

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 20th November 2012 commencing at 7.30pm at Richards Castle Village Hall

12/137 Present:

Cllr Mrs R Thomas (Chairman)

Cllr: D English, J Barnett, G Whitmarsh, M Saunders

Clerk: Mr C E Williams

Herefordshire Councillor S Bowen

One Member of the Public

12/149 Apologies:

Cllr S Lowden and S Broome

Herefordshire Councillor S Bowen

12/150 Members of the Public and Councillor S Bowen:

Mr G Goodwin attended the meeting to discuss the flooding/drainage issues at Springfield, Richards Castle. This following a site meeting (part of the general visit noted below) by representatives from Herefordshire Council and Environment Agency.

Cllr S Bowen reported that there had been a walk around the local areas of Orleton, Richards Castle, Yarpole and Kingsland by representatives of Herefordshire Council and the Environment Agency, looking at the general problems of flooding and roads from which a comprehensive action report will be produced. Herefordshire Council had appointed a New Chief Executive

12/151 Declarations of Personal/Prejudicial Interest:

The Clerk reported that under the Localism Act 2011 if a member of a council is aware that he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at a meeting, he/she is barred from participating in any discussion or voting on it unless he/she has obtained a dispensation as it would be a criminal offence. A Parish Council may grant a dispensation to a member, not exceeding a period of four years and if it considers that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business or granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Councils area or it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation. A member is free to participate and vote at a meeting on the question of granting him/her a dispensation which relieves him/her of the restrictions which apply to the matter in which he/she holds a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Two examples would be the setting of the Councils Precept or deciding the council's response to a proposed development affecting the entire parish.

In respect of the Precept which will be discussed at the next meeting it was proposed by Cllr Mrs R Thomas and seconded by Cllr D English and agreed by the Parish Council that all members of the Parish Council be granted appropriate dispensation to discuss and decide the Precept requirements for the next four years.

12/152 Confirm Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th October 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

12/153 Matters arising on the Minutes not included on the Agenda:

No items

12/154 Chairman's Items:

The Chairman referred to the proposed boundary changes to Hereford Council which recommends alterations in warding arrangements which will include the move of Richards Castle from the Bircher Ward to a ward containing Wigmore and Leintwardine. The Parish Council had previously written to the Boundary Commission objecting to the proposals but this has been ignored by the Boundary Commission.

The Parish Council will be again responding to the Boundary Commission objecting to any Ward boundary change which results in Richards Castle no longer having the same Ward Councillor as Orleton. The reasons for this objections are as follows. The Parish depends on the Rural Service Centre of Orleton (less than 3km

distant) for its primary school, shop, post office and GP surgery, and community policing arrangements. Richards Castle's emerging Community-led Plan indicates a need for further integration with Orleton in the development of social and health care services, youth facilities, sports and leisure services, and alternatives to public transport. To facilitate such joint action and to look after established joint interests, it makes absolute sense to have a common ward Councillor to help mediate matters with the County Council. Conversely, it makes very little sense to align Richards Castle with Wigmore/Leintwardine, from which it is separated by 10 km of open countryside, is directly linked only by a single narrow unclassified lane, and with which it has no historical or natural connection. Any such alignment would be at odds with the declared Government and County planning policy objective of promoting 'community cohesion' and 'a sense of belonging'.

The Parish Council will also suggest to the Boundary Commission that they also make a visit to the area. If any electors of the parish wish to make a response this should be submitted to the Review Officer (Herefordshire), LGBCE, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG or by Email to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk by the 7th January 2013.

12/155 Highway items/Footpath Items:

- a) The Chairman referred to the trees by number 21, 22 Orchards Rise and by the Street Light at the junction to Orchard Rise which required pruning. This work will be undertaken under the remit of the Lengthsman Scheme.
- b) It was noted that the ditch in front of the hedge at Brook Corner was to be cleaned by Amey Herefordshire council contractors as this ditch was the responsibility of Highways.

12/156 Planning Items:

No items

12/157 Financial Items:

- a) The following account was approved for payment by the Parish Council:
 - R A Bayliss – Footpaths/Verges - £87.50
 - Temescape – Grass Cutting Church - £240.00
 - Hi Trees – Lengthsman scheme - £382.20
 - R Greetham – plants - £12.00

12/158 Update of the Parish Plan:

Cllr M Saunders reported that a skeleton Plan had been produced and that there were three items that impacted on the Parish Council, Roads and Paths, Planning Development and Local Democracy it was agreed that a working group of the Parish Council would meet on the 24th November 2012 at 4pm to discuss.

12/159 Next Meetings: Tuesday 15th January 2013, Tuesday 12th February 2013, Tuesday 12th March 2013, Tuesday 9th April 2103 and Tuesday 14th May 2013 commencing at **7.00pm**

Chairman