



Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council



Minutes of Welsh Newton Parish & Llanrothal Parish

Held in Welsh Newton Village Hall

On Thursday 9th March 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Chairman, Cllr C Bligh, Cllr Mr S Wilkes Vice – Chairman, Cllr Mr M Barter, Cllr Mrs M Cox & Cllr E Swinglehurst

In attendance: Mrs Kath Greenow Parish Clerk, Terry Griffiths Parish Lengthsman & 1 parishioner

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 To receive and accept apologies from Councillors
Cllr K Simmons

2. Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

2.1 To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items

Cllr C Bligh declared a non-pecuniary interest on agenda item finance 10.2

3. To agree and sign the minutes of The Group Parish Council meeting held on 09/02/2017

It was **RESOLVED:** to agreed and sign the minutes of The Group Parish Council meeting held on 09/02/2017

4. 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.

None raised

5. Reports

5.1 Ward Cllrs report & Q & A time

Ward Cllrs report of February 2017

The council accepted the precepts agreed by each parish council, West Mercia Police and Hereford & Worcester fire and Rescue Service; required to support the delivery of services both locally and across the county. The overall impact of these precepts resulted in an average council tax bill for a band D dwelling of £1,702.24.

This includes the council's own tax charge of £1,376.50 which was set on 3 February; a rise of 3.9% including an adult social care levy of 2% to support the rising costs of adult social care for Herefordshire's ageing population.

Councillor Tony Johnson, leader of Herefordshire Council, said:

"The council tax rise will allow Herefordshire Council, parish councils, fire and police authorities to continue to deliver their services at a local and county level.

"Herefordshire Council will continue to secure the best value for money when delivering statutory services, which enable residents to live safe, healthy and independent lives."

Other issues that were raised during the full council meeting included a motion to council proposed by Conservative Councillor Steve Williams to place a plaque or similar in Rotherwas to commemorate the contribution of the 'Canary Girls' to both world wars and the Korean war. Cllr. Williams' mother was a Canary Girl and his touching reminiscence of her made the motion all the more personal.

A second motion was tabled by IOC councillor, and current Hereford Mayor, Jim Kenyon; his suggestion was that the council should consider spending 30m on a bridge and road to the east of Hereford. This motion was defeated. You may wonder why we don't want another way to avoid the traffic in Hereford and it is a fair question. I voted against the motion because the council has had the same discussion time after time, over £100,000 has been spent in assessing the eastern option and the result is that the western route has been deemed to be the right one. The western route is imbedded in the core strategy and the first length has gained planning permission. If we pick this moment to start

dithering around between east and west (again) the government would be likely to raise an eyebrow and miss us out when it comes to funding. All the work that has already been done on the western route would have to be done again to take account of the changed circumstances and that would be a spectacular waste of resources. So, whilst I completely understand why Mayor Kenyon felt it necessary to ask the question I do think that the council gave the right answer.

Litter- what a load of rubbish

Been litter picking twice and plan to go out again in Llangrove. There is an interesting possibility for parish councils to use the 'community payback' scheme to litter pick and I will be raising this locally. The A40 is especially bad and quite hard to clear up because of liaison with road closures etc.

5.2 Locality Officer report

No locality report from the locality officer.

6. Lengthsman /footpaths

6.1 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman

It was **RESOLVED:** that the lengthsman attend to the grips and the jetting out of the ditch near Newton Lodge, ditching work required near Buckholt farm – Manson Lane

It was **RESOLVED:** that the lengthsman attend to the re siting of the Parish Noticeboards. Cllr Swinglehurst to advise Terry of the sites where the noticeboards are to be placed.

7. Footpaths

7.1 To consider work to be undertaken on the parish footpaths

It was **RESOLVED:** that the lengthsman attend to LO4 river stile needs attending to and there is erosion at this location, the ground needs levelling out and requires some gravel to be placed either side of the stile.

It was **RESOLVED:** to delegate to the clerk to instruct the lengthsman to carry out emergency work if required in between meetings subject to the lengthsman budget.

7.2 To consider letter received from Balfour Beatty concerning Application for definitive map modification order to upgrade public footpaths LO1& GW27A(PART) to byway open to all traffic and addition of byway open to all traffic in the parishes of Llanrothal & Garway. Application for definitive map modification order to upgrade to public footpath LO3(PART) to byway open to all traffic in the parishes of Llanrothal and Garway. It was **RESOLVED:** that the clerk write to Balfour Beatty to inform that over recent years, the Parish Council has engaged with local residents for the purpose of identifying lost rights of way. Despite local consultation as part of this process and parish council efforts to research rights of way, there has been no evidence that has come to light to support the applicant's view that these routes are BOATs. The submission of evidence from the late Mr Ravenhill refers only to a bridleway - Mr Ravenhill would never have supported an application for a BOAT. It was **RESOLVED:** That The parish council does not see any public benefit in these applications as the routes are, for much of their length, PROW in any case and allowing motorised vehicles onto the routes would have a negative impact on the walkers' enjoyment of the tranquillity of the countryside. There would also be damage to the soil structure which would result in erosion and a possible loss of biodiversity (there are numerous ant hills in the area). It is the unanimous view of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Group Parish Council that we do not support this application - it is neither desirable nor justified.

8. Highways

8.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

The clerk was asked to chase up the locality officer regarding the hedge that needed attending too on the U71223

9. Planning

9.1 To note planning application approved or refused by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting Upper CWM Farm – Application refused

9.2 To receive an update on alleged unauthorised material change of use, alleged siting of mobile home at Lower Buckholt Farm Manson Monmouth

An update had been received. The 106 monies are being held in the parish council account pending choice and site selection for the SIDS. The de contamination of the site will be signed off by the council and they are aware of the situation. Likewise, the drainage

9.3 To receive an update on planning issues in the parish.

Retrospective planning 160420 Lower Buckholt Farm Manson Monmouth

The clerk had received an update from the planning officer Carl Brace

No decision has been made on the above, we are awaiting a proposed legal agreement from the applicant to

form part of the application,

10. Finance

10.1 Confirmation of Bank Balances

Bank balances noted as: £13849.00 & Business a/c £6841.45

10.2 To consider purchase of a SID's (Speed Indicator Device)

It was **RESOLVED**: that the clerk contact Robin Quant of Balfour Beatty to ask for the spec for a SID and to enquire about the siting of a permeant SID.

10.3 To consider invoices for Payment

It was **RESOLVED** to pay:

T Griffiths invoices TGC 1675, footpaths £300.00

TGC 1655 £450.0 & TGC1959 £180.00

Clerks mileage Oct 2016- March 2017 £71.82

Clerks reimbursement of postage £3.20

HALC Annual Affiliation fee 2017/18 £361.01

10.4 To agree to update Financial regulations

It was **RESOLVED**: to agree and adopt the updated financial regulations

11. Correspondence

11.1 To note correspondence received since last meeting

All correspondence received was note as required

12. Date of next meeting Thursday 13th April 2017 @7.30pm