councillor Mrs A Booth, Councillor Mr D Cook and the Clerk.

The Parish Council’s Grants Policy to be emailed to all Parish Councillors.

Meeting to be arranged.

Item for the next agenda of the next full Parish Council meeting.

## **6.0 To Receive Reports (if available) from:-**

### **6.1 Golden Valley South Ward Councillor Mr Peter Jinman – Pontrilas Railway Station update**

Mr Peter Jinman reported on the following:-

“A” and “B” class roads – no road closures

Longtown road closed + 2 other roads

Local Lengthsmen have done wonderful jobs including Cwm Pitch

NFU representatives - Riparian Rights

Drainage systems not fit for purpose

“B” road Abbeydore is a priority

2 million given from Government for road improvements

Broadband - 4G to improve reception

Herefordshire Council Budget last week 70% for Social Care

Council tax is looking at a 4.9% increase

Waste disposal consultation

Planning application for holiday home approved

#### Pontrilas Railway Station update

Jesse Norman MP has passed on works to Mr Robert Jenrick – no reply as yet.

Hopeful of bringing something together.

#### Golden Valley Action Group

Cycleway progressing, Sustrans involved + Cabinet Member - Money for proposed plan

Nothing else yet

### **6.2 Parish Footpaths**

No new information received.

#### **6.2i Officer Vacancy**

Councillor Mr T Murcott still to contact Mr Joe Rumer with A3 map.

### **6.3 Locality Steward Mr Paul Norris**

Information sent to Parish Councillors by email.

#### **6.3i Surface water drainage issue Old Rectory Abbeydore**

Member of the public reported on the main road (40mph) flooding by The Old Rectory Abbeydore stating the road was like a lake outside their driveway.

Rainfall has changed causing the issues by The Neville Arms/Old Rectory

18 inches – 3 foot depth of water

Drains require clearing, concrete around existing drain

A Balfour Beatty Drains Specialists said that the drain should be enlarged and a grating provided

Can the Parish Council help?

Ward Councillor to enquire if any works are proposed

Lengthsman is qualified to do the works – quotation and advice to be obtained

Proposed by Councillor Mr D Cook

Specification to be obtained from Balfour Beatty and costings

Ward Councillor said that more movement on the subject but not enough money for all works - 67 flooding incidents reported

Clerk to send letter of support to Herefordshire Council

Proposed by Councillor Toby Murcott Vice - Chairman



#### 6.4 Terry Griffiths Lengthsman

Terry Griffiths not present but report sent for works undertaken.

The Parish Council had resolved for the Clerk to instruct Terry to undertake 2 days maintenance works. 1 day in Abbeydore parish which had been completed and 1 day in Bacton parish, still to be completed

\*Abbeydore and Bacton Parish Council Account Roads February 2021 (1) Invoice TGC1376

Description of work carried out: - Routine Maintenance Work

Clear grids and clean out road gully's

Jet connecting pipes

Clear road culverts and jet

Check inspection pits

Clear ditch headwalls

Clear grips and reform leads

Clear minor obstruction from ditches and reform leads

Clean off road signs

Clear minor storm debris off roads

Strim round grit bins and road signs

Strim verges on bends junction splays & areas regularly used by pedestrians and no footway is present

C1212 From parish boundary (Wormbridge) to B4347

C1209 From B4347 to parish boundary (Newton).

U74209 From C1209

C1225

C1221 From C1225 to C1212

Materials Marker spray

February 2021 Report Abbeydore and Bacton Parish Council Roads

We have completed one of the requested maintenance day visits this having been completed on the 10-02-21.

The team visited Abbeydore Parish on that day with the gully clearing vehicle targeting the drainage infrastructure.

I would have expected a far greater road coverage on the day given the capacity of our machine, but it was clear from the team leaders report that the state of the drainage system in the area could at best be described as failed.

They were obliged to seek the help of a local landowner who provided an emptying facility for our machine into his slurry lagoon.

We normally only have need to empty the machine midway through a visit day is when we are in residential areas with multiple road gullies in each street.

Our records show that the last visit for the on road maintenance was in February of last year, so it would seem that we were dealing with 12 months silt build up in the drains.

I understand that HCC's managing agent for highways BB are contractually obliged to carry out an annual inspection and cleansing programme of the county drainage infrastructure.

Even allowing for the particularly wet 2020 in my opinion these drains had not been serviced since our last visit.

I appreciate the fact that no support funding is directly provided to the parish from HCC since the demise of the funded Lengthsman scheme and all present work is funded by the parish.

As it is obvious that due to lack of funding and resources BB seem to have abandoned the rural parishes and in view of this, I must ask the parish council to consider a more proactive programme of road maintenance especially on the drainage side to try to slow down the deterioration of the roads in the parish.

To meet the widening scope of works expected of our services to our parish councils we have upgraded our equipment and commissioned additional vehicles such a road sweeper, gully cleaning vehicle .verge cutting machine and a new heavy duty jetting unit.

These new machines have been sourced to improve our ability to provide a satisfactory and efficient service to our parishes, but we can only maintain a satisfactory level of service by having annual maintenance plans with our parishes.



We will always build into our schedules the capacity to deal with emergency requirements, but it is getting increasingly difficult to meet spot hire requests for routine maintenance work. Hopefully, we can arrange a meeting in the near future so we can discuss and set up with the parish council an annual maintenance programme to suit your needs during the coming year. Terry Griffiths Parish Lengthsman Abbeydore and Bacton Parish Council

Apparently there had been no gully emptying by Balfour Beatty Living Places for the last 12 months. The Parish Council agreed for Terry to undertake the 1 day's maintenance in Bacton. Proposed by Councillor Mr T Murcott Vice – Chairman

Clerk instructed to ask Terry to re start the maintenance routine re the 2021-2022 Budget

### **6.5 Broadband Update**

To receive update from Councillor Toby Murcott

Councillor Mr T Murcott reported on the following:-

From 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – February 2022 Gigaclear are undertaking the works.

Meeting at Vowchurch with Jesse Norman MP to take place Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021,

Toby to attend and represent the Parish Council

Toby will keep everyone up to date with proceedings.

Looking very positive now.

### **6.6 Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Toby had talked to the other parishes (Ewyas Harold and Kentchurch) and the overall response was to wait for more information on reviewing the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

No desire to update the joint plan at the moment.

### **6.7 Golden Valley Action Group**

See Item 6.1

## **7.0 Bacton Post Box**

To consider update to missing Post Box at Bacton Second letter sent to Royal Mail 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

*"I refer to the Parish Council's enquiry dated the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in respect of a missing Royal Mail Post Box.*

*The Parish Council considered your reply with some dismay as clearly the writer was unaware of the locality, almost all of the properties in question are outside the catchment area for the other post boxes listed. Prospective users would have to have access to a vehicle as well as the ability to drive to reach these boxes.*

*In this very rural area the postman does not necessarily call at each property, with many properties having a remote locked letterbox at farms or driveway gates which the postman uses therefore the homeowner will not actually see the delivery person, thus no way of actually handing over a letter for outgoing post, the option to leave something out for the delivery person is clearly not possible as with no guarantee of a delivery to that property the outgoing post would remain uncollected.*

*All the residents are asking for is the replacement of a post box, removed when the telegraph pole to which it was affixed was damaged by a falling tree.*

*Your reference to the necessity to consult with the highways authority as well as the various utility companies is quite absurd and confirms the lack of any local knowledge as the replacement box would be clamped to the telegraph pole as before.*

*On behalf of the residents, the Parish Council request that you give this your urgent attention.*

*Yours Sincerely Malcolm Walker Clerk to Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council"* No reply as yet

## **8.0 Highways and Footpaths Issues**

**8.1** To receive **new** information on Parish Highways & Public Footpath

Flooding water on the road by the Duffryn Farm – culvert under the road blocked

Locality Steward to be contacted

**\*\*See Item 9.0 Case reference number CAS-795204-R7L4L7**

Blackmoor Farm – left hand side if the road has collapsed – concrete lintel "S" bend at Kerry's Gate

Bridleway AD32 – Blackmoor Farm, farmer has rearranged pathway - post has been removed

Ward Councillor to investigate



## 8.2 Issues which require attention

New footpath AD12A top of Cockyard Tump – Kerry's Gate (closed a number of years ago) sign is in the hedge, wrong place for the footpath as there is no entrance there.

Clerk to report again to Balfour Beatty Living Places

## 9.0 Information Sheet

Sheet to include update on previous action points and a list of correspondence received

### Planning Result

8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

*\*Application No 201871 Tan House Farm Abbeydore Hereford HR2 0AA  
Demolition of existing shed and change of use of land for siting of  
single-bed holiday let ("pod")*

***\*Application Granted 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020***

\*Land at Tan House Farm School Lane Abbeydore Hereford HR2 0AA  
Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 4 6 & 9  
Attached to planning permission 201871

***\*18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 No pre-commencement Conditions outstanding***

11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Application No 204199 The Dorelands Abbeydore Hereford HR2 0AA  
Proposed garage with additional storage and workshop

***Application Granted 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021***

7<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Application No 202351 Land near Camp Wood Abbeydore Hereford  
Change of use of land and siting of cabin for use as holiday accommodation

***Still Valid***

7<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Application No 204023 Land at Moorhampton Park Abbeydore Hereford HR2 0AL  
Proposed change of use of agricultural land to campsite

***Still Valid***

### Correspondence

19<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Herefordshire Council  
Parish Council Precept 2021-2022  
Total required £9,200.00

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

\*Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty Lengthsman & Parish Paths Partnership (P3)  
Expression of Interest Form 2021/2022 for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022  
completed and sent to by email.

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

\*Herefordshire Council / Balfour Beatty P3 Parish Path Partnership and  
Parish Employed Lengthsman  
Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council Annual Maintenance Plan 2021 – 2022  
completed and sent to by email.

15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Report Road Signage Defects  
Cockyard Finger Post NOT Legible  
Case reference number CAS-784793-S6B0P4

15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Report A Public Right of Way Problem  
AD12A New Finger Post  
Case reference number CAS-784794-M1S0V1

8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Report a Pothole  
U74211 Cwm Road to Ewyas Harold Common  
Numerous potholes + 2 photographs (464 & 475)  
Case reference number CAS-792555-Z4F4Q3

February 2021

Report Highway Drainage Issues  
Junction of Tremorithic Road & Mill Lane  
Blocked pipe in recently cleared ditch  
Water on road – skid risk  
Case reference number CAS-786755-R1C0M0

***\*\*{Reported after information sheet printed}*** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Report Highway Drainage Issues  
Abbeydore / Kilpeck parish area  
Water running across the road above Duffryn Farm  
Blocked culvert under road Case reference number CAS-795204-R7L4L7





**10.0 Agenda of Next Meeting**


Black Hill Communities Network  
Flooding by The Old Rectory/The Neville Arms

**11.0 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

Confirmed that the next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Group Parish Council and will be via “ZOOM” on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021** meeting to commence at 7.45pm or immediately on completion of the Parish Meetings if later

Thank you from the Parish Council Chairman Councillor Mr David Watkins  
for Parish Councillors attending the “ZOOM” meeting.

Parish Council meeting declared closed at 8.50pm

Signed..........

Parish Council Chairman Councillor Mr Toby H L Murcott

Dated this day 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021