



EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING
9.00PM 7th FEBRUARY 2024
RISBURY VILLAGE HALL

MEETING PAPERS

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Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Group Parish Council

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Councillors are summoned to the extra ordinary meeting of the Group Parish Council to be held on

**Wednesday 7th February 2024 at approximately 9pm
in Risbury Village Hall**

which will consider the business set out in the agenda below.

1st February 2024

Allan Drew, Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

13/24 Apologies for absence

To receive: any apologies for absence.

To consider, if necessary: excusing absence of members to the following meeting.

14/24 Declaration of interests and dispensations

To receive and record: any declarations of interest in agenda items in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted in July 2021.

To consider: any applications for dispensations in accordance with Standing Order 25.

15/24 Matters for report arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

To note: any matters

16/24 Chairman's announcements

To note: any announcements from the Chairman.

17/24 Public participation

Under Standing Order 8, any member of the public may make a statement or give evidence to the meeting on any business to be transacted or any other business, and ask or answer questions. At the discretion of the Chairman such participation may be permitted under the relevant agenda item.

18/24 Planning Committee and planning applications update

(a) *To consider:* new applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council

Ford & Stoke Prior

240230 Great House Farm, Stoke Prior, HR6 0LG

Application for prior notification for a proposed building extension (for use as a roofed sprayer washdown area and for general agricultural storage) together with 3 no. water harvesting tanks **Comments not required**

Humber There are no new applications

(b) *To note:* updates on current planning applications

Ford & Stoke Prior

233624 Railway Meadow Bungalow Stoke Prior Herefordshire HR6 0LG

Proposed garden room extension and change of use of land from agricultural use to residential use to provide additional garden space(part retrospective). **Undecided**

233094 Priory Farm Stoke Prior HR6 0ND. The construction and retention of a rural worker's dwelling, seminar room and a range of eight stables with ancillary tack and hay store. **Undecided**

223610 Land north of Bowley Court farm Change of use from a water storage lagoon to a water and anaerobic digestate storage lagoon (retrospective). **Undecided.**

Humber.

212600 - Land adjacent to Risbury Cross Cottage, Risbury HR6 0NG

Approval of reserved matters following outline approval 181648 (residential development of 6 houses).

Undecided - on hold due to phosphates

212473 Dev 1 Land adjacent to Risbury Cross Cottage Risbury HR6 0NG

Proposed permission for the siting of a caravan to provide accommodation on site during the construction of a dwelling on Plot 5 approved under application ref 181648.

Undecided- on hold due to phosphates.

211802 - Land at Gob's Castle Risbury Leominster Herefordshire

Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 7 9 10 11 12 13 15 18 19 & 21 attached to planning permission 173687.

Undecided

19/24 Setting the precept for 2024-25

To discuss: critical factors affecting the setting of the 2024-25 precept.

To resolve: set the precept for 2024-25

20/24 Resource review proposals for Herefordshire & Worcestershire Fire & Rescue Service (HWFRS)

To discuss: proposals to review the resourcing of HWFRS.

To agree: a Council response to the proposals

21/24 Matters for information and future business

To note: any other matters for information or future decision.

Date of next meeting

To note: the next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.30pm in Risbury village hall

The Chairman will close the meeting

Agenda item 19/24 Setting the precept for 2024-25

For the current year the precept is £15,000.

At the January 2024 meeting it was resolved that the precept per household should remain unchanged at £50.20 for each band D (equivalent) property. The number of properties has increased by 2.3% since last year so applying the same rate per property results in a precept of £15344.

After the meeting some Members reflected on the difficult drainage situation following discussion on that topic. They raised the possibility that perhaps the precept should rise in line with inflation (currently 4.1% cumulative since the last precept was set).

Setting the precept is one of the duties which cannot be delegated and must be agreed at a full meeting of the Council. Hence the need for this extra meeting.

However, the precept should not be changed without reference to the current financial position. With only 7 weeks of the financial year left the likely year end position is a surplus currently estimated at £4862. This surplus arises from three main areas-

- | | |
|--|-------|
| • Release from reserves of holding for purchase of The Lamb | £2000 |
| • No spend to date on the Environment project (budget £2000) | £2000 |
| • Underspend of £2500 on new website project | £2500 |

Some unbudgeted costs had arisen (Pump, elections, VH donations) resulting in final forecast surplus £4862.

The Lamb reserve has not been needed so clearly should remain in reserves. This leaves a final surplus of £2862 assuming no spend on the Environment project where spending to budget now looks unlikely.

This surplus will be carried forward into next year and is much larger than the possible changes being proposed to the precept.

The RFO's opinion is as at the January meeting – given the good financial position of the Council an increase in the taxation per property is not necessary. Holding the rate at £50.20/property will result in an increase overall of 2.3% (+£344).

However, Council should review the above and may chose another option, for example-

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • Increase the precept by the rate of inflation (4.1%) | £15615 |
| • Hold the precept unchanged at | £15000 |

Agenda item 20/24 Resource review proposals for Herefordshire & Worcestershire Fire & Rescue Service (HWFRS)

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS) has launched a public consultation exercise on the Service's Resource Review proposals.

The Service would individuals and organisations to share their views on the proposals set out in a Resource Review Consultation Document along with an accompanying Data Pack and short questionnaire.

The consultation closes on 4th March 2024 and results and recommendations will be reported to the Fire Authority in June later this year.

The Resource Review examines the arrangement of operational response resources and considers how this can be improved. This Resource Review aims to ensure that HWFRS is making best use of its available resources, funding, and to assure the Fire Authority, stakeholders and the community that it is providing the most effective service possible across Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

There is no proposal to close any of the Services 25 fire stations or reduce the crewing or emergency cover of the first fire engine, at any of the 25 locations. The introduction of the proposals in this Review would provide a more effective and efficient use of its resources and all the resources realised as part of the proposals will be reinvested in front line fire engine staff.

The consultation document can be seen here- <https://www.hwfire.org.uk/assets/files/resource-review-3.pdf> . It is a lengthy document and fairly technical due to the number of ways that staffing is provided for the Service.

The Service currently has 41 fire engines across 25 fire stations, 11 of those fire stations have more than one fire engine and 14 fire stations have one fire engine only.

Seventeen fire stations are solely crewed by On-Call firefighters and the other eight fire stations (in the cities and larger towns) have a mix of fire engines crewed by both Wholetime and On-Call firefighters with 11 fire stations having either two, three, or four fire engines. The first fire engine at each location is the busiest and most used.

Virtually all parts of the two counties can receive a fire engine within around 20 minutes, with the most built-up areas usually receiving a fire engine much more quickly. Wholetime staffed fire engines are the most used fire engines in the Service.

All 25 fire stations have at least one fire engine that is crewed by On-Call firefighters. A total of 31 fire engines across the 25 stations are crewed solely by On-Call firefighters, with five other fire engines crewed at night by On-Call staff (Wholetime during the day only).

In summary it appears that-

- First response emergency services are not affected.
- The balance between whole-time and on-call crew will change in favour of whole-time.
- There are too many engines and not enough alternative transport. Engines are sometimes used as “taxis” to transport staff to larger incidents. The utilisation of the first response engines is high, for second and any subsequent engines it is much lower. The service is proposing a reduction of 8 engines for the region, which locally means a reduction from two engines to one at both Bromyard and Leominster.
- If a second engine is required at an incident it can be covered from another station if necessary.
- Fire prevention has significantly reduced demand for “blue light” services. Some savings will be re-invested in more prevention activity.
- Overall the proposal is financially almost neutral with savings from re-organisation being re-invested to create a different type of service with more focus on prevention, employing whole-time crews and more mobile services with flexibility to cover a wider geography.

Response to the consultation includes a questionnaire but written responses are also accepted. The questionnaire can be accessed here- <https://www.hwfire.org.uk/your-right-to-know/consultation/>

