

Minutes of the Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Annual Parish Meetings,
Held at Welsh Newton Village Hall
On Thursday 9th May 2019
At 7.00pm

Agendas ran concurrently

Present: Cllr Craig Bligh – Chair as Chair of Welsh Newton and Llanrothal Parish Council

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk

Public: 28

1 To receive apologies for absence
None

2 To Confirm & Sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings of 10th May 2018
The minutes were approved as accurate and duly signed by the Chair.

3 To receive the Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

The Chair gave the following report:

I reviewed last year's chairman's report and noted that I mentioned "challenging times" and that budgets are still in decline – it's still the case!

Parish Councils have an important role to play in creating a working link between Hereford Council and our community, however, it is vital that the link is understood and perceived as important. We need to increase our level of engagement and have a target of visiting all households during this year, to introduce ourselves and to identify what you require. Hopefully all will be forthcoming with email addresses to enable us to communicate directly and effectively in the future.

With the increased precept we will be able to ensure that we are able to provide the most essential basic services such as the lengthsman's work on drains and ditches. We are otherwise dependant on obtaining grants and unfortunately, after much frustration we were unable to obtain grant funding for a defibrillator to be housed in the Village Hall, however, we will not be deterred and will continue to seek other opportunities.

We are well served by our excellent Clerk; Emma Thomas, and had a stable membership of the Parish Council this year, but are very sorry to now lose the services of Matthew Hall, who made a very strong contribution to our operation – I would like to thank Matthew for his effort. In the new year we will be looking to find an additional councillor for Welsh Newton.

This year there have been two valuable initiatives; one from Herefordshire Council and the other in combination with our neighbouring Parish Councils. HC has been proactive in building a two way 'operational' link with parishes and this has already proved beneficial to us. The second is our effort of sharing knowledge and information with neighbouring parishes, initially we are investigating how to create a "care in the community" support and coordination plan. Closer cooperation can only be beneficial.

As always the main value of a Parish Council to our community tends to focus on Roads, footpaths, the Lengthsman's activities and planning.

To update:

Our roads

Whilst this is always an issue, we have had some interim work carried out this year, however, much more is needed. Our focus is still on key potholes and issues affecting safety. If you are aware of issues, please notify a Council member or email the Clerk.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan

This is now at the final review stage and we expect formal acceptance by HC within the next couple of months.

Lengthsman's scheme

The elimination the funding for the Lengthsman's scheme means that we have now committed to maintain the core services with the increased precept.

Speed Indication Device(SID)

These have now been installed and whilst a little more commissioning is required, it is already having a positive impact.

Litter picking

Teams of dedicated local residents donated their time to support the “Stop the Drop Litter Campaign” earlier this year. Whilst we deplore littering, this community minded effort may need to become a more regular activity – thank you to all who helped.

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

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

4 To receive the Ward Councillor’s Report

None forth-coming this year due to the purdah election period.

5 Open discussion of parish matters

No matters raised

The meeting closed at 7.12pm

Signed: _____ Dated: _____