



ORLETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on
Thursday, 9th May 2024 at 6:00pm
At Orleton Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Colin Mitchell, Chairman of the Parish Council (in the Chair), Olena Hayward (Barrett), Clerk to the Parish Council.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors of the Parish Council – Veronica Bishop, David Lane, Ron Gittings, Barry Rogers and Brian Powell; Bircher Ward representative to Herefordshire Council – Cllr Dan Hurcomb, Ms Alison Wilkes of Severn Rivers Trust, 30 members of the public.

MINUTES

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor of the Parish Council – M. Simmons and Mr Graham Shaw, the Chairman of Orleton Recreation Association.

The Chairman welcomed all present and expressed thanks to Mrs Barbara Gittings and Mrs Carole Mitchell for providing refreshments at the meeting, as well as to Cllr Dan Hurcomb for his generous provision of drinks.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 18th May 2023 were considered by those assembled at the meeting. No amendments were proposed.

It was proposed by Cllr Gittings, seconded by Cllr Rogers and unanimously agreed by show of hands of those assembled, that the Minutes are **APPROVED** as true and accurate record. The Minutes were duly **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

3. To receive an annual statement from the Chairman of Orleton Parish Council on the matters arising during the last 12 months.

The Chairman delivered his annual report, as appended to these minutes. – **APPENDIX 1, p. 4.**

4. Orleton Flood Resilience presentation.

Cllr David Lane delivered a presentation of a Flood Resilience scheme developed by himself on behalf of the Parish Council and Land Drainage Volunteers group and Mr Mark Wetton. A copy of this presentation is appended to these Minutes – **APPENDIX 2** (PowerPoint presentation)

Following questions and matters were raised:

- 4.1** Is there a Plan B, given the significant challenges before the proposed Scheme can be delivered?

A: Should the Scheme prove to be undeliverable due to lack of necessary support and/or co-operation from other Authorities an option of pursuing the Local Authority for not fulfilling their statutory duties through the S56 process may be considered. It would however be an approach less preferable and desirable than co-operation of all relevant Authorities.

- 4.2 A resident expressed their appreciation for the quality and amount of work which has already gone into developing the proposed scheme and asked whether the funding for flood alleviation schemes mentioned in the presentation is already available to communities.

A: No, the funding is not yet available, it is expected in the future.

- 4.3 A resident enquired whether if the existing gullies in the parish were cleared of debris and accumulation of silt deposits and maintained in that state would there still be a flooding problem or would that solve the problem?

A: Unfortunately, the existing gullies and drainage system in the area is not sufficient to cope with events of heavy rainfall. The existing gullies, even if cleared and maintained regularly, are simply too small and become overwhelmed during heavy storms.

- 4.4 In terms of the part of the scheme which would cross the Rec, would this interfere with the planned pavilion refurbishment?

A: This is one of the elements of the scheme which needs to be resolved once all elements are known and delivery of those sections of the scheme would only happen in close co-operation with ORA Cttee and upon their agreement, ensuring that at no stage ORA's own projects, including the pavilion refurb, are in any way compromised or encroached upon.

- 4.5 Will the scheme affect Kings Road adversely, exacerbating the flooding issues already present?

A: During the assessment process for the proposed scheme it was established that it will not make situation in Kings Road worse in the event of heavy rainfall. It was also established that it would make a significant positive difference during non-major events.

- 4.6 Would a change in cropping routines on local farmlands, like winter cropping, make a difference to the flooding problems in the village.

A: Yes, it is very much hoped that changing cropping routines and other Natural Flood Management solutions, coupled with the proposed Flood alleviation scheme would make a significant accumulative difference in the village. This is also designed to increase the resilience going forward and in anticipation and preparation for worsening situation due to the climate change.

5. To receive a brief update from the Chairman of Orleton Recreation Association, Mr Graham Shaw.

The Chairman of ORA having offered his apologies for the meeting and no other Trustee of the Charity being available to deliver an update, this item was deferred.

Instead, a presentation was delivered by Ms Alison Wilkes of the Severn Rivers Trust. The presentation covered an introduction of the Severn Rivers Trust work and remit and Natural Flood Management solutions and scheme in Brimfield Brook catchment area. – **APPENDIX 3** (PowerPoint presentation)

Following questions and matters were raised:

- 5.1 Does Severn Rivers Trust have any powers of enforcement?

A: No, SRT has no powers of enforcement, it provides advice and guides landowners and farmers through Natural Flood Management solutions, rather than enforcing delivery.

- 5.2 How long do NFM projects last after delivery?

A: NFM is a growing science and still in the process of continued research, monitoring and assessment of long-term outcomes. It is hoped and believed that the ongoing and long-term

benefits to the farm business are encouraging and beneficial enough to encourage the continuation of projects and schemes already delivered, as well as long term sustainability.

- 5.3 A resident raised an issue of a restrictive pipe put into the brook at the bottom of Ashley Moor by Herefordshire Council some years back. It has been asserted that the installation of that pipe coincides with the beginning of flooding issues in the village. The resident opined that removal or repositioning of this pipe could result in the flooding issues being resolved or at least reduced, which in turn might remove the need for delivering the Flood Resilience Scheme in its current proposed form.

A: Cllr Lane reiterated that the modelling for the proposed Flood Resilience Scheme will need to be much more detailed and technical than what was possible at this stage of planning and this is one of the crucial parts of assessing the Scheme's feasibility and deliverability. It may well be that in the process of detailed modelling new factors may be discovered which will result in re-shaping of the proposed scheme to suit the local needs and account for all factors in play.

Cllr Hurcomb added that the matter of the pipe has been already raised with Herefordshire Council and will be part of assessment in the future.

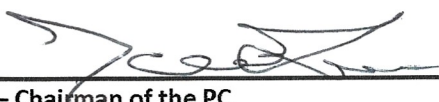
- 5.4 A matter of a line of trees at the Captain's Meadow housing development was raised by one of the residents with the importance of trees in flood management underlined. It was opined that the line of trees was not supposed to be felled and has been removed contrary to the Planning Permission and advice from the Planning Department.

A: Any matters of planning infringement and non-compliance have to be raised directly with local Planning Authority and, if appropriate, referred to Planning Enforcement.

6. To invite members of the public to raise issues for consideration by the parish and, where necessary consider and take a poll on any resolutions proposed at the meeting.

No other matters were raised by those assembled at the meeting.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:12 pm

	1.5.25
Signed – Chairman of the PC	Date