

Bodenham Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Wednesday 5th April 2023**

at 6.30pm at the Siward James Centre

Present: Cllr M Dinning Cllr T Edwards Cllr S Marsh Cllr T Morris
Cllr L Nicholas Cllr R Pearce Cllr B Roberts

Ward Councillor John Harrington

One member of the public was present.

1. **Cllr Richard Layton**

1.1 The Parish Council expressed its sadness on hearing of the death of Councillor Richard Layton. Cllr Morris said that Cllr Layton had served on the Parish Council since January 2016 and was a great asset to the Parish Council, because of his detailed knowledge of Bodenham and its residents. Cllr Harrington also spoke warmly of Councillor Layton, saying, in particular, how he focussed on finding practical solutions to problems.

1.2 The Parish Council agreed to donate £25 to each of the charities nominated by Cllr Layton's family - Midlands Air Ambulance and We Are Farming Minds.

3. **Declarations of Interest.** No declarations of interest were made.

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the Meeting (Proposer; Cllr Roberts; Seconder; Cllr Pearce).

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

5.1 **Minute 4.5: Report on Section 106 Meeting with Mr Simon Hobbs.** The Clerk reported that he had asked Mr Hobbs for details of how to proceed with the scheme, and, having not had a reply, would ask again. Cllr Harrington said that he would ask, too. **ACTION: CS and JH**

5.2 **Minute 5.1: Lengthsman and Cutting the Grass on the Village Green.** Cllr Roberts had suggested cutting the village green, but the Clerk had suggested waiting until Balfour Beatty's grass cutting plans were known. Cllr Morris said that he had heard that the village green would be cut six times. Cllr Harrington said that he would check. The Clerk said that he had asked repeatedly, as to when the lengthsman scheme applications would be sent out, but had heard nothing. Cllr Harrington said that he would check this, too. **ACTION: JH**

5.3 **Minute 9: ID Cards.** Cllr Pearce said that all councillors who were remain on the Parish Council, except Cllr Dunn, had supplied him with photos. Cllr Dunn said he would do so. Cllr Nicholas said that the Bodenham coat-of-arms should not be used on the card.

5.4 **Minute 14: Flood Signs in Millcroft Road.** Cllrs Marsh and Morris reported that they had identified what existing infrastructure for signs might be used. The Clerk said that he had asked Simon Hobbs about that procedure for installing signs, but, not having from him, would ask again. **ACTION: CS**

6. **Opportunity for members of the public to address the Parish Council.**

6.1 Mrs Jan Burgess asked Cllr Harrington whether a revised contractual agreement had been reached between Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty. Cllr Harrington said that an agreement had been reached,

6.2 Mrs Burgess asked about clearing gutters. Cllr Harrington said that he would investigate the situation, adding that Balfour Beatty would have an obligation to remove any rubbish cleared up by residents.

ACTION: JH

7. **Litter pick dates.** It was agreed that the date of the November 2023 litter pick should be the equivalent date to the November 2022 litter pick, but that the March 2024 date should be brought forward compared to March 2023. The Clerk was instructed to identify the relevant dates and book them with Balfour Beatty and the parish hall.

ACTION: CS

8. **River Pollution.** The Parish Council expressed its continued concern about the pollution of the Rivers Lugg and Wye. Cllr Dinning thanked Mr Rod haunt for his efforts with respect to Welsh Water.

9. **Appointment of Internal Auditor.** The Clerk proposed that Mr Paul Hemmings be asked to act as internal auditor, as he had done for many years. This was agreed.

10. **Playground inspection.** The Clerk reported that he had accepted a quotation from Mrs Fran White for the annual, statutory inspection of the playground, adding that Mrs White's quotation was slightly lower than last year's inspection.

11. **Welsh Water Research Invitation.** The Clerk had circulated an invitation from Welsh Water to participate in a survey and group meetings with Welsh Water. It was agreed that the extent of the commitment was too large for the Parish Council to participate.

12. **Vacancies on the Parish Council.** The Clerk reported that, because 6 councillors had submitted nomination papers, no election would take place for the Parish Council on 4th May. The Clerk said that Cllr Nicholas had denied not to continue as a councillor and that Cllr Dunn had not submitted nomination papers, but was willing to be co-opted. The Clerk said that Electoral Services at Herefordshire would advise on when co-options could be made.

13. **Finance**

13.1 The Clerk reported that he had updated and circulated the spreadsheet together with the monthly bank statement and the monthly accounts, which he explained. The following outstanding invoices were presented for payment:

- Leominster Community Resource Centre (March Newsletter)	£169.00
- Mr Shane Long (SID repositioning: Invoices 81 and 82)	£50.00

13.2 The monthly accounts statement and invoices were all approved (Proposer; Cllr Roberts: Seconder; Cllr Marsh). The Accounts are shown in Annex A.

14. **Planning.**

14.1 The Clerk reported that no planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

15. **Updates**

15.1 **Parish Hall.** Cllr Dinning reported that the bid from the Parish Hall Management Committee (PHMC) to upgrade the hall is awaited. Cllr Marsh said that the PHMC want to upgrade various parts of the hall to modern standards and to introduce energy conservation measures. Cllr Dinning suggested that matters might be facilitated, if he and the Clerk could meet the PHMC for a discussion. He would seek to arrange a meeting.

ACTION: MD

16. **Correspondence not previously circulated.**

16.1 The Clerk reported that no correspondence had been received, which had not been circulated.

17. **Other business (including district councillor's comments).**

17.1 Cllr Harrington reported that:

- Herefordshire Council's business case for an eastern river crossing is nearly ready. The scheme would cost £56 million compared to £200m for a western crossing.
- Herefordshire Council have been examining the contract with Balfour Beatty. Their current thinking is that the contract could be made to work, if staff were re-employed by Herefordshire Council and work remained with Balfour Beatty. A full integration would cost £3-4 million and would take 4 years to achieve.
- 70% of the excess of phosphates in the River Lugg comes from run-off from fields. Herefordshire Council has considered water protection zones, but the government will not approve these. Alternatively, Herefordshire council is considering consent orders, whereby people in an area agree to reduce phosphates and work collectively with relevant agencies. Cllr Dinning asked about Welsh Water's role in the matter. Cllr Harrington said that Welsh Water are 25% of the problem, but are working legally.

17.2 Cllr Marsh said that she has the names of five children, who qualify for a commemorative mug. The Clerk said he would give here five mugs for distribution.

ACTION: CS

17.3 Cllr Morris said that there will be a service at 10.00 on 7th May for the coronation, and asked who might represent the Parish Council. Cllr Marsh said that she would attend the service.

17.4 Cllr Morris said that the defibrillators should be fully restored in the near future.

18. **Dates of meetings:**

- the next meetings are at 6.30pm on Monday 15th May (annual meetings) and Wednesday 7th June .

The meeting closed at 20.20

Annex A

MARCH 2022 accounts

OPENING BALANCE on 1st MARCH 2023 = £39940.92

Date	Income(£)	Expenditure(£)	Comment
2nd March		161.00	Leominster Community Resource Centre (March Newsletter)
2nd March		215.50	Mr Richard Morgan (Invoice 1607)
13th March	80.00		Newsletter advertising (Wellbeing Therapy)
17th March	50.00		Newsletter advertising (Stacy Gardner)
20th March		56.76	HMRC (Clerk's tax)
22nd March	10.00		Newsletter advertising (Carol Bowen)
24th March	485.00		Solar Farm Quarterly Payment
31st March		227.50	C D Smith (Clerk's salary)
TOTALS	£625.00	£660.76	

CLOSING BALANCE on 31st March= £39940.92 + £625.00 - £660.76) = £39905.16