

# 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 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015**



No WNL/MW/099

## **Present**

Councillor Mr. C. D. Bligh Chairman  
Councillor Mr. S. G. Wilkes Vice – Chairman  
Councillor Mr. R. R. Keating  
Councillor Mr. K. A. Simmons  
Councillor Ms. E. Swinglehurst  
  
Clerk Mr. M. Walker

## **Also Present**

Ward Councillor Ms. E. Swinglehurst, Parish Lengthsman Mr. Terry Griffiths and one further member of the public

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

## **1.0 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Mrs. M. S. Cox (unwell in hospital)  
Locality Steward Mr. Dave Atkinson not present  
No representative from the Police present

## **2.0 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Group Parish Council Meeting No WNL/MW/098 held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by Councillor Mr. C. D. Bligh Chairman

## **3.0 Declarations of Interest & Dispensations**

- 3.1** To receive any declarations of interest in agenda items from Councillors  
No declarations 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 <sup>th</sup> November 2015	Treasures Account	£9,739.04
@ 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2015	Business Instant Access Account	£5,336.74

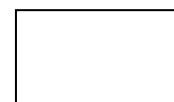
### **4.2 Receipts**

Herefordshire Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Lengthsman / P3 Grant  
July August September applied for as yet not received £900.00

### **4.3 Invoices for Payment**

Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)	
Photocopying for Neighbourhood Development Plan Invoice 6201	£86.40
Photocopying for Neighbourhood Development Plan Invoice 6217	£31.20
Clerk's Salary November 2015 Gross Pay	£343.41
Vehicle Expenses gross	£13.05
Postage	£5.31
HMR&C TAX £68.80 NIC £0.00	
Terry Griffiths TGC1414 Lengthsman Account + Worksheet	£450.00

**All payments were Unanimously Approved**



#### **4.4 Budget and Precept for 2016 - 2017**

The Parish Council resolved unanimously to agree the Budget for 2016 – 2017 as presented and set the precept at £7,700.00 unchanged from the previous year  
{ Clerk to investigate possibility of grant funding for 2 x Defibrillators,  
1 at Welsh Newton Village Hall and 1 in Llanrothal area }

#### **5.0 Roads & Footpaths**

##### **5.1 To Receive Lengthsman Report** also any new issues on Highway or Public Footpaths

Lengthsman Mr. Terry Griffiths gave a verbal update including

Description of work carried out:-

Specific Task Work Welsh Newton Village Welsh Newton Common

Strim verges, Cut back hedge overgrowth near pedestrian use areas

Maintenance around parish assets, Mow and strim open space areas

Clear leaves from footways and parish facilities

Routine Maintenance Work

Clear grids and clean out road gullies, Jet connecting pipes

Clear road culvert headwalls, Jet culverts clear

Check inspection pits, Clear ditch headwalls

Clear grips and reform leads

Clear minor obstructions from ditches and reform leads, Clean off road signs

Clear minor storm debris off roads

Strim and cut back overgrowth round grit bins and road signs

Strim verges on bends, junctions, splays and areas regularly used by pedestrians where there is no footway provided

Roads covered on this visit:-

C1248 From parish boundary Llangarron to A466

C1247 From A466 to U71220

U71220

C1247 From A466 to parish boundary Garway

U71222

U71223

##### **Notes**

U71223 Newton Lodge Pitch

The damaged buttress against the ditch is not repairable at local level

Action - Locality Steward to visit site review alternatives to open ditch drainage in this area

C1248 Welsh Newton Pitch

We need to clear/sweep the verges line to try and locate any lost road gullies in order to reduce the amount of water on the road ready for icy conditions

C1247 Wern pitch

The verges line both sides of the road need clearing to ensure the gully grids remain free of debris

U71222 Small acre

We must keep pressing the Locality Steward to raise a meeting with Welsh Water to resolve the road culvert problem in this area before the onset of icy conditions on this road.

Follow up by Dave Atkinson reference list of works

Road towards Steve Wilkes – dangerous, needs sweeping

Welsh Water culvert wrong size pipe under road

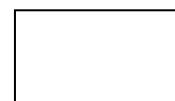
2 year Lengthsman / P3 Plan needs to be drawn up

##### **5.2 Locality Steward Mr. Dave Atkinson**

Locality Steward Dave Atkinson not present see item 13.0

#### **6.0 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



## 7.0 To Receive Reports from:-

### Ward Councillor

Ward Councillor Ms. E. Swinglehurst reported on the following:-

#### Report of Cllr. Elissa Swinglehurst November 2015

People often ask me what I do as a ward member; in addition to representing local residents and attending 6 parish councils I am on the Planning Committee, General Overview and Scrutiny and am 'member champion' for social value in procurement and commissioning.

#### Planning Committee

Things are settling down again after all the excitement of the Core Strategy adoption. Most planning decisions come down to the 'planning balance' between benefit and adverse impact, all other things being equal, but at the least the lack of five year housing supply is no longer part of the argument. The Neighbourhood Development Plans are needed to add the local detail and specific views of local people. I completely support NDPs and take my hat off to those wonderful people who are giving so freely of their time and effort to give their neighbourhood a voice in the planning process. My local NDP has just gone out for consultation (reg.14) – check it out on the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Website.

Next BIG issue is going to be the Southern Link Road (A49 to A465).

#### General Overview and Scrutiny

After an excellent debate it was decided, by the Chairman's casting vote, not to recommend sale of the entire small holding estate. The debate highlighted a backlog of maintenance which was estimated at £2.8 million which the Council was not able to fund. When rental income is set against this figure alongside expenditure there is a deficit of 2.63m or £58,000 per tenant. This concentration of public resources is very hard to justify to the general population of the county where libraries, rural transport, and other services are under threat.

#### Libraries and Museum

Cllr. Emma Holton and I visited the Museum Resource and Learning Centre in Friar Street and were blown away by the quality of the county's heritage collections and inspired by the commitment of the knowledgeable staff. The financial constraints (about which we already know so much) mean that the Museum is likely to lose all the subsidy from the council over the next few years. Cllr. Holton and I are putting together a team of like-minded councillors to do what we can to support the Museum and library services as they transition from subsidy to sustainability.

Watch this space for progress!!

#### The Annual Harvest.

Most of the maize was taken in before the rains came and I am pleased to report that many farmers were doing what they could to keep the mud off the road – well done to all our farmers who met their responsibility and had road sweepers and bowsers on site. However I would like to repeat the comment I made in a previous report about the danger of using the mobile phone whilst driving – please don't do it (you know who you are) you are endangering yourself and other road users. Other News Residents say Herefordshire's roads are most improved in the country

<http://www.newsroom.herefordshire.gov.uk/2015/october/residents-say-herefordshire%E2%80%99s-roads-are-most-improved-in-the-country.aspx>

Herefordshire Council has raced ahead of 77 other local authorities to be named as the most improved organisation in the annual National Highway and Transport survey. Balfour Beatty are to be congratulated on the improvements they have brought about, for instance, the cat 2 potholes are now in the 98 percentile for reaction within time limits (up from 30%). The locality working model has proved popular with Parish Councils and residents (we are blessed with the excellent Dave Atkinson looking after Llangarron Ward). This is not to say that we are in a state of perfection but let's just take a moment to appreciate the improvements to date.

That's all for now....

## 8.0 Planning Application for Consideration

Application No 152811 West View, Manson, Monmouth, Herefordshire NP25 5RD

Replace existing porch with single storey extension

**“Resolved:- Unanimously to support the application.”**



**9.0 Social Media Policy**

The Parish Council unanimously resolved to ratify the proposed Social Media Policy which was signed by Councillor Mr. C. D. Bligh Chairman, Councillor Mr. K. A. Simmons and Clerk Mr. M. Walker.

**10.0 Parish Council's Action Progress Report**

Councillor Mr. R. Keating gave an overview of progress report to date and would email document to Clerk for information and use to send reports to Locality Steward Mr. Dave Atkinson

Clerk to request the Locality Steward to attend the next Parish Council meeting

**11.0 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Parish Council's six week Pre-Submission Regulation 14 Consultation period from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 running until 5.00pm Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 is now underway.

Printed copies of the Neighbourhood Development Plan are in Welsh Newton Village Hall, Church, Shop and Information Centre plus one copy for each Parish Councillor also Questionnaires posted to every household.

**12.0 Quality Status**

The Parish Council resolved to attain "Quality" Status Level "2" in the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Local Council Award Scheme (previously Quality Parish Council Scheme).

All information would be electronic on the Parish Council Website not paper based as before.

Clerk instructed to register with NALC. The cost being £30.00 including VAT to register.

**13.0 Information Sheet**

*Information sheet received by all Parish Councillors*

*(Paper copies to Councillor Mr Steve Wilkes and Councillor Mrs Moira Cox)*

Planning Application 152376 Unit 1 Barn, Upper Cwm Farm Llanrothal

Proposed conversion of existing dwelling Conversion of existing outbuilding to annexe facility

**Permission granted 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Planning Application 152548 Old Shop, Shop Lane, Manson, Monmouth Herefordshire NP25 5RD

Proposed replacement extension & refurbishment

**Permission granted 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Planning Application 152634 The Old Granary, Upper Cwm Farm, Welsh Newton NP25 5RW

Retention of Barn Conversion and repair outbuilding to provide garage and store

**Permission granted 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015**

All further information on peach sheet

Councillor Mr. R. R. Keating to attend the HALC AGM 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015 together with the Clerk

**14.0 Matters Relayed to the Clerk for the Agenda of the Next Meeting**

Co-option of Parish Councillor

**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 is to be held on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015** in Welsh Newton Village Hall to commence at **7.30pm**

**Meeting declared closed at 9.55pm**

Parish Council Chairman Councillor Mr. Craig D. Bligh

Signed.....  
Dated 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015