

Eardisland Parish Council

Meeting of the Council at 19.30 hrs on Thursday 13th August 2009

MINUTES

Present;

Mrs S Askew (Chair)
Dr R Brinton-Bivand
Mrs J M Hanson
Mr G Simpson
Mrs G Pennington

Attending;

Cllr Goodwin
Mrs A Millichap (Clerk)
Cllr J Goodwin
4 members of the public

Action

Guest Speakers – Tina Woods, Housing Development Officer and Jonathan Brookes, New Business Development Manager.

Tina Woods explained that the Housing Needs Survey for Eardisland had been conducted and was here to discuss the results. Handouts were passed around of the results and referred to by Tina. A total of 256 surveys were posted out, and 9 received back indicating a possible need for affordable housing, of these 3 were excluded once the survey was completed, 1 was borderline and not placed in housing need category and 5 households had a need for affordable housing. Properties required were 2 two-bedroom houses, 2 one-bedroom houses and 1 three-bedroom house. Social housing properties don't become available in Eardisland very often and it is unlikely that local residents would get housing, as it would go to the highest priority banding. Tina then introduced Jonathan Brookes from Marches Housing Association as Herefordshire Council are working in partnership with Marches Housing. The floor was then opened to the public for questions. (Please refer to separate sheet for questions and answers) A proposed date for an Affordable Housing Consultation Day was suggested for October but Tina will confirm this with Gill Richards to ensure Village Hall is available and will advise Clerk, Parish Website and Parish Magazine of actual date once confirmed. The consultation day would be very informative, no formal discussion would take place, stands held by Marches Housing Association, Herefordshire Council and Homepoint will be available and people can come along and chat at any point. The Chair thanked Tina and Jonathan for coming along to discuss the results of the Housing Survey with us.

1 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Mr D Weir and Mr P Davenport

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting 25th June 2009 were amended to show correct names in agenda item 10.c. Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record. **Clerk**

3 Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interested were declared.

4 Finance

a) Position at bank as at 13th August 2009 – Barclays Community Account £1421.90. Barclays deposit account £43.28.

b) Payments for approval:- B. Priday – internal audit of accounts £50.00, Oldlands Press £180.00, ROSPA annual fee £50.85, Herefordshire Fire Protection £63.25. All in favour for bills to be paid. **Clerk**

5 PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- a) **Village Hall** – Woodworm has been discovered in the parquet flooring. Serena Askew has obtained quotes for treating the floor, all flooring needs to be sanded down then treated then re-varnished. Rentokil quoted £739 plus VAT for woodworm treatment only. No sanding or varnishing would be included. Quotes for sanding etc have come in at £2939 plus VAT from The Floor Restoration Company, £650 from F Billingham and £220 for sanding and £150 for varnishing plus cost of varnish from D Gittoes. Jill Richards commented that it is the responsibility of the Parish Council as the Village Hall belongs to them. However the Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee have agreed to pay for the varnish and varnishing and then donate £100 towards the sanding. It was asked if it was worth considering a new floor but the parquet floor is very hard wearing. Would be worth checking our insurance to see if this would be covered under it although the monies are available to pay for the treatment of the woodworm and the sanding of the floor. Ruth Brinton-Bivand proposed we go ahead and have the work done. The Clerk is to co-ordinate between Rentokil, F Billingham and Jill Richards. **Clerk**
- b) **Twinning** – Latest fundraiser had very disappointing turnout. Eardisland in Bloom Twinning Garden looks beautiful, The Dovecote Trust and Eardisland in Bloom sponsored this. The pending visit by our French friends will take place on Saturday 24th October; this will consist of a light lunch with hosts and a tour around the village on Saturday followed by a Medevil Banquet in the evening. On Sunday a trip into Hereford and Monday will see a visit to Broadfield Court Vineyard. A total of 25 adults and 7 young people are coming.
- c) **Playground** – One post is missing otherwise all fine. Ruth Brinton-Bivand will ask D Gittoes to replace post. **RBB**

6 Public Forum

B. Freeman – Lawton Cross traffic accident. A couple travelling towards

Eardisland were hit in the side of their car by a lorry. Another reminder of how dangerous Lawton Cross can be. Priority's need to change at the crossroads.

Cllr Goodwin – Email from Chris Bull, CEO Herefordshire Council, mentioned points raised by Serena during his tour around some of the villages and will be taking these forward. Cllr Goodwin to feedback accordingly.

J. Edwards – Thanks to Derek Wareham for all his hard work towards Eardisland in Bloom.

D. Wareham – It was a team effort, awarded £550 that was distributed amongst those who participated.

S. Askew – Witnessed a lorry turning around as too heavy to go over the bridge in village. Lorry damaged trees during its attempts to turn around, had to go over the bridge as unable to execute turn around. It would seem these lorries are using satellite navigation systems and are heading to Kingspan. Suggested Clerk write to Kingspan. **Clerk**

G. Simpson – Requested Herefordshire Tourist Information Centre be informed of bridge weight limit for their information as they organise Black and White Trail tours. Note to be put on visitors section of Eardisland Parish Website regarding weight limit of bridge. **Clerk**

S. Askew – read out letter from local landowner who is offering to donate a field to the Housing Association for the building of Social housing. Eardisland Parish Council to respond and refer to Consultation Day. **SA**

7 Cllr J Goodwin –

Letters regarding the Wheelie bins will be going out to some of the public, informing them if they will be having the wheelie bins or not. Bowel Cancer Screening programme to take place.

- 8 **Planning Matters -** Clerk
 Arrow Lea – DCNW0009/1582/K Fell 1 x Western Red Cedar – plans looked at by Parish Councillors. All in favour of tree work, no objections placed.
- 9 **Litter Bins** – Clerk
 Clerk read out an email from a parishioner regarding his concerns if litterbins in the village were to be removed. It is general consensus that the bins are not being emptied on a regular basis. The Parish Council will re-look at this item in November and the Clerk to put in Parish Magazine and on website again. Clerk
- 10 **Parish Councillor Reports**
- a) **Community Website** – When sending information to the website please send it to both James and Ben to ensure it is not missed. Clerk to submit a follow up article regarding the website to the Parish Magazine to generate more interest from the parishioners. An email to be sent to James and Ben emphasising that the Parish Council are still very supportive of them both and all they do. Community Website will be a major agenda item for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting. Clerk
- b) **Parish Plan** – Barry Freeman has suggested to Serena Askew that the Parish Plan be held as a separate meeting at some point in the near future. Nothing else to report at present.
- c) **Community Shop** – Listed Building Consent has come through. Meeting will be held to move things on.
- d) **Parish Magazine** - Nothing to report.
- 11 **Progress Reports for information** –
- Lengthsman** – It was suggested the Clerk submit an article regarding the cutting back of hedges/trees to the Parish Magazine and Community Website or the Parish Council will follow up. Clerk
- Footpaths** – Derek Wareham presented a report on the footpaths and talked the Parish Council through it. Requested Parish Council consider joining Parish Paths Partnership Scheme. Derek has spent considerable time clearing up dog mess from footpaths past the Church and through the recreation ground. A letter titled Dogs on Walks was submitted to the Parish Council for inclusion in the next edition of the Parish Magazine. Clerk to submit accordingly. Clerk
- Common Land** – Nothing to report
- 12 **HALC** – Clerk
 Clerk went through the HALC information and updated the Parish Council on HALC's recent office move.
- 13 **Rural Settlement Hierarchy Background Paper** – GP
 The Clerk presented this paper to the Parish Council and requested a volunteer to look through it on behalf of the Parish Council. Greta Pennington kindly volunteered to do so.
- 14 **Correspondence** - The following correspondence was made available to the Parish Councillors: - Dutch bulbs wholesale catalogue, Festival Housing letter, Herefordshire Vision Links letter, HVA News leaflet, Newslines Magazine, Herefordshire Council Waste letter, Open Spaces letter, Amberol product catalogue, NALC Local Council Awards information, Herefordshire Funding Fair 2009 information, West Midlands Rail Development Plan consultation information, August grants information, email regarding Biodiversity News July Edition.

This meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting.....

Date.....

Summary of Actions

(All actions to be carried out before next meeting unless otherwise agreed).

Clerk

- Amend minutes of 25.06.09
- To record declarations of Interest
- Payment of bills
- Co-ordinate woodworm treatment of Village Hall Floor
- Write to Kingspan
- Write to Herefordshire Tourist Centre
- Submit details of bridge weight limit to Community Website
- Inform Planning department of PC decision
- Litterbins article for Parish Magazine and Website
- Follow up article on Website for Parish Magazine
- Email Ben and James with the PC support
- Article for Website and Magazine re hedge and tree cutting
- Dogs on Walks letter to Parish Magazine

Parish Councillors

- RBB – chase up missing post in playground
- SA – reply to landowner re field
- GP – Rural Settlement Hierarchy Background Paper

Questions and Answers
Housing Need Survey Results

Graham Simpson – Queried comparison of affordable housing between Hereford and Eardisland.

Tina Woods – Would like to comparison taken out as refers back to 2001.

Greta Pennington – Seven social houses at moment was previously 16 prior to sell off.

Tina Woods – Whole of county had 28,000 social houses now about 16,000. Unable to replenish stock meaning now have a shortage.

Serena Askew – Would you like to build social housing in village?

Tina Woods – The next step would be a Consultation Day and then building would depend on land being available. – The village is in a flood plain and conservation area would this make a difference?

Serena Askew – The village is in a flood plain and conservation area would this make a difference?

Jonathan Brookes – Any parcels of land that did become available would be scrutinised heavily before an answer could be given as to whether land would be suitable.

Greta Pennington – Behind the existing council estate is land that is above the flood plain. Would there be additional parking with any new building for the social housing we already have? Also have a problem with the speed limit through village would Marches Housing Association be able to help with these areas?

Jonathan Brookes – Part of the process would be to consult with the Highways engineer. A minimum number of car parking spaces would come with any new housing. Additional spaces for existing properties would depend on the size of the piece of land being built on.

Graham Simpson – All land in Eardisland is subject to flooding. The Environment Agency strongly advised no more building.

Jonathan Brookes – Speaking with the Environment Agency would be part of the consultation process.

Maryan Hanson – What number of houses would you be looking at building?

Jonathan Brookes – The Housing Need Survey identified five houses.

Barry Freeman – Significant development at Barons Cross now on hold. It would be more feasible surely to concentrate on this?

Jonathan Brookes – Barons Cross is developer led not by Marches Housing or any other Housing Association. That particular site is on hold due to the current climate. The point of building in Eardisland is to supply homes to those whom need it within the village.

Ruth Brinton-Bivand – Are the new houses allocated to the people who indicated a need for social housing in the survey?

Tina Woods – Any new homes would have local connection so anyone from the village can apply for them but they would not be built specifically for those people who filled in the survey.

Ruth Brinton-Bivand – How big is our “problem” compared to other villages?

Tina Woods – Eardisland probably has the lowest need.

John Edwards – Does anyone from outside the village want to come here?

Tina Woods – No, we only surveyed within the village.

John Edwards – Will we have people coming from Hereford and does Hereford want social housing pushed out to the villages?

Jonathan Brookes – It would have to be viable for Marches Housing Association to build here and it would have to be done fairly quickly.

Greta Pennington – What would happen if after so many years people moved away?

Tina Woods – Anyone with a local connection would be able to bid on that property

Graham Simpson – What is a local connection?

Tina Woods – They would need to either live here, work here or want to move back here.

Jill Richards – Why can't existing social housing have a local connection?

Jonathan Brookes/Tina Woods – Unable to do that, only able to put local connections on new builds.

Barry Freeman – Herefordshire is under pressure to supply housing so is pushing for the villages to do this.

Tina Woods – People do generally and genuinely want to stay in these villages. Consultation day is next step possibly October 12th 2009. This would have to be confirmed.

Graham Simpson – Can the Environment Agency and Planning Officers come along to the consultation day?

Jonathan Brookes/Tina Woods – We can invite them to come along but they are not under any obligation to attend. They would probably prefer to be involved once potential sites are identified.

Tina Woods – The Consultation day is not just talking about looking for land to build on, also have information about other opportunities e.g. mortgage rescue packages, shared ownership etc.