

RICHARDS CASTLE (HEREFORDSHIRE) PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr C E Williams 2 Jockeyfields Ludlow Shropshire SY8 1PU

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th January 2013 commencing at 7.30pm at Richards Castle Village Hall

12/160 Present:

Cllr Mrs R Thomas (Chairman)

Cllr: D English, J Barnett, G Whitmarsh,

M Saunders, S Lowden, S Broome

Clerk: Mr C E Williams

Herefordshire Councillor S Bowen

12/161 Apologies:

Nil

12/162 Members of the Public and Councillor S Bowen:

Herefordshire Councillor S Bowen reported that Herefordshire Council had supported the Parish Councils response to the Boundary Commission to retain the Parish area with in the Bircher Ward of Herefordshire Council. Mike Saunders was thanked by the Council for the detailed factual response that he had compiled to the Boundary Commission in respect of the Parish Councils submission.

Cllr S Bowen also commented on Herefordshire Council Matters the main item currently under discussion being the annual budget.

12/163 Declarations of Registrable and other Interests:

Nil

12/164 Confirm Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th November 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

12/165 Matters arising on the Minutes not included on the Agenda:

Nil

12/166 Chairman's Items:

a) The Chairman reported on the latest position regarding the land drainage issues at Springfield Richards Castle where it will be necessary for work to be undertaken to alleviate the problems of flooding to properties but also the dangers to surface water on the roadway.

To prevent the problem of flooding on the roadway the Parish Council could meet cost of the works from the Lengthsman Scheme subject to an appropriate estimate of works being provided.

b) Notice- Board – The Parish Council noticeboard situated at the village hall has been taken down due to necessary repairs. It was agreed by the Parish Council that the Notice Board when repaired should be situated near the streetlight at the entrance to Orchard Rise Richards Castle.

The Chairman will arrange for the appropriate work to be undertaken which may involve the removal and repositioning of the existing seat.

c) A request had been received from Rosemary Harral for a contribution of £37.50 towards the purchase on new cutlery for the weekly lunches that they hold in the village hall for persons in the PCC area who are over 55. The Parish Council agreed to the request subject to the cutlery also being available to any other events held in the village hall.

12/167 Highway items/Footpath Items:

a) Cllr S Broome raised his concerns about the speeding of vehicles along Castle Road Richards Castle after they exit the existing 30mph speed limit and requested that it should be extended past the Cross Roads. Herefordshire Councillor S Bowen would take the matter up with Herefordshire Council this also to be followed up by a letter from the Parish Council.

- b) Cllr S Bowen to report to Amey the problem of potholes along Castle Road Richards Castle and from the Rock crossroads to the boundary with Shropshire.
- c) It was reported that the Speed Indicator Devices had not worked for a period of time when last installed the Clerk will take this matter up with Herefordshire Council.

12/168 Planning Items:

No items to be considered at the meeting

12/169 Financial Items:

a) The following account was approved for payment by the Parish Council:

Hi Trees – Lengthsman scheme - £145.80

Richards Castle PCC – Donation - £37.50

C E Williams – Net Salary - £135.00

Inland Revenue – Tax - £90.00

b) Precept 2013/2014 – The Clerk had produced a statement of estimated income and Expenditure for the Year 2013/14 and anticipated the Parish Council would have balances of £5,400 at the 31st March 2013.

The Clerk pointed out that the expenditure was now exceeding the income received by about £150.

Cllr S Broome suggested that the shortfall could be met from balances and would oppose any increase.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr R Thomas and seconded by Cllr M Saunders and agreed that the precept should be increased by £150 to £3,150 for the financial year 2013/14.

The Clerk explained that from April 2013 that Central Government has changed the way Council Tax Benefit will work and that it will now be managed through a localised scheme which will impact on Parish and Town Councils effecting the calculation of the Council Tax taxbase figure this dependant on the number of persons in receipt of rebate in the parish area however a Council Tax support grant will be provided by Central Government to help offset any impact to the taxbase figure.

12/170 Update of the Parish Plan:

No items to report

12/171 Next Meetings:

It was agreed by the Parish Council that meetings should now revert back to bi-monthly meetings with the near completion of the Parish Plan with the next meetings being Wednesday 13th March 2013, Tuesday 14th May 2013 all meetings commencing at **7.00pm**

Chairman