

CREDENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CREDENHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE YOUTH AND RESOURCE CENTRE ON 18 JUN 08 AT 7.30 PM

	Name	Appointment
Present	Mr A Round (AR) Mrs D Daw (DD) Mr J Beavan (JB) Mrs C Lloyd (CL) Mrs D Pullen (DP) Mr R Shutt (RS) Mrs I Thomson (IT) Mr A Slater (AS)	Chairman of the Parish Council Vice Chairman of the Parish Council]]]] Parish Councillors]]
In attendance	Mr B Matthews Inspector Nick Semper Sgt Karen Parker PC Pam Epton CSO Lawrence Hull Mr C Lippett (Clk) 9 Members of the Public	District Councillor))West Mercia Police)Hereford Rural North Local Policing Team) Parish Clk
Apologies	Mr A Button (AB) Mr J Daw (JD)	Parish Councillor Parish Councillor

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1 Disclosure of Interests	No disclosures of interests were recorded.	
2 Visiting Speakers	<p>a. Cllr Matthews (District Councillor) provided information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BT has announced removal of public phone from village. Suggested we email comments to Hereford Council. Clks Note: The general feeling was that the phone should be retained, an email was sent on 19 Jun 08 expressing our objections to the phone being removed. • There was no money now available to provide a pull in at the bus stop on the A480, near the traffic lights. JB questioned why no funds were available; Cllr Matthews informed council that money originally allocated had now been diverted for schools in Credenhill Area (St Mary's and Stretton Sugwas.) • Cattle market – planning application imminent. • Kings Acre junction – traffic lights considered best option. • Planning being considered to provide cycle path from village to Kings acre junction. (Mainly to meet military and school requirements). JB asked if land would need to be purchased, too early to know at moment. Will report at next meeting. • Currently putting together a case asking for more funding for policing in Credenhill. Endless complaints received recently. <p>b. <u>West Mercia Police.</u> A summary of the proceedings of this item is attached to these minutes, there was considerable dialogue.</p> <p>c. On conclusion of this Agenda Item the Chairman thanked the visiting speakers for their input.</p>	Cllr Matthews.

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
<p>3 Public questions</p>	<p>The Chairman closed the meeting at this stage. The following questions were raised:</p> <p>a. <u>Planning application – Conversion of Old Baker shop to Chip Shop</u> Mrs Overall asked what the current situation is regarding the planning application for the above. She was advised that the planning application had been withdrawn and, as yet there were no other applications in the pipeline. Clks Note: The village postmistress (CL) informed the meeting that she has ambitions to move into the shop and use it as a post office and tea room. She is currently making enquiries.</p> <p>b. <u>Parish Council support for retention of Post Office</u> Mrs Fenn asked if the council could make a formal representation to retain the post office. CL confirmed that Cllr Matthews had already provided considerable support for retention which reflected the feelings of parishioners.</p> <p>c. <u>Cleaning of Yazor Brook</u> Mr Chant asked if arrangements had been made for the Yazor Brook to be cleared of rubbish. The Clk stated that the responsibility for cleaning the brook lies with the landowner through which the brook runs. It is not within the remit of the Parish Council to initiate requests for brook clearance, this is the responsibility of Hereford Council.</p> <p>d. <u>Young children in brook area late at night</u> Mr Chant asked if the Parish Council could do anything about this. Clks Note: The meeting was informed that the council are not empowered to intervene in matters of this nature. PC Pam Epton was aware of the problem and parents of the children involved have been spoken to.</p> <p>e. <u>Hereford Youth Council</u> Emily Young introduced herself to the meeting, she is a local resident employed by the Hereford Youth Council. She explained that the “Good in the Hood” campaign is encouraging and she intends to promote this philosophy in the village by speaking to young people and arranging surgeries. It is her intention to attend future parish meetings. Clks Note. This lady is most welcome to attend our meetings, we look forward to working with her.</p> <p>f. <u>Distribution of CCN</u> Mr Crew considered that the re-launch of the CCN is most welcome, it enables local information to be disseminated but suggested that wider distribution of the CCN would be beneficial. He also stated that he had recently arrived in the village, attended several parish meetings and was aware of the important work that the parish council undertakes. Clks Note: Arrangements are in hand to improve circulation of the CCN.</p> <p>g. <u>Jasmine House extension.</u> Mrs Overall asked if the timescale for the demolition of the existing lean to and the building of the new extension was known. No firm dates were available to the council, Cllr Matthews offered to obtain information and let Mrs Overall know.</p>	<p>Cllr Matthews.</p>
<p>4 Minutes of previous meeting</p>	<p>The Chairman re-opened the meeting on completion of this agenda item. Proposed by RS and seconded by CL that they were a true and accurate record. Carried.</p>	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
Explanatory Note <i>Agenda item 5 (Matters arising) covers all the outstanding actions from previous minutes, they will continue to be included until the required action is completed.</i>		
5 Matters Arising	<p><u>Item 4c. (First raised during meeting 23 Jan 08) Community Hall Lease</u> JB advised that he had spoken to solicitor, who had been in touch with Beaumont Davies to try and finalise matter. Anthony Jones (Hall Committee) had now received a copy of the lease. Progress report at next meeting. Clks Note: It was decided that to move this requirement forward the Clk was to draft a letter (signature by chairman) to Anthony Jones requesting that their involvement in the legal proceedings are completed as soon as possible. Completion of the lease will permit the Community Hall to apply for grants for building maintenance and improvements, furthermore the Parish Council are considering using Parish funds to undertake essential repairs to the building. Report at next meeting.</p> <p><u>Item 10 (23 Jan 08) Fencing (Parish Compound)</u> To finish off the project. JB proposed that the following additional work is undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entrance gate and left hand side of fence has been completed. JB proposed that the cost of £450 + VAT for the gate and £350+ VAT for the fence be met from parish funds, seconded by IT and carried. • To finish the work off it was agreed that the right hand side of the fence should be re-fenced in the same method as the left hand side. JB to obtain quote for this work and report at next meeting. • JB was requested to ensure that Mr Sweetman came back to finish off the seeding in the Parish compound • <p><u>Item 6e (20 Feb 08) Website</u> CL reported that progress was being made on the website and anticipated that our initial design would be put forward to web site designers in Jul 08. Report at next meeting.</p> <p><u>Item 7 (16 Apr 08) Footpaths (PROW)</u> JD reported that he has researched the arrangements and proposed that we apply to join the scheme, seconded by CL. Carried. Report at next meeting. Clks Note: JD was not at this meeting but had sent a note to say arrangements are well in hand, full report at next meeting.</p> <p><u>Item 3a (14 May 08) – Services provided by Hereford County Council</u> During the discussion it became evident that there was not much confidence in the service provided by Hereford County Council regarding services within the village, Mr Matthews suggested we invite the Department Head (Mr Michael Ainge) to one of our meetings so that we could express our concerns. Clk to draft suitable letter for signature by chairman. Clks Note Hereford County Council had been very responsive to requests made by the Parish in recent weeks. It was therefore agreed that the need for a letter to Mr Ainge would be reviewed at the next meeting</p> <p><u>Item 3c. (14 May 08) – Unacceptable youth activity in village.</u> The following actions are still outstanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry to be put in CCN regarding ball games on Station Road. • Cllr Matthews to pursue the acquisition of “No ball games” signs from Hereford Council. Arrangements in hand. 	<p>JB/Clk</p> <p>JB</p> <p>JB</p> <p>CL</p> <p>JD</p> <p>Clk</p> <p>CL</p> <p>Cllr Matthews</p>

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
5 Matters Arising (Continued)	<p>•</p> <p><u>Item 7a (14 May 08) Road Sweeping.</u> A quote had been received from Quick skip for road sweeping the village. Prices are £30 per hour (Minimum 2 Hours) and then £69 plus VAT per tonne (minimum one tonne) to dispose of waste. 2 Days Notice required. Clks Note: The Clk reported that arrangements had now been put into place for a full sweep of the village to be undertaken by Quickskip during Sep 08. (added to Parish Diary). The next sweep undertaken by the Council is likely to be in Jan 09 (every 6 months)</p> <p><u>Item 10 a (14 May 08) Roman Park</u> Proposed by CL seconded by JD that we form a working group to look into the possibility of Phase 2 improvements to the play facilities within the park. Carried. AB volunteered to head this group. IT offered to help as required. AB requested to research and report at next meeting. Clks Note AB was not present at this meeting, Report at meeting in Jul required.</p> <p><u>Item 12a (14 May 08) Standing Orders</u> RS agreed to prepare the first draft of the standing orders for the Parish Council. He had obtained an electronic copy of the model standing orders (with amendments) from HALC.</p>	AB RS
	<p>Clks Note RS had completed his first look at the model standing orders, and has compiled a list of points to be considered by the council and discussed at the next meeting; these were distributed to council members. Report at next meeting.</p> <p><u>Item 12b (14 May 08) Dog Signs</u> AS raised the questions of dog signs at the entrance to Roman Park and the access road to the social club/community hall. The Clk advised that he proposed to order new signs - manufactured to our specification. Details (and quotes) will be made available when received, this expenditure will need to be authorised by the council. Clks Note: Signs obtained and positioned. Proposed by CL seconded by JB that the invoice of £42.30 is met from Parish Funds. Carried</p> <p><u>Item 12c. (14 May 08) Play Park Eckroyd Park</u> DD reported that the grass in the play park in Eckroyd Park had not been cut for many months. Email to be sent to Steve Thompson, CC Mr Matthews. Clks Note: Parks department contacted directly, grass has now been cut. Requirement added to contractor's schedule.</p>	
6 Financial Matters	<p>a. <u>Bank Account</u> The Chairman reported that the balance of the Parish account was £35,705.78.</p> <p>b. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Clk had submitted a claim for £2,762.13 VAT refund.</p> <p>c. The Clk explained the current situation regarding the audit of the Parish Accounts. He had been in touch with the auditors (Hacker and Young) to try and finalise our audit for last year – still not completed. progress is being made – but is slow. He had also been in touch with our new auditors who have given verbal confirmation that we can ask for this years audit to be delayed should the situation not improve.</p> <p>d. The Chairman reported that the £60 invoice for the vandalism incurred during the installation of the benches in Roman Park had now been recovered from the individuals concerned and letters of apology</p>	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
<p>14 Any other Parish Business (Continued)</p>	<p>ordinate).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this time, advertising is not an issue. • Report at next meeting. <p>e. IT reported that chickens were being kept in 38 Waterside. Clk to draft suitable letter to Hereford Housing for signature by Chairman.</p> <p>f. DD requested that the hedge on the right hand side of the entrance road to the community complex is cut; drivers are unable to have a clear sight of the road when exiting the area.</p> <p>Clks Note: Hedge cutting will be completed in Sep 08. JB suggested that we may get Mr Rose to do it. JB to arrange.</p>	<p>Clk</p> <p>JB</p>
<p>15 Next Meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting will be held on 16 Jul 08</p>	<p>All to note.</p>

The chairman closed the meeting at 10 pm

Original Signed

A ROUND

Chairman

Date: 16 Jul 08

Attachments:

Visiting Speakers - Resume of West Mercia Police delivery (Agenda Item 2b)

ESG – Resume of recent activity. (Agenda item 12c)

Distribution:

Parish Council:

Mr A Round

Mrs D Daw

Mr J Beavan

Mrs C Lloyd

Mr A Button

Mr J Daw

Mrs D Pullen

Mr R Shutt

Mr A Slater

Mrs I Thompson

Parish Clk (for minute folder)

External

Cllr Matthews

Chairman – Social Club

Mr L Richardson

Attachment to Credenhill Parish Council Meeting Minutes of 18 Jun 08

VISITING SPEAKERS - RESUME OF WEST MERCIA POLICE DELIVERY (AGENDA ITEM 2B)

1. The complete Hereford Rural North Local Policing Team attended the meeting.
2. Inspector Nick Semper opened this element of the meeting, gave us a brief history of his career and stated he was very please to be appointed as Section Commander for the area which included Credenhill. He stated his complete confidence in the Local Policing Team but was aware of complaints regarding policing response to reports and requests for assistance emanating from the Credenhill area. He provided a wide range of information regarding policing, the more significant points are as follows:
 - Was grateful for the input that a local resident (Mrs Patrick) had made during a recent Policing Matters meeting at Brockington Council Chambers during the previous weeks. **Clks Note:** The Parish Chairman apologised that there was no representative from the Parish Council at the meeting.
 - He personally has been in the area on frequent occasions to assess the situation.
 - He has heightened the police presence in Credenhill.
 - He has spoken to residents in Oak and Elm Road (Flight Association) and set up surgeries. **Clks Note.** There were several residents from Oak and Elm Road who were very happy with the recent activity.
 - He emphasised that he, and his team, was always open to suggestions to improve policing in the area.
3. Questions from the floor:
 - a. Roger Shutt (Parish Councillor) expressed an opinion that there are some “problem” youths in the village. Can anything be done to keep them in check?
Response: It was acknowledged that there is a group of youths in the village who have a tendency to get in trouble, details of those involved are known to the police who, within the framework of the law, are monitoring the situation. In some cases acceptable behaviour standards are imposed and monitored. The police are aware of the effect that the recent articles in the press has had on the community. It was acknowledged that there are issues in the village, but in comparison with other areas these are not insurmountable. It was emphasised that all crimes/vandalism must be reported.
 - b. Cllr Matthews stated that there is a tendency for youths from surrounding areas to gather in Credenhill and that more staffing is required to cover the policing in the village. He also stated that he is currently compiling a case for more resources.
Response: The situation was understood and requests of this nature are welcomed.
 - c. John Beavan (Parish Councillor), raised 2 questions as follows:
 - Following the recent bad publicity in the papers, should police PR have made a statement to negate the seriousness of the problem?
Response: Within police procedures, you can respond to paper articles, but not letters.
 - Residents are apprehensive about forthcoming school holidays when there is much activity in the Roman Park - particularly at night where under age drinking takes place. People are sometimes reluctant to report crime because of possible reprisals. In previous years, when PC Epton and Lawrence Hull were not on duty, response from central resources has been very poor. In this connection JB explained that a recent calculation had highlighted that the residents on the village were funding West Mercia Police (through their council tax) to the value of £190, 000. What are we getting out of this money, could a full time village officer be employed?

Response: Comments noted, financing and resourcing is being addressed by central management. Since the heightened presence of police in the village, calls for police help have reduced considerably, conditions in the village are getting better. Again residents are urged to come forward and engage with the team so that more complaints are reported, confidentiality assured. Can set up surgery in shops area (similar to one set up in Robinson Close) More publicity required.. **Clks Note.** Suitable article will be placed in CCN

- d. Cllr Matthews asked if any progress was made into the investigation on youths throwing bricks at a Sergeants bus in the village, resulting in the temporary withdrawal of the service.

Response : No information available, accepted as an action for the police. Update required at next meeting.

- e. Several residents from Oak/Elm Road stated that everything that Inspector Semper had promised had been delivered. They acknowledged the fact that reporting is most important and that the community must stand together in the fight against vandalism and crime. Like residents from other parts of the village, they considered that police presence when the rural team is not available, has been poor.

Response: Grateful for support and appreciation of the team.

- f. Cllr Matthews reported that the service provided by the Contact Management Centre (CMC) Worcester is very poor .

Response: This is outside the responsibility of the Rural team but within the remit of Ch Supt John JONES. Cllr Matthews stated that he would be taking the matter up with Mr Paul DENEEN, Chair of the Police Authority.

In response to a general enquiry, Inspector Semper informed the meeting that the MOD Police at the nearby military base are not empowered to cover local policing

4. During the West Mercia delivery, Inspector Semper stated he was committed to citizen-focused policing. His mission is to provide a service which leaves people confident and satisfied in policing and also in the communities within which they reside.

At the conclusion of the meeting he asked those present if they considered that the situation had improved within the village, the response was affirmative which is very encouraging. He acknowledges that the Roman Park is a hotspot during summer holidays and that consumption of alcohol can influence social behaviour. He will endeavour to disperse youths from time to time, and if necessary, inform parents when considered appropriate.

Attachment to Credenhill Parish Council Meeting Minutes of 18 Jun 08

ESG UPDATE

2 Meetings have taken place this month

Monday evening 2nd June. This was arranged to inform and update landowners on the progress of the scheme so far. In attendance were;

- Edgar Street grid executives
- Capita Symons management team (engineering consultants)
- Credenhill Parish council representatives J. Daw and A. Button
- Mr Price (Magna Castra Farm)
- Mrs E. Van Stratten Landowner upstream of the Yazor brook.
- Mr Ecroyd landowner even further upstream.
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Also in attendance were some people from Bishopstone who had grave concerns about the 'dam' that they heard was going to be built at Credenhill and the subsequent flooding further upstream.

The meeting was arranged so that all landowners could be updated on the plans so far.

Some people were completely unaware of the proposed scheme whereas others had heard only rumours and feared the worst.

After a presentation by ESG and Capita Symons on the overall scheme many of the concerns by landowners appear to have been allayed.

Daytime meeting on Tuesday 3rd June. This was to update and liaise with the many agencies that will be involved in the scheme one way or another i.e. engineers, archaeologists, environment agency, national trust etc.

This meeting was also attended by Adam Button as a representative of Credenhill parish council. He was not taking an active part in the meeting and was basically there in case we needed to be consulted if any matters pertaining to the parish council arose.

This report has been compiled by Jeremy Daw