

Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of
Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council
held in Welsh Newton Village Hall
on Thursday 11th February 2016



No WNL/MW/102

Present

Councillor Mr. S. G. Wilkes Vice – Chairman
Councillor Mr. M. Barter
Councillor Mr. R. R. Keating
Councillor Ms. E. Swinglehurst

Clerk Mr. M. Walker

Also Present

Ward Councillor Ms. Elissa Swinglehurst and one further member of the public

The Vice - Chairman declared the Parish Council Meeting formally open at 7.30pm

1.0 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Mr. C. D. Bligh Chairman, Councillor Mrs. M. S. Cox and Councillor Mr. K. A. Simmons
Parish Lengthsman Mr. Terry Griffiths sent his apologies
Locality Steward Mr. Dave Atkinson not present
No representative from the Local Police Team

2.0 Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Group Parish Council Meeting No WNL/MW/101 held on Thursday 14th January 2016 were confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Mr. S. G. Wilkes Vice – Chairman

3.0 Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

- 3.1** To receive any declarations of interest in agenda items from Councillors
No declarations of interest were received
- 3.2** To consider any written applications for dispensation
No written applications received

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 Bank Balances as per Statements

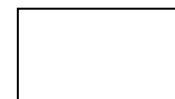
@ 4 th February 2016	Treasures Account	£3,613.16
	Bank reconciliation to agree with Bank Statement No 75	£3,613.16
@ 4 th February 2016	Business Instant Access Account	£9,337.44
	Bank reconciliation to agree with Bank Statement No 35	£9,337.44

4.2 Receipts

Precept acknowledgement received 9th February 2016 for £7,700.00
{No Council Tax Support Grant received}
Transparency Grant acknowledgement received £425.00
Lengthsman 3rd Quarter Grant submitted to Herefordshire Council £1,000.00

4.3 Invoices for Payment

Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)	
Subscription 2016-2017 Invoice No 7105	£348.91
Terry Griffiths TGC1503 Lengthsman work + worksheet	£450.00
Clerk's Salary February 2016 Gross Pay	£343.41



Vehicle Expenses gross	£13.05
Postage	£1.62
HMR&C TAX £68.60 NIC £0.00	

All payments were Unanimously Approved

Information Commissioner's Office Data Protection until 21st January 2017
reference Z9746645 paid by direct debit

Nomination of Parish Councillor Mr. Martin Barter as a cheque signatory
Bank Mandate Form submitted to Lloyds Bank – reply awaited

5.0 Roads & Footpaths

- 5.1** To Receive Lengthsman Report also any new issues on Highway or Public Footpaths
Lengthsman not present but report sent with Invoice No TGC1503
- 5.2** To review un-resolved issues regarding the surface condition and drainage on the U71223
Questions were raised about the quality and speed of work undertaken by Balfour Beatty which having taken 2 weeks this being potentially 3 times longer than one would have expected
Councillor Mr. S. G. Wilkes Vice – Chairman agreed to send the Clerk photographs
Reports received about rubbish being tipped on Welsh Newton Common
Lengthsman to clear brambles from relevant ditches
Letter of complaint to be sent to Mr. George Shingler Balfour Beatty –
“Why is it alright to fly-tip on the Common”
Drain covers next to notice board by Information Centre very dangerous – Lengthsman to sign and cone off
- 5.3** To receive budget update and agree which outstanding highway issues can be progressed within budget
Lengthsman potential maximum balance available £2,199.00
P3 Public Rights of Way balance available £800.00
{ Inspection and authorisation by Locality Steward Dave Atkinson for work already identified has now been waiting for in excess of 3 months. }
- 5.4** Update from the BBLP Locality Steward on outstanding issues including
- i) P3 Site meeting to agree supply of required materials
 - ii) Costing's for SID and the consequences of relevant legislation which will have to be adhered to
 - iii) Condition of the Osbaston Road (Rockfield Road)
Locality Steward Mr. Dave Atkinson not present
Annual Highways Forward Plan from Balfour Beatty expected soon containing details of all programmed reinstatement works
Dangerous trees on Welsh Newton Common, beech, willow and sycamore –
Mr. George Thompson Herefordshire Council to be contacted

6.0 Defibrillators

The Parish Council resolved unanimously for the Clerk to apply for a grant for two defibrillators
One to be sited at the Village Hall Welsh Newton and the other one close to the Information Centre on Welsh Newton Common, approximate cost £1,018.80 each including cabinet and VAT.

7.0 Public Question Time

Designated maximum period of 10 minutes to accommodate members of the public who may wish to either raise relevant issues or ask the Parish Council questions.
No matters raised



8.0 To Receive Reports from:-

Ward Councillor

Ward Councillor Ms. E. Swinglehurst gave a brief verbal report on the following:-

“Report of Cllr. Elissa Swinglehurst February 2016

The Big Budget News

Well, the budget was the topic of discussion for the full council meeting at the start of the month. As we know the Government Central funding is disappearing and despite the addition of the Rural Sparsity grant and the retention of local rates we are still looking at a bit of a shortfall. The Council decided – not surprisingly – to approve an increase of 1.9% in Council Tax (the most it can increase the Council Tax before triggering a referendum), the Council will also levy the 2% increase ring fenced to meet some of the costs of adult care.

To give you a bit of an idea about the numbers involved – last year (15/16) the Council Tax raised about 84 million, with the increases proposed this will rise to 88.5 million. About 75 m. is spent on adult and children’s wellbeing directorate. Of course the Council has other sources of revenue (business rates, direct grants, new homes bonus) and the total revenue income is 143.5 m with total outgoings (all directorates, debt repayment, interest etc.) balancing this figure. If you would like to see a detailed breakdown look at the agenda for the council meeting on the 5th February.

The consultation that was carried out a few months back showed support for the sale of the county smallholdings and this process is now underway.

Another thing that came out of the consultation was support for the libraries and museums and with this in mind I proposed an amendment to the budget to ring fence a modest 60,000 to assist libraries and museums as they transition to self funding models. Hopefully this money will be match funded and will pay for feasibility studies and early stage funding. The amendment had cross party support (one abstention).

More money news

I had a great meeting with council funding expert Dave Tristram to explore different funding streams and how they might help our parishes develop or improve their communities. There are many different places to go to for funding and it can be quite confusing and off putting. Dave Tristram is brilliant and he suggested the following:

For biodiversity/environmental projects (like wilding a common or restoring a village pond) there are several possibilities – BIFFA, Severn Waste, New Grove trust and others

Some of these funders would also be worth looking at for village halls and other community needs. I am happy to make the introduction to Dave if anyone wants to find out more about available funding streams.

Balfour Beatty Briefing

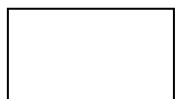
The briefing this month was a generally positive story but who knows where we will all be after this current bout of bad weather has passed over! I raised a few issues about communication between BBLP officers and the locality steward, the unnecessary burden placed on the locality steward in recording P3 (footpath) defects and asked if BBLP would consider giving road planings to a parish wishing to use them to resurface a PROW. BBLP have a system of volunteer days/community support and they were prepared to substitute materials (planings) for the volunteer days – result!

There will be two verge cuts in the rural areas next year (May and September).

Lengthsman and P3 grant – the Lengthsman grant is frozen for this year and closed to new entrants. In 2017/2018 the Herefordshire Council grant is proposed to reduce to 25% and in 2018/2019 this figure will fall to zero.

It is proposed that the P3 monies will remain at 100% funding from Herefordshire Council until 2019/2020 when it will fall to zero.

In celebration of the Queen’s birthday there is a litter campaign running called ‘Clean for the Queen’. BBLP will always be happy to supply litter picking kits to support any community groups wishing to take part.



Herefordshire Community Champions 2016 Do you know an unsung hero in the county? Then you can nominate them for a £500 award now! www.herefordshire.gov.uk/champions16
Closing date March 14th 2016.

Neighbourhood Development Planning – if anyone is interested there are two dates for NDP surgeries in Blueschool Street – 3rd March and 13th April. Contact Samantha Banks for more information.

Fracking. I have received a number of e mails from constituents who are concerned that central government will prevent local authorities from making decisions about fracking applications. My understanding of the situation is that any application for shale or coal bed methane extraction (fracking) would be determined against the relevant planning policies, in this case the Herefordshire Core Strategy. I have asked for the emerging Minerals and Waste policy to contain specific requirements for this industry and once adopted this is also form part of the policy matrix. The application will be judged against these policies and either refused or approved on that basis. If refused the applicant would have the right to challenge that decision at appeal. The appeal would be determined by the Planning Inspector and, at that point, the decision is taken out of the hands of the local authority. Both Cllr Newman (Kerne Bridge) and I are aware of the issue and we are doing what we can to ensure that applications will be dealt with in line with policy. As a member of the planning committee I will deal with each application on its merits. If you have any concerns please e mail me at elissa.swinglehurst@herefordshire.gov.uk”

9.0 Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Parish Council's six week Pre-Submission Regulation 14 Consultation period from Monday 26th October 2015 running until 5.00pm Monday 7th December 2015 had now closed.

Several comments had been received, which will now be collated and sent to Steering Group members and Kirkwells Consultants.

The next stage is “Notice of Publicity (Regulation 16) Consultation”

The final version of the Neighbourhood Development Plan prepared on behalf of the Parish Council by Steering Group members will be submitted to Herefordshire Council

Letters will again be issued to all those consulted in the previous stages of the process.

A Steering Group meeting to be arranged for Thursday 25th February 2016 to review all the comments received from the consultation. Clerk to check on grant monies

10.0 Planning Application for Consideration

153795 The Old Shop, Manson, Monmouth NP25 5RD
Erection of timber outbuilding/workshop Full Householder

**The Parish Council Resolved at their meeting which was held on the
11th February 2016 to support the application as presented**

11.0 Parish Council's Action Progress Report

Councillor Mr. R. Keating updated the Parish Council on all issues and will now revise document and forward to all by drop box and email

12.0 Parish Council Clerk Position

No applicants as yet but HALC is advertising the vacancy on its Website and in “Information Corner”

Councillor Mr. R. Keating to put the vacancy for a Parish Council Clerk on Face Book
Resume of Parish Council meeting to be put in the County Section of the Hereford Times

13.0 Information Sheet

*Information sheet received by all Parish Councillors
(Paper copies to Councillor Mr Steve Wilkes and Councillor Mrs Moira Cox)
Lengthsman and Locality Steward reports see peach information sheet*

Councillor Mr. S. G. Wilkes Vice – Chairman attended BBLP Parish Briefings Invitation on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at 6.00pm



14.0 Matters Relayed to the Clerk for Agenda of the Next meeting


Resurfacing Plan
Potholes

15.0 Confirmation Date, Time and Venue of the next Group Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be an Ordinary **Parish Council Meeting** of Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council and the final scheduled meeting for the retiring Clerk Mr Malcolm Walker is to be held on **Thursday 10th March 2016** in Welsh Newton Village Hall and to commence at **7.30pm**

Meeting declared closed at 9.15pm

Parish Council Vice-Chairman Councillor Mr. Steve Wilkes

Signed..........

Dated 10th March 2016