

WELSH NEWTON & LLANROTHAL GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th November at 7.30 pm in
Welsh Newton Parish Hall**

Present

Councillors: Sue Parkinson (In the Chair), Martin Barter, Keith Simmons & Elissa Swinglehurst.

In attendance

Lynda Wilcox (Acting Clerk-HALC), 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from:
Councillors Craig Bligh, Debbie Clarke & Rhiannon Marks.
2. **Declarations of Interest & written dispensation requests:** There were none.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th October 2023**
It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.
4. **Public Question Time**
 - 4.1 The Acting Clerk read out an email from a local resident concerning consultation on signs. It was clarified that the signs had been purchased a long time ago (at the same time as a request from Llanrothal residents) but would not be sited without prior consultation with local residents.
 - 4.2 In response to an email query from another local resident concerning the absence of detail in the minutes of the October PC meeting, the Acting Clerk clarified that PC minutes were supposed to be a brief record of decisions made, not a detailed account of discussion.
5. **Welsh Newton Common**
 - 5.1 Consultation on siting the 'slow down' signs purchased for the Common. It was RESOLVED to defer the consultation, pending the employment of a new Clerk/RFO.
6. **Planning**
 - 6.1 To note a planning approval granted by Herefordshire Council:

- 6.1.1 Application 232624: Laurel Cottage, Welsh Newton. Proposed rear orangery, canopy to side elevation and external cladding (this is a revision of approved application 203506).

7. Reports

- 7.1 A brief verbal report by Ward Councillor Swinglehurst included:
 - 7.1.1 A resident lost her life in a road accident on the A4137 at Llangarron. An investigation was ongoing.
 - 7.1.2 £12m had been set aside for the manifesto pledge to pursue a western bypass.
 - 7.1.3 There was a proposal to put £12m towards the market towns, including £8m for Ross on Wye.
 - 7.1.4 A consultation on the new Local Plan would be undertaken in March 2024.
 - 7.1.5 Cllr Swinglehurst had been re-appointed as Chair of the Nutrient Management Board, and the views of the agricultural sector would be heard at a forthcoming conference. A climate change agenda strategy was under discussion.
 - 7.1.6 The proposed new increased number of bins for waste collection was no longer going ahead – the current two bin system (with alternate collections every two weeks) would continue for the time being.

8. Finance

- 8.1 November Bank balances were noted as:
 - 8.1.1 Lloyds Treasurers Account ... £13391.73.
 - 8.1.2 Lloyds Business Bank Instant £6,896.27.
- 8.2 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:
 - 8.2.1 HALC November clerk cover ... £280.20.
 - 8.2.2 Terry Griffiths Contracts – Lengthsman tasks ... £600.00.
 - 8.2.3 Welsh Newton Village Hall hire September/October £30.00.
- 8.3 It was RESOLVED that the budget and precept figure for 2024/2025 would be set in January 2024.
- 8.4 Meeting dates for 2024
It was RESOLVED that meetings would be held on the second Thursday of the month in the following venues:
 - 8.4.1 Welsh Newton Parish Hall ... January, February, March, April, September and October.
 - 8.4.2 Llanrothal Church ... May, June and July.

It was further RESOLVED that hall hire payments for 2024 would be made in advance at the beginning of that year, with any additions/amendments being calculated at the end of 2024.

9. Lengthsman and footpaths

- 9.1 No additional works were identified to the current programme.
- 9.2 It was noted that Herefordshire Council’s 2023/24 Lengthsman funding included:
 - 9.2.1 £2548.00 to be spent against contract items agreed with Balfour Beatty.
 - 9.2.2 £2002.00 additional match funded sum, yet to be allocated against work.
 - 9.2.3 It was further noted that 8 maintenance days had been ring-fenced via the precept.
 - 9.2.4 The current contract between the parish council and Balfour Beatty/Herefordshire Council only permitted Lengthsman work on C and U roads.

Public Rights of Way ... It was RESOLVED to hold back two days of work on rights of way until February/March 2024, to prepare for the walking season.

It was noted that there were now only two Herefordshire Council officers responsible for ensuring the maintenance of all rights of ways across the county.

10. Highways

A pothole at Buckholt on the Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) boundary had been reported to MCC by Sue Parkinson and to Herefordshire Council by Elissa Swinglehurst. It still hasn’t been fixed.

11. Communication

Members discussed improvements to communication throughout the parishes and noted that the next newsletter would be going out in the second week of December. Inclusion of the following topics was suggested:

- 11.1 Participatory Budgeting ... Elissa Swinglehurst would compile a brief item.
- 11.2 Commons Working Group.
- 11.3 Emergency Planning.
- 11.4 Lengthsman work.
- 11.5 Completion of War Memorial works.
- 11.6 Councillor changes since May election ... Councillor contacts and areas they represent.

It was RESOLVED that Keith Simmons would receive contributions from councillors and would be responsible for printing the newsletter but not writing any of the items.

12. Defibrillators ... update on training for the parishes

- 12.1 Prior to paying for training, it was RESOLVED that Sue Parkinson would contact a local volunteer who was able to deliver defibrillator training.

13. Noticeboards throughout the parishes

It was agreed that noticeboards were in a poor state and discussion would take place at the January meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 21.15

SIGNED DATE