

**TITLEY & DISTRICT GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
TUESDAY 7th JANUARY 2025, 7.30 PM
AT STAUNTON ON ARROW VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs R Edwards (Chairman), J Mitchell, C Janson, N Davies, S May, N Lloyd, M Lloyd
Ward Cllr R Phillips

In Attendance: Clerk: R Jones and local resident Mr P Sankey

57/25 Apologies Of Absence

Cllr R Sankey

58/25 Declaration Of Interest And Written Requests For Dispensation For Items On The Agenda

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors. The Declaration Of Interest book was available to sign.

59/25 Approval Of Minutes from the meeting held on 12th November 2024

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

60/25 Receive Comments From

• **Ward Cllr Phillips**

Cllr Phillips talked through his monthly report, with the following points noted:

- Herefordshire Council's finance team has won the National Public Finance Award for excellence in Governance, Reporting and Assurance.
 - Governments reform of local Government Council structures - effectively abolishing County Councils and District Councils and creating Unitary Councils of a minimum of 500,000 population.
 - The Council needs to make a further £6.9m in savings.
 - There will be a 4.99% rise in Council Tax.
 - Car parking charges will not be increased this year.
 - The annual traffic figures for the four main north west villages shows that the traffic and speeds are consistent. For Pembridge (20pmh) it shows that while average speeds are still above the speed limit, they have reduced.
 - Discussions are ongoing regarding installing water depth marker posts, to warn drivers of the water depth during flooding along Rhyse and Noke Lane.
 - Surfacing works are ongoing on the Horseway Head highway. Works have been delayed due to the weather conditions.
 - The storms have caused trees to come down.
 - The Warm Homes Grant is being released by Herefordshire Council on 1st April, for private or tenanted properties, with a total household income of up to £36,000, to help improve the efficiency of homes (insulation, heat pumps etc).
- **Parish Councillor**
- Cllr Edwards reported that there are a couple of trees near Lee Bank resting on the telephone lines. Lara Edwards (Locality Steward, Balfour Beatty) confirmed that Balfour Beatty would remove them, as it is their responsibility.
- **Local Residents**
- Mr Sankey commented that there are large pot holes between Eywood and Oatcroft.

61/25 Planning Matters

61.1 The following planning matters were discussed and noted:

- **233700 – Rodd Court, The Rodd, Presteigne** - Proposed development includes the provision of one temporary cabin with associated access, parking and landscaping for the purposes of tourist - **Valid**
- **241897 – Ashley Farm, Stansbatch, Leominster, HR6 9LN** – proposed replacement of a number of windows and a French door – **Approved** (the Parish Council have no objections to this application)
- **241633 – Lower Tan House, Staunton On Arrow** – proposed replacement of existing stable block for 3 horses – **Valid** – (the Parish Council have no objections to this application).

62/25 Finance

62.1 To receive Clerk's report and approve finances (ex VAT)

- **Clerk's Financial statement to**

The Clerk informed Councillors the current account balance as at 31st December 2024 - £20,030.28

The expenditure and budget sheet were **approved**.

- **The following payments (Ex VAT) were AGREED:**
- Clerk's salary as agreed by the Parish Council (Nov/Dec) chq 101129
- HMRC – Oct-Dec 24 - £197.20 – chq 101131
- Hi Trees Ltd (Lengthsman) - £3,210 (VAT £642) – chq 101132
- Hire of Staunton On Arrow Village Hall (2023/24) - £48 – chq 101133
- Data Protection Fee - £40 – chq 101135
- G J Evans (Accountant) – £180 - replacement of chq 101114 – new chq £101137
(Note: This cheque is to replace chq 101114 originally paid to G J Evans)

63/25 Titley Group Parish Environmental Working Group – Update

Cllr Janson spoke about the webinar regarding Building Sense and another one regarding heat pumps. He gave reasons why the Parish Council should declare a climate emergency. It was noted that the Parish Council may get grants for green products and to make residents aware that our climate is changing fast and reducing carbon emissions is important. It was noted that Herefordshire Council declared a climate emergency in 2019.

64/25 Declaring A Climate Emergency

The Councillors discussed whether the Parish Council should declare a climate emergency. It was noted that this had been discussed at previous meetings and tonight the Councillors were going to vote on whether to declare a Parish Council climate emergency. The planning application at Oatcroft Farm for solar panels was discussed and the reasons why it had been refused.

The Councillors discussed the development of the local nature recovery mapping, which was considered to be a positive strategy to aid in nature recovery. It was suggested that the Environmental Working Group could be involved in this process. The Chairman encouraged the Councillors to sign up to the local nature recovery mapping webinar on Wednesday 22nd January. (Clerk had previously circulated the details of the webinar).

The Chairman advised the Councillors to cast their votes on the matter of whether Titley & District Group Parish Council should officially declare a climate emergency:

- Cllr Janson proposed that the Parish Council should declare a climate emergency, seconded by Cllr Edwards.
- Four Councillors voted against the proposal.
- One Councillor abstained

Following the results of the votes, Titley & District Group Parish Council will refrain from declaring a climate emergency.

Cllr Edwards encouraged the Environmental Working Group to attend the local nature recovery mapping webinar and then to arrange a meeting.

65/25 Lengthsman

Councillors were informed that the Lengthsman (Hitrees Ltd) had cleaned out grips and gullies throughout the parishes on 29th November, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th December 2024.

It was noted that the Clerk had submitted an Invoice to Herefordshire Council to reclaim the invoice paid to Hitrees Ltd (£3,852 inc. VAT)

66/25 Parish Issues

66.1 Decline In The River Arrow

It was noted that Cllr Janson was in discussions with the working group.

66.2 Shawl Corner – New Pedestrian Warning Signs

It was noted that new warning signs of pedestrians walking in road/bikes/horses had been installed by Balfour Beatty. Cllr Mitchell will also put up the yellow PC warning signs.

66.3 Traffic Issues In Staunton On Arrow

It was noted that new warning signs purchased by the Parish Council or pedestrian walking in road/bikes/horses, had been put up in the village.

66.4 Flooding – School Lane, Titley

There was no update

66.5 Flooding near Broadford, Stansbatch (U91607)

It was noted that no meeting had been arranged yet with Balfour Beatty. This was partly due to a new Locality Steward starting.

66.6 We Don't Buy Any Crime – Smartwater

It was noted that due to the requirement of 70% of residents registering before the Smartwater devices could be rolled out, it was agreed to put it on hold, as it would not be feasible.

66.7 Titley War Memorial – Cleaning

There was no update.

67/25 Correspondence

67.1 Nature Recovery Mapping Webinar On 22nd January 2025 (circulated to Councillors via email)

This was discussed and recorded under minute 63/25.

(Councillors were encouraged to sign up for this webinar).

67.2 Latest Planning Advice From National To Local (circulated to Councillors via email)

An email from Herefordshire Council (which had been previously circulated to Councillors), regarding the latest planning advice for the National Planning Policy Framework was discussed.

67.3 Future Of East Radnor Leisure Centre

The Clerk had received a letter from Presteigne And Norton Town Council, asking if the Parish Council would consider allocating an amount in their 2025/26 budget towards running costs of the centre in Presteigne, due to Powys County Council publishing details of a review of the Leisure Centres in the County and the East Radnor Centre is under threat. A decision on the review has not yet been made and has been pushed on into the summer months, leaving the future of the centre uncertain. It was noted that the Leisure Centre is used by schools and communities on both sides of the border for children's swimming lessons and by adults for swimming, the gym or for a variety of exercise classes it provides. A discussion took place and it was agreed to write a letter of support.

68/25 Date And Place Of Next Meeting

Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 4th March 2025, 7.45pm at Titley Village Hall

Meeting closed 9.30 pm

SIGNED (Chairman) DATE