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DINEDOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a scheduled meeting of the Parish Council
held on Tuesday 21st July 2015 at 7.30 pm in Dinedor Village Hall

PRESENT

Councillors: Duncan Green (Chairman), Nick Austin, Chris Smart, Suzanne Penny.

In attendance: Acting Clerk - Lynda Wilcox (HALC) & prospective clerk - Elaine Godding.

Ward Councillor – David Summers and ten local residents.

1. Apologies for absence: All councillors were present.
2. Co-option to fill the current vacancy:
It was unanimously RESOLVED to co-opt Julia Over who signed her declaration of acceptance of office and took her place at the meeting.

3. Declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations: There were none.

NB Item 5 was brought forward and discussed at this stage in the meeting.

4. Open Session

4.1 Ward Councillor David Summers reported:

- 4.1.1 Following a site meeting by Mr Summers, planning enforcement officers had been requested to investigate substantial unauthorised earth works in an area of great historical interest.

Parish councillors expressed strong concerns and RESOLVED that further action would include: a) aerial photos, b) contact with Herefordshire Council's archaeology officer, c) possible publicity in the local press.

- 4.1.2 Following a parish walk with the Chairman, Mr Summers was pushing for a new sign and a mirror for the T-junction.

4.2 Views of local residents on parish matters:

- 4.2.1 Local residents shared parish council concerns about the earthworks.
- 4.2.2 Potholes were raised as a continuing issue.

5. Dinedor Camp

5.1 To consider the freehold transfer of the entire demise of the area known as Dinedor Camp (including assignment of lease between Herefordshire Council and Dinedor Youth Camp) from Herefordshire Council to Dinedor Parish Council.

5.1.1 The Chairman outlined a meeting that he and the Acting Clerk had held with Tony Featherstone from Herefordshire Council.

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5.1.2 Members discussed elements of the proposed Community Asset Transfer (CAT) including tree maintenance and the responsibility for access roads. It was recognised that further clarification would need to be sought from the Land Registry but old maps appeared to indicate that road maintenance had previously been undertaken by Herefordshire Council and its predecessors. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should seek clarification from the Land Registry.

5.1.3 The Chairman invited representatives from Dinedor Youth Camp to comment and it transpired that Dinedor Youth Camp had also been in negotiation with Herefordshire Council concerning a Community Asset Transfer to their governing body. Parish Councillors confirmed that they were simply considering taking on the lease for the Dinedor Youth Camp and were not anticipating involvement in their day-to-day activities.

5.1.4 The Chairman then invited local residents to give their views on the proposed asset transfer which would mean additional maintenance responsibilities for Dinedor Camp. Various aspects, including a possible increase in the Precept, were discussed but those present were broadly in favour of their parish council taking on the responsibility for the whole Dinedor Camp area.

5.1.5 It was noted that annual rent from the telephone mast would assist with maintenance costs.

5.1.6 Following further discussion by parish councillors, it was RESOLVED to request the freehold transfer of the entire demise of the area known as Dinedor Camp (including assignment of the lease between Herefordshire Council and Dinedor Youth Camp) from Herefordshire Council to Dinedor Parish Council.

6. Minutes of previous meeting: 14th May 2015

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.

7. Finance:

7.1 Noted ... bank balance of £19,372.82.

7.2 Village hall hire payment for 2015/16: £160.00

It was RESOLVED to pay known advance hall hire fees for the current as per the invoice for £160. Additional meeting costs would be paid in March 2016.

7.3 Payments to HALC:

7.3.1 Clerk cover for meeting held on 21st July: £103.60 + VAT.

7.3.2 Internal Audit fee: £70 + VAT.

7.3.3 Website Wonder training course: £25 + VAT.

It was RESOLVED to pay all three above items.

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8. Planning:

8.1 Report on earthworks being undertaken without planning permission:

It was RESOLVED to endorse the actions mentioned in agenda item 4.1 above.

8.2 Core Strategy ... Members noted the requirement for Herefordshire Council to make further proposed modifications re wind energy, in line with advice from the Planning Inspector.

9. Neighbourhood Plan (NP):

Members received an update, including the need to consider 8.2 above in relation to the NP. It was RESOLVED to seek an additional Government grant for ongoing NP activities. It was noted that the NP Steering Group would be holding an open meeting in the near future and would advertise the date to local residents.

9.1 Members RESOLVED to pay the outstanding Kirkwells invoice for Neighbourhood Plan work in the sum of £2,500 + VAT.

10. PC representative on the Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group

It was RESOLVED that Duncan Green should continue as the Parish Council's representative at meetings of the Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group.

11. Items of information were noted as:

11.1 Herefordshire Council Budget consultation meeting 22.7.15.

12. The date of the next scheduled meeting was noted as 15th September 2015.

A resolution was passed to exclude the public from the following employment item.

13. Employment of new clerk

13.1 The prospective new clerk, Elaine Godding was interviewed by parish councillors who then asked her to leave the room whilst they considered her application for the post of clerk/RFO.

13.2 Following discussion it was unanimously RESOLVED to appoint Elaine Godding as the new clerk/RFO on a six month probationary period (subject to references) as of that night on scale point 17.

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13.3 Elaine Godding was invited back into the room and accepted the offer of appointment.

SIGNED  DATE 15 Sept 15