

Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council

Minutes of The Group Parish Council Meeting Held at St Marys Church Welsh Newton, on Thursday 13th July 2017 At 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Mrs Kath Greenow Parish Clerk & Terry Griffiths parish lengthsman

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 To receive and accept apologies from Councillors
None

2. Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

2.1 To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items
None Declared

3. To agree and sign the minutes of The Group Parish Council meeting held on 9th June 2017

It was **RESOLVED:** to agree and sign The Group Parish Council meeting held on 9th June 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
No members of the public present

5. Reports

5.1 Ward Cllrs report & Q & A time

Report of Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst June 2017

Changing Roles. I am now Vice Chairman of General Overview and Scrutiny.

The recent official opening of the Waste to Energy Plant at Hartlebury by the Duke of Gloucester attracted media attention. It uses 43500 tonnes of domestic non-recyclable waste and turns it in to energy generating 16 megawatts per hour – enough to power all the homes in Hereford City while saving on landfill. It is worth remembering that investment in this energy plant was against a background of strenuous opposition and now it is saving the council thousands of pounds as well as doing something good for the planet.

School Transport - JMC, a local provider of school transport, ceased trading at midnight on the 11th June without any warning.

Thanks to a fantastic effort by all concerned replacement transport was made available the following day.

5.2 Locality Officer report

No locality officers report. The Clerk reported that she had contacted the locality officer to regarding hedgerow issues in the parish, Issues relating to the A466.

The Clerk was asked to contact the locality officer again regarding the hedgerow issues previously reported as nothing had been done to address the matter. The Clerk was asked to request that letters were sent to the landowners concerned to request them to attend to the overhanging hedgerows/ boughs. Mally brook discharge of water onto the highway issues also need the locality officer to address by contacting the landowner concerned.

6. Lengthsman /footpaths

6.1 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman.

It was **RESOLVED**: that no further lengthsman work is to be carried out until further notice, due to budget constraints

6.2 To consider work to be undertaken on the parish footpaths

It was **RESOLVED**: that the lengthsman attends to attend to footpaths work required on the footpath at Newton Lodge – Myrtle Cottage.

Correspondence had been received from a parishioner complaining of brambles affecting her property near a footpath WNN8

It was **RESOLVED**: That as the brambles were not on the actual footpath concerned, but were on a patch of adjacent land, that this was not the Parish Council's responsibility.

The Parish Council responsibility is to maintain the footpath only and does not include adjacent private land. If the parishioner concerned wanted to remove the brambles on their land at their own cost, that was up to them and not a matter for the Parish Council.

In this era of austerity, public funds must be managed carefully. The Parish Council is compelled to approve and prioritise only essential works, that are strictly within the PC remit

The Parish Council is not able to facilitate any private arrangement with the Parish Lengthsman, who is a contractor to the Parish

The Clerk was asked to contact the parishioner concerned to advise accordingly.

7. Highways

7.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

No further road issues to report

8. Planning

8.1 To note planning application approved / refused by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting

None

9. Neighbourhood Plan

9.1 To receive an update on the NDP and next steps

The inspectors report had been sent to Cllrs. Unfortunately, the report is recommending that the plan does not progress to referendum at this stage. The Examiner has been critical of the consultation process undertaken, the assessment of alternative options and the undertaking of the two environmental assessments. Herefordshire Council Neighbourhood Planning officer Sam Banks recommended that the Parish Council formally withdraw their plan from the examination process. This will enable the consideration of the issues raised within the draft examination report. This would involve an additional Reg16 consultation and a further examination.

It was **RESOLVED**: to formally withdraw the plan at this stage to consider the Examiner's Report finding and take advice from Kirkwells planning consultants and then arrange a meeting with Herefordshire Council's Neighbourhood planning officer Sam Banks later if required.

10. Finance

10.1 Confirmation of Bank Balances

Bank balances as per bank statement 10/0/2017

Treasurers A/c £16725.73 Business A/C £6842.86

10.2 To receive an update on SID (Speed Indicator Device) and consider cost of speed survey, purchase / hire of SID(S)

It was **RESOLVED**: that the Parish Council would prefer to use a company of their choice to carry out the speed survey required rather than Balfour Beatty. The Clerk was asked to contact Balfour Beatty to discuss SID (Speed Indicator Device) speed survey and the Parish Council wanting to purchase their own SID

10.3 To consider invoices for Payment

It was **RESOLVED**: to pay the following invoices:

A4 Office products £29.69

Terry Griffith Lengthsman & P3 Invoices TGC008, £382.00+VAT, 0037 £290.00+ VAT, TGC0046 £382.00+VAT

11. Planning

11.1 To consider commenting on planning application 172156 Hazelfield, Broad Oak Hereford HR2 8QZ
Erection of dwelling for agricultural manager.

It was **RESOLVED**: No to support the application for the following reasons:

1 The applications fails to demonstrate that there is a sustainable agricultural need for an additional dwelling

2. Tied to point 1 above, the submitted information does not adequately establish that the business is one which is considered financially sustainable in the mid to long term 3. The proposed accommodation need could have been met by Llanrothal Bungalow. The fact that the decision was made 4 years ago to sever that property from the farm, must have been made on logical and economic grounds. It is unlikely that the agricultural and business case would have completely reversed in 4 years.

12. Correspondence

12.1 To consider HALC training schedule and book training as required

Noted

12.2 To note correspondence from parishioner concerning Primary Medical Care

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that she had responded to the parishioner, which the Parish Council noted

It was **RESOLVED**: that the NHS pamphlet and covering letter that had previously been sent out by the NHS to parishioners in the community would be put on the website Cllr Simmons to provide the Clerk with the information to go on the Parish Council website

13. Date of next meeting Thursday 14th September 2017 7.30pm

Subject to Council Resolution this item may be held in Closed Session due to the confidential matter of employment to be discussed

A resolution was passed to exclude members of the public due to the confidential matter of employment to be discussed

14. Employments matters

14.1. To receive an update on recruitment of new Clerk

Discussion took place concerning recruitment of new Clerk

14.2 To consider date for interviews.

Discussion took place concerning interview dates and where the interviews would take place

Chairman Date