

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015**



No WNL/MW/098

## **Present**

Councillor Mr. C. D. Bligh Chairman  
Councillor Mr. S. G. Wilkes Vice – Chairman  
Councillor Mrs. M. S. Cox  
Councillor Ms. E. Swinglehurst  
Councillor Mr. T. J. White-Miller  
  
Clerk Mr. M. Walker

## **Also Present**

Ward Councillor Ms. E. Swinglehurst, Locality Steward Mr. Dave Atkinson (arrived later due to a previous meeting) and three further members 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 Mr. R. R. Keating,  
Councillor Mr. K. A. Simmons and Parish Lengthsman Mr. Terry Griffiths  
No representative from the Police present

## **2.0 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Group Parish Council Meeting No WNL/MW/097 held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 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> August 2015	Treasures Account	£7,085.86
(no new bank statement received)		
@ 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Business Instant Access Account	£5,336.30

### **4.2 Receipts**

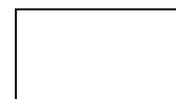
Herefordshire Council Precept part 2 reference 2024343 BACS	£3,850.00
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### **4.3 Invoices for Payment**

HMR&C July August September 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter (previously agreed but not minuted)	£206.00
Terry Griffiths TGC1380 Lengthsman Account + Worksheet	£330.00
Clerk's Salary October 2015 Gross Pay	£343.41
Vehicle Expenses gross	£13.05
Postage	£2.77

HMR&C TAX £68.60 NIC £0.00

**All payments were Unanimously Approved**



## 5.0 Roads & Footpaths

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

Lengthsman Mr. Terry Griffiths not present but report via email:-

“Roads - The scheduled maintenance schedule is on target and no major issues have been reported since our last meeting

We will be looking at ditch clearing as necessary once the main of the roadside hedges have been cut by the landowners

C1248 Welsh Newton Pitch We have been able to clear some of the lighter debris which is likely to contaminate the gully grids but we will need to clear with the skidsteer to ensure that these gullies remain open to take surface water and avoid the icing up problems we have in this area

We are now commencing the servicing of the blue grit pots and hope to have this completed by the time of the next meeting

Subject the council's approval we will top up our salt storage sites at Lower Buckholt Farm and at The Pleck

Defect updates U71223 Newton Lodge Pitch Damaged ditch buttress

We have looked at this damage and will arrange for the locality steward to visit and consider whether it may be better to have this ditch piped and concreted over leaving jetting points along its length

The existing buttress has shallow foundation, we think the problem will constantly reoccur due to vehicles especially large ones rubbing against the buttress due to the road being narrow at this point

U71222 Welsh Newton Common Box Cottage-overhanging branches

We visited the site and met with the occupier who indicated the he would like the tree to be completely removed rather than have some of the branches cut back

As this would incur considerable cost I am referring the issue back to the council before proceeding with a costing

P 3 - We are slightly behind on our schedule but hope to complete the maintenance required on the Jubilee Walk shortly

Lo 14 Lower Buckholt Wood We are awaiting for the kissing gate to arrive from BBLP along with other materials that are on request

Once we have installed the gate and carried out the repair work using the materials requested we can have a review of remaining funds and prioritise any other work deemed necessary

#### Village Upkeep Work

Welsh Newton Strim parish council notice board area, Strim war memorial area

Strim village hall area, Clean up round bus stop area

#### Welsh Newton Common

Strim BT box area, Strim parish council notice board area

#### 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:-

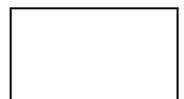
C1248 From parish boundary Llangarron to A466

C1247 From A465 to Moyle's Cross.

U71222 From A65 to Welsh Newton Common bus shelter.

U71223.”

Meeting to be arranged with Dave Atkinson and Terry Griffiths



## 5.2 Locality Steward Mr. Dave Atkinson

Locality Steward Dave Atkinson gave an overview of issues and progress to date

## 5.3 PRoW Myrtle Cottage to Newton Lodge

Owner of Newton House

Definitive map DMMO

Change from FP to BOAT (Contact at Herefordshire Council Jacqueline Lewis)

Councillor Ms. E. Swinglehurst and Councillor Mr. S. G. Wilkes Vice – Chairman to peruse maps

Unanimously agreed by Parish Council

## 5.4 WNN10 Market Footpath / Bridleway / Newton Lodge / Small Acre

## 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

WNN10 Bus Shelter to Newton Lodge

Witness statements required

## 7.0 To Receive Reports from:-

### Ward Councillor

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

Report of Cllr. Elissa Swinglehurst 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015

“The big news is that the Core Strategy (Local Development Framework) is now back from the inspector and will be put before the full council on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. If the council votes to ratify the plan then it will become the adopted local plan and will be the touchstone for all planning and development in the county to 2031.

It has been a long time coming; changes to government policy, ministerial statements and modifications have all had to be taken account of and consulted upon. If adopted it will direct the growth of the county and should mean that the absence of a five year housing supply is no longer an issue. This means that the kind of speculative development we have seen so much of can no longer set aside the local plan in favour of the National Planning Policy Framework.

I see planning policy as a kind of three legged stool – the NPPF, the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Development Plans combining to ensure economic growth, delivery on housing targets and a meaningful role for parishes to direct the kind of development locally. For some time this has been a one legged stool, the local plan being a bit prone to woodworm and the Neighbourhood Development Plan absent. Now we should have a two legged stool and soon a three legged one. Many Neighbourhood plans are at or close to reg 14, some are at reg 16 and I think that as soon as the Core Strategy is adopted we will see a number of NDPs come through to full expression.

The Core Strategy policies that most effect the Parish of Welsh Newton and Llanrothal are:

Housing development RA2, RA3 – in brief, the village of Welsh Newton Common is identified as a settlement that can accommodate proportionate housing growth (table 4:21). In this area (the Ross on Wye HMA) that minimum percentage growth is 14% and can be allocated within the identified settlements, in this case Welsh Newton Common, with additional exceptional windfall sites elsewhere. The Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in general conformity with the National and local plans for it to pass inspection; the basic premise of ‘a presumption in favour of sustainable development’ contained within the NPPF coupled with the 14% minimum housing target for the parish and RA2/3 of the Core Strategy must inform the NDP.

Due to planning permissions granted since 2011 – principally exception and windfall sites away from the common – the minimum target is all but met. However, the idea is not to constrain or prevent villages from being able to grow so this does not preclude any other applications coming forward to exceed the growth target.



A copy of the Core Strategy, the inspector's modifications and comments are available on the Herefordshire County Website.

Other news:

I have been asked to join the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in addition to my responsibilities on the Planning Committee. The latter is very busy at the moment with full day meetings being the norm.

The budget consultation has now come to an end and the comments that were made will be put forward into the process. The stark reality is that the council is legally obliged to balance the budget. We have various ways of doing this: borrow more money, spend less money, sell assets or increase income. Given that the bulk of the budget is not discretionary (adult care, child safeguarding, statutory responsibilities) then there will inevitably be intense pressure to cut funding to non-statutory areas (culture, some street cleaning etc.).

The announcement at the Conservative Party Conference that govt funding to local councils will reduce to zero did not come as a surprise and it is on this assumption that the figures going forward have been predicated. What was news (to me at least) was the intention to allow local authorities to retain 100% of their tax income. I shall be finding out what the implications of this will be in due course but the most obvious comment has to be that, as a county, we must seek to increase our business base. It is to this end that the Conservative led council has put in place a strategy for economic growth, is supporting a major road building scheme to deliver full benefit from the enterprise zone, is supporting the new university and has brought jobs and business into Hereford with the hugely successful (and much opposed) retail park.

The migrant crisis has been much in the news. The heart breaking picture of the dead body of toddler Aylan Kurdi washed up like so much flotsam on a Turkish beach pricked the conscience of the world. Herefordshire Council has communicated a willingness to take some refugees but we are awaiting details from government regarding funding and needs. At such moments it is easy to give into the impulse to help without regard for the practical details but we must be certain that we are able to provide the kind of support that these children and families will need. Individuals are encouraged to show their support for the refugees caught up in this crisis through the usual charitable organisations.”

## **8.0 Planning Applications for Consideration**

**8.1**Application No 152376 Unit 1 Barn, Upper Cwm Farm Llanrothal

Proposed conversion of existing dwelling Conversion of existing outbuilding to annexe facility  
Listed Building Consent

**“Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Council Resolved unanimously at their meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to support this application”**

**8.2**Application No 152548 Old Shop, Shop Lane, Manson, Monmouth Herefordshire NP25 5RD

Proposed replacement extension & refurbishment Full Householder

**“Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Council Resolved unanimously at their meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to support this application”**

**8.3**Application No 152694 and 152634 The Old Granary, Upper Cwm Farm NP25 5RW Retention of Barn Conversion and repair outbuilding to provide garage and store

Listed Building Consent & Planning Permission

**“Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Council Resolved unanimously at their meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to support this application”**

## **9.0 Tree Safety Issues Welsh Newton Common**

To consider safety issues raised and to agree action required

Trees inspected approximately five years ago but still no action taken

Identification plates attached by Herefordshire Council on a number of trees

Dangerous / Safety issues have been raised by a resident

Dave Atkinson to contact Mr. George Thompson



**10.0 Social Media Policy**

The Parish Council unanimously resolved to ratify the Social Media Policy at the next full Parish Council meeting with the Parish Clerk being the “Webmaster” and Councillor Mr. R. R. Keating the “Moderator”

**11.0 Parish Council’s Action Progress Report**

Councillor Mr. R. Keating not present  
Item for the next full Parish Council meeting

**12.0 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Councillor Ms. E. Swinglehurst updated the Parish Council on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and confirmed that with a few minor amendments it was ready for publication

The Parish Council resolved to commence the six week Pre-Submission Regulation 14 Consultation period for Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 running until Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Ten copies of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to be printed by the Clerk and left at Welsh Newton Village Hall, Church, Shop and Information Centre plus one copy for each Parish Councillor

Questionnaires to be printed and posted to every household by the Clerk

Elissa to compose a Draft letter with information from Kirkwells Planning Consultants to be sent to all

**13.0 Information Sheet**

*Information sheet received by all Parish Councillors  
(Paper copies to Councillor Mr Steve Wilkes and Councillor Mrs Moira Cox)  
All information on peach sheet*

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

Budget and Precept for 2016 - 2017  
Spread Sheet – Update of On-going Issues  
Social Media Policy for ratification  
Quality Status

**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 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015** in Welsh Newton Village Hall to commence at **7.30pm**

**Meeting declared closed at 9.15pm**

Parish Council Chairman Councillor Mr. Craig D. Bligh

Signed.....  
Dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015