

Minutes of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Annual Parish Meetings,
Held at Welsh Newton Village Hall
On Thursday 10th May 2018
At 7.00pm

Agendas ran concurrently

Present: Mr. Steve Wilkes – Chair as Vice-chair of Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Group Parish Council

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk

Parishioners: Four

1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were RECEIVED from Mr. Craig Bligh

2 To Confirm & Sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings of 11th May 2017

It was thought the minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting had been included with the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and had therefore already been approved.

3 To receive the Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr. Craig Bligh sent a report to be read in his absence.

Chairman's report 2017/18

We appear to commence each annual review with reference to "challenging times" and unfortunately this year is no different. Yes, budgets are still in decline, however this year we have made the decision to increase the precept for 2018/19 to ensure that we are able to provide the most essential basic services such as the lengthsman's work on drains and ditches. However, it is important to note that this important decision was only taken after a detailed consultation letter was sent to all in our community - the final decision was based on the feedback, which was strongly in favour of the increase.

Finding alternative sources of funding is always on our radar. Last year we reported that we had sourced a grant for a defibrillator to be housed in the Village Hall, however, actually getting approval can be a bureaucratic process. We will achieve our aim of acquiring this life saving device, but this frustrating process is typical of the challenges we face.

We had a stable membership of the Parish Council this year, and are extremely fortunate to have recruited a top flight clerk in Emma Thomas. As the requirement for professionalism rightly increases, we have utilised Emma's experience to ensure that your Parish Council continues to operate to the highest standards.

Our revised website is now operational and we wish to make this the main avenue of contact and communication with Parishioners and visitors, to ensure that up to date information is readily available and costs are reduced.

As always the main value of a Parish Council to our community tends to focus on Roads, footpaths, the Lengthsman's activities and having a strong local voice in the Planning Process.

To update:

Our roads

Our focus is now on key potholes and issues affecting safety. If Parishioners' are aware of damage, please notify a Council member or email the Clerk. HC has a recording system to ensure that all work is prioritised.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan

This is now at the final, final stages and we now await the updated documents in order to be able to approve them for submission to Herefordshire Council.

Lengthsman's scheme

The elimination of most of the funding for the Lengthsman's scheme means that with the increase precept we will be able to maintain the core services. I would like to thank Terry Griffiths for his hard work as our lengthsman over the past year.

Speed Indication Device (SID)

The initial speed survey is about to be undertaken, which precedes the purchase and installation of two devices – we predict the installation to be completed by July.

Once again, I would like to take the opportunity to record my gratitude to all members of the PC for their professionalism and dedication during this year.

Please continue to notify any Council member of issues or areas of concern and we will endeavour to assist where we can.

4 To receive the Ward Councillor's Report

Not present

5 Open discussion of parish matters

None

The meeting closed at 7.07pm

Signed: _____ Dated: _____