

Bodenham Parish Council

Chairman

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Wednesday 4th October 2023**

at 6.30pm at the Siward James Centre

Present: Cllr J Burgess Cllr M Dunn Cllr T Mills Cllr J Gromadzki
Cllr S Marsh Cllr E Miller Cllr R Pearce

Ward Councillor Bruce Baker was also present.

No members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T Morris.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** No declarations of interest were made.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the Meeting. (Proposer; Cllr Dunn; Seconder; Cllr Burgess).
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
 - 4.1 **Minutes 4.1 and 6: Cutting the Grass on the Village Green.** The Clerk said that Balfour Beatty had cut the grass on the village green, before Mr Richard Morgan had been able to do so. Cllr Burgess asked whether Mr Morgan could be given autonomy to cut the grass, as and when he thought fit. This was agreed.
 - 4.2 **Minute 4.2: Replacement Noticeboard.** The Clerk said that the noticeboard had been ordered and under the terms of the invoice it had been paid.
 - 4.3 **Minute 4.7: New Bank Account Signatory.** The Clerk reported that the necessary form had been forwarded to Cllr Pearce, who, in turn, had signed it and sent it to Lloyd's, who had acknowledged receipt to the Clerk.
 - 4.4 **Minute 7: Business Cards.** Cllr Pearce said that business cards could be ordered. He asked about the quantity. It was agreed that an initial order of 100 should suffice.
5. **Opportunity for members of the public to address the Parish Council.** No members of the public were present.
6. **Precept Working Group.** The Clerk reported that he had received the annual precept request - with a deadline for responding of 31st December. The usual procedure was for the Precept Working Group to meet and present their thoughts to the November and/or December Parish Council meetings. Following the resignation of Martin Dinning, the Working Group needed an additional member to join Cllr Morris and the Clerk. Cllr Burgess volunteered to join the Group. The Clerk said that he would arrange for the Group to meet. **ACTION CS**
7. **Wooden posts in Church Roads.** Cllr Marsh explained that two of the oak posts in Church Road had rotted and been taken away by Mr Richard Morgan, who, the Clerk said, had replaced two posts in 2018. Cllr Marsh said that Mr Morgan had suggested replacing the posts with 'bendy bollards'. The Clerk was instructed to research 'bendy bollards' and to put the replacement of the posts on the next agenda. **ACTION CS**
8. **Litter pick arrangements.** The Clerk reported that he had had a request from the parish hall to alter the arrangements for the litter pick on Saturday 11th November by the Parish Council using the Meeting Room rather than the main hall, which could then be used all day for a karate group. It was pointed out that the Meeting Room was used for the last litter pick and, though not ideal, was not overly problematical. Accordingly, the Clerk was instructed to accede to the parish hall's request. **ACTION CS**
9. **Remembrance Service.** The Clerk reported that he had had a request from the Parochial Church Council for a representative of the Parish Council to attend the Remembrance Day service on Sunday 12th November

and for a donation in lieu of the Parish Council wreath. It was agreed that Cllr Pearce should attend the service and that a donation of £50 should be made in lieu of the wreath.

ACTION CS

10. Finance.

10.1 The Clerk reported that he had circulated the monthly bank statement, the spreadsheet and the monthly accounts, which he explained and which are shown in Annex A below.

10.2 The following outstanding invoices were presented for payment:

- Mr R Morgan (Invoice 1779: grass cutting at the war memorial, etc.)	£40.00
- Mr R Morgan (Invoice 1781: spraying weeds.)	£65.00
- Mr R Morgan (Invoice 1795: grass cutting at the war memorial, etc.)	£40.00
- Leominster Community Resource Centre (Invoice 1006: September Newsletter)	£169.00
- Leominster Community Resource Centre (Invoice 1007: October Newsletter)	£169.00
- Kompan Ltd (Playground repairs)	£1399.88
- Noticeboard Company Cumbria Ltd (new noticeboard) (already paid)	£3240.00

10.3 It was agreed that the accounts should be approved and the invoices should be paid (Proposer; Cllr Dunn; Seconder; Cllr Burgess).

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

12. Parish Hall

Cllr Pearce reported that:

1. the parish hall is interested in installing EV charging points, if the hall's electrical circuitry allows;
2. there is a filing cabinet containing Parish Council materials in the meeting room at the parish hall, to which Mrs Margaret Andrews has a key and which the Parish Hall Management Committee wants to move to the storeroom. Cllr Pearce said that he would meet with Mrs Andrews to discuss what might be done with the contents of the filing cabinet.
3. the windows at the parish hall are to be repaired during half term and the toilets are to be repaired, if a grant can be obtained.

ACTION RP

13. Correspondence not previously circulated. The Clerk reported that there was no correspondence, which had not been previously circulated.

14. Other business (including ward councillor's comments).

14.1 Cllr Baker gave a report as follows:

- he had spoken to PCSO Sue Berrett about the mobile homes on the golf course, but had not heard back from her as to whether it is a police matter. The Herefordshire Council Enforcement Officer has been notified;
- the cycle track at Hereford Racecourse has opened;
- another visit from OFSTED about Children's Services was quite positive;
- Herefordshire Council's projected overspend in 2024-25 is £13.5 million;
- October is Black History Month;
- the plan to build the Southern Link Road from the A49 to the A465 is being revisited;
- the refugees housed in the Talbot Hotel in Leominster are being relocated, because the building is unsafe;
- a resident of Bodenham had been attacked by cows in the field behind the churchyard;
- a resident had requested that a leylandii tree near the school be felled. The Clerk was instructed to ask the lengthsman to cut back the lower branches of the tree obscuring a footpath sign;
- the surface dressing of the C1125 should happen soon, after which the installation of speed restricting measures could proceed;

ACTION: CS

14.2 Cllr Dunn asked about the Community Speedwatch Scheme. The Clerk explained the latest situation, as he understood it, and said that he would contact PCSO Berrett again.

ACTION: CS

14.3 Cllr Burgess asked about the gates on the A417. The Clerk said that he would ask the lengthsman to re-install the sign on the gate by the golf club and would ask him about installing other signs and cleaning the gates.

ACTION: CS

18. Dates of meetings:

- the next meetings start at 6.30pm on Wednesdays 1st November and 6th December

ANNEX A

SEPTEMBER 2023 accounts

OPENING BALANCE on 1st SEPTEMBER 2023 = £41722.10

Date	Income(£)	Expenditure(£)	Comment
7th September		£143.75	Richard Morgan (Lengthman's invoice)
7th September		£50.00	Shane Long (SID moving)
7th September		£158.40	St John Ambulance (Safety at village fete)
8th September		£229.95	Tracy Morris (battery charger for SID)
19th September	£8750.00		Second precept payment
19th September	£485.00		Quarterly solar farm payment
20th September		£61.30	HMRC (Clerk's tax)
27th September		£3240.00	Noticeboard Company Kendal Cumbria Ltd (new noticeboard)
TOTALS	£9235.00	£3783.40	

CLOSING BALANCE on 30th September = £41722.10 + £9235.00 - £3783.40) = £47173.70