

# Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Abbeydore and Bacton Group Parish Council held in Abbeydore Village Hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016

No ABPC/MW/081

### Present

Councillor Mrs M J Jenkins Vice – Chairman  
Councillor Mr D Bannister  
Councillor Mr D Cook  
Councillor Mrs W Gunn  
Councillor Mr T Murcott  
  
Clerk Mr M Walker

### Also Present

Ward Councillor Mr Graham Powell, Parish Lengthsman Mr Terry Griffiths  
and one further member of the public

**The Parish Council Meeting was formally opened by the Vice - Chairman at 7.30pm**

### **1.0 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Mr D R Watkins Chairman,  
Councillor Mr M J Jenkins and Councillor Mr W (Bill) Millington  
Representative from Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team not present  
Linzy Outtrim Locality Steward not present

### **2.0 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Group Parish Council Meeting No ABPC/MW/080 held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 were unanimously confirmed as a true record and signed by the Vice - Chairman.

### **3.0 Declarations of Interest**

**3.1** To receive any declarations of interest in agenda items from Councillors  
There were no declarations of interest made

**3.2** To consider any written applications for dispensation  
There were no written applications for dispensation made

### **4.0 Financial Report**

#### **4.1 Bank Balances** as per statements @ 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

Treasurers Current Account	£6,098.12
Business Bank Deposit Account	£15,044.46

#### **4.2 Receipts**

Herefordshire Council Lengthsman / P3 Scheme 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter BACS	£757.00
Peterchurch Parish Council {Notice Board Keys} cheque	£30.20

#### **4.3 Payments**

Clerk's Salary June 2016 Gross	£301.93
Mileage	£19.44
Postage	£8.90

TAX £60.40 NIC £0.00

Cheque Number 000751	
HMR&C 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter April May June	£179.40
Cheque Number 000752	
Replacementkeys.co.uk Invoice 100127366	£60.40
Cheque Number 000753	



Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) Invoice No 8026	
Training Sylvia Rothwell and Barbara Lloyd	
(Village Hall Committee Members)	£72.00
Cheque Number 000754	
PCWorld Invoice No 14057327 Laptop Printer Office Ink	£512.06
(Reimbursement to Clerk who paid with credit card)	
Cheque Number 000755	
Malcolm Walker Edit Print Distribute Newsletter Invoice No 565	£280.50
Cheque Number 000756	
Terry Griffiths TGC1693	£452.40
Cheque Number 000757	
Mrs J Cole Internal Auditor A&BGPC05/06/16	£35.00
Cheque Number 000758	
Clerk's Salary July 2016 Gross	£298.95
Mileage	£6.30
Postage	£10.89
TAX £59.20 NIC £0.00	
Cheque Number 000759	
Plusnet PLC 2570640-3 Broadband 28/04/2016 Direct Debit	
Bank Statement No 77	£24.49
Plusnet PLC 2570640-3 Broadband 27/05/2016 Direct Debit	
Bank Statement No 78	£24.49

**Resolved unanimously** that all payments are approved

#### **4.4 Pensions Regulator Letter**

Noted Pensions Regulator Letter-Staging Date 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016, PAYE Reference 475/VA56042, Letter Code 1178893542 given to Parish Clerk.

Parish Clerk does not want to be automatically enrolled into a Pensions Scheme.

### **5.0 Neighbourhood Plan Update**

**5.1** *To approve the Regulation 16 draft of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, except for any technical adjustments that might come to light after approval*

Councillor Mr T Murcott gave a brief update of progress to date

No Green Spaces in Abbeydore, Bacton or Kentchurch but some in Ewyas Harold

**5.2** *To allow any typos and other corrections to be made without requiring further approval*

Neighbourhood Development Plan to be emailed to all and posted to Councillor Mr D R Watkins Chairman and Councillor Mr W (Bill) Millington by Toby.

Toby will highlight changes and if no objections are raised then the Neighbourhood Plan approval will be noted and submitted to Herefordshire Council as soon as possible for the Consultation 16, then the Referendum.

Resolved:- If any objections or issues arise then a Parish Council Meeting will be called.

### **6.0 Public Question Time**

No matters raised

### **7.0 To Receive Reports from:-**

#### **7.1 West Mercia Police**

No Police present See Item 13.0

#### **7.2 Ward Councillor's Report**

Ward Councillor Mr. Graham Powell gave a brief overview of his report dated July 2016

Given to all present and to be posted to Councillor Mr D R Watkins Chairman,

Councillor Mr M J Jenkins and Councillor Mr W (Bill) Millington.



## “Hereford Bypass

The Hereford bypass is a key piece of infrastructure identified in the council’s Local Transport Plan and forms an essential part of the Hereford transport package which is outlined in this strategy. To enable the housing and employment growth objectives set out in the Core Strategy, the section of the bypass, connecting the southern link road with the junction of the A438, and the subsequent connection to the A49 trunk road must be in place by 2027.

Phase 1 of the Hereford Bypass (A49) Callow to A465 (Cleghonger) was approved at a planning committee meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The vote was 12 in favour, 4 opposed and 1 abstention.

The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has agreed to the submission of a bid to the DfT local transport majors fund for a £2.65m grant towards the cost of developing the outline business case for the full A49 to A49 Hereford Bypass. This grant amount will be matched to a £600k contribution from Herefordshire Council. Approval of these amounts will enable work to proceed with the development of route options, environmental and transport surveys and consultation on route options.

Option Appraisal	June to August 2016
Options Consultation	October 2016
ES Scoping Report	February 2017
Preferred Alignment Consultation	September 2017
Preferred Alignment Decision	December 2017
Outline Business Case	April 2018
Development Consent Order (DCO) Application Submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINs)	June 2018
Examination	October 2018 to April 2019
DCO Decision	October 2019
Construction Phase 1 Bypass (SLR to A438)	May 2020 to March 2022
Phase 1 Bypass Open	March 2022
Phase 2 Bypass Open (A438 to A49)	2027

## Hereford City Link Road

Following evaluation of the tenders submitted through an open competitive tender process the contract has been placed with Abergavenny based Alun Griffiths.

Five tenders were received for the contract and Griffiths was considered the best overall bid.

The City Link Road will help with the regeneration of Hereford’s city centre, creating the infrastructure to support 800 much needed new homes on the old Edgar Street grid site. Construction will begin in July 2016 and will take around 15 months to complete.

## 2015/16 Revenue Budget Outturn

The 2015/16 outturn is an underspend of £250k which has been added to the general reserve balance which now totals £7.3m, 5% of the council’s 2016/17 net budget.

Service	Net budget £000	Outturn before year end account movements £000	Outturn over /(under) £000
Adults and wellbeing (AWB)	54,245	54,223	(22)
Children’s wellbeing (CWB)	23,978	26,029	2,051
Economy, communities and corporate (ECC)	50,510	49,158	(1,352)
<b>Directorate total</b>	<b>128,733</b>	<b>129,410</b>	<b>677</b>
Corporate	803	425	(378)
Other budgets and reserves	12,457	11,908	(549)
<b>Outturn</b>	<b>141,993</b>	<b>141,743</b>	<b>(250)</b>



During the final quarter of the year numbers of looked after children have remained close to 300. This is significantly higher than we would expect when comparing Herefordshire to our statistical neighbours. Our rate per ten thousand children is 83 whilst our statistical neighbours average is 50 per ten thousand; which would mean a population of 180.

The 2016/17 budget includes a further savings target of £10.9m which will require continued close monitoring with challenges increasing as more savings are required.

#### Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP)

BBLP recently held a members briefing session to make the start of the new 2016/17 financial year. The main changes going forward relate to the supply of sandbags and the Lengthsman scheme. A full copy is available on request (31 pages).

#### Help to Live at Home Consultation

The current contractual arrangements with service providers for care at home are due to finish in July 2017. Herefordshire Council are seeking views on their proposals to make sure that the services the council arranges for people are efficient, provide good quality and help people to live independently.

#### Background:

The council organises home care for nearly 800 people at any one time across the county. Every year a total of approximately 14,500 people are helped to live in their own home.

The council spends around £13 million a year on approximately 11,600 hours of home care per week.

Two thirds of those receiving these services are aged over 65.

Two thirds require physical support for personal care.

Seven percent of those who need support are people with learning disabilities. The vast majority of these (more than 90%) are under 65.

A further 2,500 people purchase home care themselves.

Currently, if the council assesses a person to be eligible for support at home as part of their care plan, the council arranges this from a list of 38 approved service providers.

Alternatively, people can choose to take a direct payment and enjoy greater flexibility of service with a provider of their choice.

The consultation started on Monday 6 June 2016 and runs until Sunday 28 August 2016. A copy of the consultation document is available via the Herefordshire Council website.

#### Customer Services and Library Survey

Herefordshire Council would like Herefordshire residents' views on libraries and customer services across the county to help shape how they will operate in the future.

The consultation is to gauge a range of views from those who use these services and those who currently don't. Comments will be part of a published report that will help Herefordshire Council make decisions on the best way of using the libraries, what people need from customer services and the prioritization of services most important to residents.

The survey will be available until 5 August 2016.

#### West Midlands Combined Authority

Herefordshire Council has previously submitted an expression of interest in having freedoms and flexibilities devolved to it by government and to further this ambition the council has announced that it is exploring the possibility to become a non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

The Combined Authority's ambition will be to help to increase competitiveness and productivity, create more skilled and better paid jobs, bring more investment into the area, reform public services and reduce the region's welfare bill.

These ambitions will be driven through the Combined Authority's primary focus to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of transport in the area, the exercise of statutory functions relating to economic development and regeneration in the area, and economic conditions in the area.

The Combined Authority will manage a significant programme of investment in transport and economic infrastructure, and influence and align with government investment, in order to boost economic development and regeneration.



The order officially creating the West Midlands Combined Authority came into force on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016, with the first AGM, at which portfolios and other arrangements were announced and confirmed, being held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

The WMCA comprises the seven metropolitan boroughs of the West Midlands, the three Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) covering that geographical area, and a current total of five non constituent members, including Telford and Wrekin Council. A further four councils have applied for non constituent membership, including Shropshire County Council. The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire Service for the West Midlands hold Observer status.

There are ongoing financial implications in becoming a non-constituent member, of £25,000 per annum, which is also the amount being paid by the Observers. Constituent members are paying an annual fee of £250,000 for Metropolitan and County Councils and £100,000 for District Councils. As a non-constituent member, the council would remain independent, retaining all its current powers and would not come under the remit of any future West Midland Mayor. The council would also remain in the Marches LEP, along with Shropshire County Council and Telford and Wrekin Council.

The discussions with the West Midlands Combined Authority group are only exploratory and a decision to join the group would need to be considered and approved by Herefordshire Council's Cabinet.

Constituent members have ultimate voting rights and can only be signed up to one combined authority. The constituent authorities for the West Midlands Combined Authority are:

Birmingham City Council, City of Wolverhampton, Coventry City Council,  
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council,  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

Non-constituent members can sign up to more than one combined authority and have less voting rights than constituent members. The non-constituent authorities for the West Midlands Combined Authority are:

Telford and Wrekin Council, Cannock Chase District Council  
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Redditch Borough Council  
Tamworth Borough Council

LEPs (Local Enterprise Partnerships) are voluntary partnerships between local authorities and businesses. They determine local economic priorities and lead on economic growth and job creation within their areas. The West Midlands Combined Authority covers a three LEP geography and each of the LEPs has joined the WMCA as a non-constituent member. They are:

Black Country LEP, Coventry and Warwickshire LEP, Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP  
Observers Awaiting Membership North Warwickshire Borough Council, Shropshire Council  
Stratford on Avon District Council, Warwickshire County Council

Observers

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority  
Broadband

There was a good turn out for the recent meeting with Kim Mears (Openreach MD), including a number of residents from the Abbeydore area. Since that meeting – a number of specific issues have been escalated to Openreach senior management and Andy Whale (Chief Engineer, Openreach) has spent a day touring the area to examine the state of the existing copper network and to hear of and look at concerns that I have with the recently installed fibre network.

Openreach has set up a task force to respond to the local issues – I will outline the work to be undertaken when decisions have been made.

The tender for Lot 2 of the series of superfast broadband open procurements, which is the lot covering the Abbeydore area is expected to be issued before mid July.”

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 B4347 road closed for resurfacing

### **7.3 Lengthsman Report**

Parish Lengthsman Mr Terry Griffiths gave a brief report including:-

Grange Farm drainage – open lost ditches

Jury Bridge area ditches

C1224 Blackbush Farm ditches



Blackmoor Farm no railings or safety barriers C1223 Ward Councillor Mr Graham Powell to contact Mr Simon Hobbs  
Ditch to clear out bottom of Bacton Pitch  
Upper Grange Farm  
Approximately 3 jobs per day, staying within budget, @ £450.00 per day  
Terry to provide costings  
Regular maintenance to be scaled back  
Proposed by Councillor Mr D Cook and Seconded by Councillor Mr T Murcott  
Resolved Unanimously to approve further work within budget

#### **7.4 Parish Footpath Officer Report**

Councillor Mr. D. Cook gave a short update on issues to date  
Ramblers had reported several defects so now some work should take place  
Cockyard Tump to Blackmoor Bridge  
Two new finger posts have not been installed  
Landowners to apply for stiles  
Ward Councillor Mr. Graham Powell to be emailed reports

#### **7.5 Locality Steward Report on Highways & PRow**

Locality Steward not present see Item 13.0

### **8.0 Abbeydore Village Hall**

*Village Hall update on improvements to date*

Sound Induction Systems Ltd hopefully to install Hearing Loop System, when other issues are sorted, monies of £1,442.00 plus VAT ring fenced for works

*Clerk and Construction and Restoration Engineer met on site Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup> 2016*

*Quotation for restoring interior of village hall to acceptable condition and addressing outside damp problem. Guarantee period of ten years on completion of works.*

\*Quotation received from "The Restoration & Damp Proofing Company Limited" of £3,919.20 including VAT

\*Quotation received from "Peter Cox Limited" for Wall Membrane £1,625.00, Thermotek £4,807.00, Skirting Board/Dado Rail £2,392.00, Drywall Coating System £4,763.00, DryWall Damp Proof Course Installation £4,290.00 all + VAT

\*Quotation received from "Damp Cure" Main Hall £3,645.00, Hallway and WC £2,775.00 all + VAT

Several grants have been applied for but as yet no successful results

Information awaited from The Big Lottery Fund

\*3 quotations acquired for damp-proofing survey see above

Clerk authorised to continue to progress other grants for works

### **9.0 Parish Council Website & Electronic Communications**

The Parish Clerk had created a dedicated Website for Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council which now had uploaded information both archival and current

Twelve months of Agendas, Minutes etc. Annual Report 2016 plus more being added

The Clerk would now keep the website maintained and up to date

Councillor Mr T Murcott and Clerk Mr M Walker to attend training sessions

[abbeydoreandbactonparishcouncil.wordpress.com](http://abbeydoreandbactonparishcouncil.wordpress.com)

### **10.0 Broadband Update**

Councillor Mr T Murcott gave an overview to date

"Email received 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016 Dear All, This is not a broadband update directly but is, I hope, something that some of you might find useful.

Speed is king for broadband and knowing exactly what your speed is, and how it varies over time, is very useful when deciding which option to go for.

I have what is known as a Samknows whitebox. This is a free box that sits between your router and the rest of your connections and constantly monitors speed and reliability of your broadband service. I really like this, it has detailed monthly reports on the quality of my service and can be useful for detecting problems.





There are a couple of potential drawbacks. Firstly, it uses quite a lot of extra bandwidth, so if you are on a limited as opposed to unlimited service you might find it eats too heavily into your allocation. I understand it uses about 2GB per month.

Secondly, it does mean that generic information about your service is sent to a central repository.

However, my understanding is that it does not monitor your use of the internet, but instead makes it's own tests and connections and that is what it stores.

You can get one for free by going here <https://signups.samknows.com/ofcom/>. It is not tricky to set up and has had no impact that I can detect on my connection, and provides useful diagnostic data. It is seen as independent and so reliable if you ever need to use it's data in discussions with a broadband service provider. All the best Toby”

## **11.0 Dore Abbey Parking Arrangements**

*1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 Email to Malcolm. “Thank you for your email. The land in question belongs to Highways, and as the road is a B road, you would need to check with the planning department as to whether planning permission is required. Once planning permission is obtained an improvement licence would be issued by BBLP, which would specify the construction and materials required. I need to point out that any work would be undertaken at Parish cost; work would need to confirm to highway standards, and then we potentially could take over the maintenance. Best wishes Linzy”*

Dore Abbey parking in Abbeydore is in the Neighbourhood Development Plan

“Emails received from Fiona Miles Licencing and Enforcement Officer Parking bay on the side of the B 4347 opposite Dore Abbey

05 May 2016 Hi Malcolm The Licence is done by myself and you can apply to me. There is currently no cost for the issue of the licence. If you have any queries, would it be easier to chat by phone, or I could come and meet you. Best wishes Fiona

05 May 2016 Thanks Fiona, In that case how and to whom do I apply and do you know if there is a cost? Thank you Malcolm

05 May 2016 Hi Malcolm If you are anticipating in creating and maintaining the parking bay, then yes, you will need a Highway Licence. However, the requirements of planning permission are completely separate and you may well require planning permission anyway. Hope this helps Best wishes Fiona

05 May 2016 Thank you for that information Fiona,

The Parish Council were anticipating creating & maintaining the parking bay, so if this is the case does that mean that we (the Parish Council) would require a licence and not need planning permission?

Thanking you Malcolm Walker Parish Council Clerk

05 May 2016 Hi Malcolm Please find attached the standard specification for streets within Herefordshire. It would need to be the road standard rather than dropped crossing standard. If you need any further details, these are available on the Herefordshire Council website in the highways design guide.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/highways-and-new-development>

Is this parking bay one that the Parish Council will be wanting the highway department to take on, or is it one that the Parish Council will remain responsible for. If the Parish Council wishes to remain responsible for it in the future, then a licence will be required. However, a slightly lower specification may possibly be acceptable. If you have any queries, please let me know. Best wishes Fiona

03 May 2016 Fiona Abbeydore & Bacton GPC are looking to create a parking bay on the side of the B 4347 opposite Dore Abbey, I understand that planning permission is required but I believe that I will require a surface specification for this structure for that application. Can you provide a specification please Regards Malcolm Walker Parish Council Clerk.”

Ward Councillor Mr Graham Powell to investigate

## **12.0 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for Ratification**

**12.1 Standing Orders Signed by Councillor Mrs M J Jenkins Vice – Chairman,  
Councillor Mr D Bannister and Clerk Mr M Walker**

**12.2 Financial Regulations Signed by Councillor Mrs M J Jenkins Vice – Chairman,  
Councillor Mr D Bannister and Clerk Mr M Walker**



### 13.0 Information Sheet

Sheet to include update on previous action points and a list of correspondence received  
Planning Information{ Information Only – No comments being accepted}  
Application No 161004/U  
Neville Arms Abbeydore, Hereford HR2 0AA

Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of the land for various park requirements – for private use vehicles and business use vehicles relating to the following business' Nick Maddy Coaches.  
The Neville Arms, Mobile Bars and farming. We also use the area for handling live stock and grazing animals

Certificate of Lawfulness (CLEUD)

#### **Planning Application still valid**

Application No 161705/PA7  
New Forest Roads, Neils Wood & Cockyard Wood, Herefordshire  
Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development – proposed road  
Prior Approval – All Others

#### **Prior Approval Is Not Required 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016**

Application No 161706/PA7  
New Forest Roads, Thruxton Vallets Wood & Crizeley Wood, Herefordshire  
Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development – proposed road  
Prior Approval – All Others

#### **Prior Approval Is Not Required 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016**

10<sup>th</sup> June 2016            Balfour Beatty/Herefordshire Council  
Parish Lengthsman and Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Schemes  
Contract returned and signed by Herefordshire Council

June 2016                Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)  
Information Corner 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016

June 2016 Report from Toby Murcott “Dear All The meeting with Openreach this evening was well attended and there was a lot of discussion, a fair bit of heat and some discussion.

I think there were some very useful practical points and I will list them below. I'm sure others will have different views of the meeting and please do let me know where I got it wrong.

To start off, there was quite a lot of discussion about what was next which Graham Powell said he would brief us on at the end but there were so many questions to Openreach (and one BT representative) that this briefing never happened. He did, though, say one very important thing, the tender for the next phase of the Fastershire project will be going out in about 4 - 6 weeks time. This is going to be very different to the current Fastershire project, the winner of the tender will have to identify each and every property that will be upgraded and a clear timetable. There will not be the same level of uncertainty that has plagued the Openreach part of the project to date. For more information go to <http://www.fastershire.com/where-when/strategy>. I will update everyone on this email list as and when the tenders go out.

OK, on to the Openreach bit. Some of these bullet points will be relevant to you, some will not, my apologies.

It was made very clear to Openreach by many different people (often very robustly) that the communication about the project has been poor and frustrating. Many people said the fastershire website was wrong, that the information provided by BT was wrong etc. etc. They apologised and said they did appreciate this. They added that the nature of the project meant that it was very difficult to provide accurate information on which properties would be enabled and when. However, they do now have that information and will make it available.

I'm not exactly sure how that will work but I will keep an eye on it. I suspect it simply means that the fastershire website will carry more accurate information about when and where.

Openreach have about 5,000 homes left to connect by the end of 2016. This is when the current part of the project ends, and if you have not been enabled by that time then you are not going to be enabled in this current round. Frustrating but at least its clear.





If you have a particular network phone or broadband problem then Kim Mears, Managing Director, Infrastructure Delivery, will happily have a look at it. It might be that she will not be able to answer the questions but this is a good offer in my view. The only thing she asks is that the questions go via Graham Powell so email him your woes on [grahamj.powell@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamj.powell@btinternet.com).

Kim Mears also said that she would put in place an engineers review of the phone line infrastructure in this area. I consider this to be very good news indeed as there are many problems with the lines that run from the cabinets to our houses.

I asked her when and she said within the next few weeks so I will keep an eye on that and check whether it happens. This, I hope, might go some way to improving both phone and broadband connections for many of us in the region.

Beware of sheep on electric fences and washing machines. I kid you not. Apparently, sheep or cattle brushing up against electric fences can cause a short that might temporarily cut off a broadband connection, if it is close enough to a cable. Likewise, a surge from a washing machine or other machinery might do a similar thing. While this sounds funny, I laughed and instantly thought of the dog eating my homework, it does make it clear that there are many different things that can affect a broadband connection and some intermittent faults are likely to be very hard to trace. Incidentally, it also makes the case for fibre to the premises (FTTP) as fibre connections are not impacted by sheep induced electric fence events or washing machines.

ISP's. I put a question to Kim that followed on from an email I received about some ISP's not offering a service over the upgraded connections. She said that it was very clear that all of the UK's ISP's have equal access to the network and there are no restrictions placed on them by Openreach. She did say that some ISP's have chosen not to offer a service for whatever reason and so it may be that your current ISP will not give you a fibre service so you'll have to change service provider.

Maintenance and resilience of the network. One person in the audience made the point that as broadband gets better, so we come to rely on it more, so maintenance becomes even more critical. So what provision have they got to make sure that the new network is robust and keeps working? Openreach made a couple of points. Firstly, fibre is more resilient than copper and so needs less maintenance. Secondly, they are in the process of training more of their engineers in the mysteries of fibre so will have a larger workforce to keep the network going. My understanding was not that they are recruiting more engineers, but training those they have to work with fibre.

Future technologies. Those currently enabled on the fibre network can typically get up to 80Mbps and many more can only get much lower speeds. As services increase then this is unlikely to be enough in, say, ten years time. I asked what technologies they were working on to boost speeds for those on the Openreach network in future. They are basically relying on two technologies, one called G.Fast which provides higher speeds over copper cables for those close to the cabinets, and remote nodes.

These remote nodes will be installed in between the cabinet and distant homes and act as boosters for people further away from the cabinets, allowing in theory people at some considerable distance to get the promised G.Fast speeds (300 - 500 Mbps). These are still in development and are a few years off, but if they work will, in my opinion, offer a reasonably good future for people on FTTC copper cables. They also talked about fibre to remote nodes, effectively doing the same thing. The other obvious technology is fibre to the home but to be honest that is unlikely to be an obvious, or necessarily cheap, option for people in rural areas in the near future via Openreach. However, fibre to the home could happen for some as part of the next phase of the Fastershire project, see the comments in my third paragraph above.

Universal Offer. This is not directly an Openreach issue but they did help to clarify it. The Government is currently consulting Ofcom and broadband network providers over making a universal offering available to all of at least 10Mbps. This might be a good thing as it would effectively legislate that everyone must be able to get at least a 10Mbps connection. When or even if this will happen is not clear, nor are the ramifications for us, but it is good in my view as it shows that the Govt recognises the importance of good broadband.

Landowners responsibility for tree damage. A question was asked about who is responsible if a tree on your land takes out a phone line. They said that the vast majority of the times that Openreach would repair it a no cost to the landowner. There were a couple of exceptions. The first was if the tree was rotten and should have been taken down then they might ask for a contribution from the land owner. The second, which I think might apply to many of us, is that we should keep trees trimmed and clear of any Openreach phone lines. I have to say I am now looking hard at the trees in my garden and think I



might need to get out there with ladder and lopper. I will attempt to get some clarification on this.

There was a further tree related discussion as one person pointed out that when Openreach take down trees they tend to chip them and leave them in the hedges. Landowners can then be fined by DEFRA for damaging hedgerows. The local Openreach engineer said that he would look into this and I'll do my best to clarify it too.

That's about it other than to say that Graham Powell is planning to have another meeting early in the new year to discuss the next round of the Fastershire project and other issues. Watch this space. Any question let me know and do say if I have left something out. Best Toby"

17<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Dear All This week I am pleased to report that the following works, amongst others, have been carried out:

Golden Valley North Removal of a dead animal from the carriageway in Preston on Wye

Removal of an unsafe litter bin in Peterchurch

Golden Valley South Pothole repairs on the C1209 in Bacton, Rhiw Road and Olchon Valley in Longtown

Repair of a broken manhole cover on the C1206 in Michaelchurch Escley

Removal of mud/debris from centre of carriageway in Ty Cradoc Shawls road

Stoney Street Road sweeping on the A438 at Swainshill

Pothole repairs on the A438 at Bridge Sollars, Birch Hill Road in Clehonger, B4349 at Clehonger, Church Croft and C1196 in Madley, Stone Street in Eaton Bishop, and C1098 in Lulham

Removal of offensive graffiti on the carriageway on the B4348

This week I have: Provided cover for a colleague on annual leave

Attended numerous emergencies due to the poor weather

Completed an annual statutory U road inspection, and began the monthly A road inspection

Posted confirmation notices on several PROW

Held a meeting with a representative from West Mercia regarding several safety issues at junctions in Kingstone and Vowchurch

Next week I shall be: Completing the monthly statutory A/B and priority C and U inspections, and a quarterly C link road inspection.

Attending stakeholder meetings with parish councillors in Madley, Walterstone and Vowchurch

Continuing to inspect sites for issues raised by enquiries from members of the public and parish councillors Best wishes Linzy

24<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Dear All This week I am pleased to report that the following works, amongst others, have been carried out:

Golden Valley North Nil to report

Golden Valley South Pothole repairs in the Olchon Valley near Longtown, the Hill Farm lane at Rowlestone, and the B4347 at AbbeyDore

Removal of a fallen tree on the Olchon Valley lane

Gully cleansing on the Wigga Road in Rowlestone

Stoney Street Pothole repairs on Church Croft and the C1196 in Madley, Stone Street in Eaton Bishop, and on the B43552 at Clehonger.

Gully cleansing along the A438 at Byford

Road sweeping at Vowchurch, on the junction of the C1206 and B4348.

This week I have: Completed the monthly statutory A/B and priority C and U inspections, and a quarterly C link road inspection

Attended stakeholder meetings with parish councillors in Madley, Walterstone and Vowchurch

Next week I shall be: Finishing a quarterly C link road inspection, covering Preston on Wye, Eaton Bishop, Madley and Tyberton

Continuing to inspect sites for issues raised by enquiries from members of the public and parish councillors

If you have any outstanding issues in your Parish and you would like me to attend a site visit, please let me know and we can arrange a mutually convenient time.

**Herefordshire Council website is the one-stop-shop for up to date information**

Maps and timetables for grass cutting and pot holes are now available on the Council's website.

[Grass Cutting](#) [Potholes](#) [Public Rights of Way](#) Best wishes Linzy **Linzy Outtrim**M: +44 [REDACTED]



P3 Footpath Scheme Letter

“Dear Councillor Rone,

The Parish Council have instructed me to write to express their total despair at what they see as the somewhat underhand way in which the P3 Grant has been handled.

Parish Councils were told that

- a) There would be no changes without giving Parish Councils sufficient notice to enable budgetary commitments to be considered.
- b) Towards the end (possibly the last three or four months) of the 2015-2016 financial year we (the Parish Council) were it would appear now, deliberately starved of materials by BBLP.
- c) Then we are informed not by Herefordshire Council and long before the published cabinet decision by BBLP as early as 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016
- d) Filled sandbags are no longer available
- e) Materials now have to be purchased from the P3 Grant and not supplied by BBLP.

Clearly everyone is aware of the financial constraints that local authorities are under but it appears that BBLP are making the decisions with Herefordshire Council following along later with the rubber stamp.

With regards to the Lengthsman Grant, all are aware of the difficulties and astronomical cost of its maintenance but once again the amount of grant which will be saved per parish most probably only equates to one or two days for a BBLP gang to work on the highways.

You will no doubt also be aware of the public complaints about the amount of men vehicles and time it takes to fill just one pot hole and the numerous reports of BBLP vehicles being parked up for hours at a time.

That Parish Council request that in your cabinet position you address these issues which have been raised.

Yours Sincerely Malcolm Walker

Clerk to Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council

cc Mr. Paul Shipman cc Louise Greig”

HALC Southern Area Meeting

*Councillor Mr T Murcott*

*Monday evening between 7.00pm - 9 00pm at the HALC Offices*

*25th July and 28th November 2016}*

#### **14.0 Agenda of Next Meeting**

Lengthsman’s Grant and Top-up by Parish Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Broadband

#### **15.0 Parish Council Clerk’s Annual Performance & Salary Review**

Resolved to hold this item in closed session

No comments made with regard to performance

The Parish Council resolved to increase the Parish Clerk’s salary from {Spinal Column Point} SCP26 to SCP28 as of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

Proposed by Councillor Mr T Murcott and Seconded by Councillor Mr D Bannister


Parish Clerk set up Defibrillator in Outdoor Box

Code Number to be communicated to Emergency Services

#### **16.0 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

Confirmed that the next meeting will be an Ordinary Meeting of the Group Parish Council and will be held on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016** in **BACTON VILLAGE HALL** meeting to commence at 8.00pm

Parish Council meeting declared closed at 10.00pm

Signed..........

Parish Councillor Mr David Watkins Chairman

Dated this day 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016