

Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council,
Held at Welsh Newton Parish Hall
On Thursday 12th October 2023
At 7.30pm

This meeting may be recorded under Standing Order 3!

Present: Councillors: Miss Sue Parkinson (Chair), Mr Martin Barter, Ms Elissa Swinglehurst, Ms Debbie Clarke and Mrs. Rhiannon Marks

In attendance: Mrs. Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk

Public: 13

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were RECEIVED and accepted from Cllrs Craig Bligh and Keith Simmons

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

None

3. Minutes

3.1 To agree and sign the minutes of The Group Parish Council meetings held on 14th September 2023

The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

4. Public Question Time

The following items were RAISED:

- The September minutes did not include enough detail regarding the discussions that took place - *NOTED*
- Some of the links on the website are not working – *the clerk will look at this*
- There are old notices in the notice boards – *Cllr Sue Parkinson will remove them*
- The PC should apologise for the tone of the last meeting - *NOTED*
- No further signs should be put on the Common without evidence that there is a need. Survey data was offered from an existing planning application – *to go on the next agenda.*
- Thanks to the Lengthsman for clearing the rocks off the common - *NOTED*

5. Welsh Newton Common

5.1 To consider how best to consult on future issues and requests for assistance on Welsh Newton Common

It was RESOLVED to undertake a full consultation of everyone living on WNC before any activity is taken. This will be led by the clerk and will use Survey Monkey; email; letter and house-to-house. Only when 65% of all those consulted have responded and agreed to a course of action will an activity be undertaken. It was NOTED that no activity should infringe on those with Commoners Rights. This system will be tried for a period of 12 months.

6. Planning

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

None

7. Reports

7.1 Ward Cllrs report & Q & A time - Appendix 1

NOTED. The following additional matters were NOTED:

- There is to be additional investment in market towns and highways
- Waste collection will stay as it is for the time being
- How best to repair Shire Hall is being discussed.
- Where the new library should be sited is being discussed

7.2 A brief report on the situation of the River Wye and phosphate levels.

It was REPORTED that the restructuring of the Nutrient Management Board has been completed.

8. Finance

8.1 To note the October report and bank balances – Appendix 2

The October report was NOTED and signed as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation

8.2 To consider the following invoices for payment:

- 8.2.1 Clerks final salary
 - 8.2.2 Clerks Expenses £8.25 (previously circulated)
 - 8.2.3 HALC – Clerk Cover £280.20
 - 8.2.4 Llanrothal Church Meeting Hire – 2022-2023 £90.00
 - 8.2.5 Autela Payroll Services - £54.58
 - 8.2.6 Terry Griffiths Contracts – LM tasks as agreed - £540.00
 - 8.2.7 MG Electrical – Installation of the defib at Llanrothal - £230
- The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

9. Lengthsman and footpaths

9.1 To consider any works for the lengthsman

The clerk was asked to confirm that the works to the war memorial will be completed by Remembrance Sunday. The Emergency Policy and Lengthsman's reactive days were discussed. It was AGREED that the emergency policy would be an agenda item at the next meeting. Parishioners were asked to contact the clerk if they had something they could offer and add to this policy.

9.2 To note the Lengthsman Grant Claim submitted for £1630 leaving a remaining £918 to claim.

NOTED. The clerk REPORTED that her request for £2002 of match funding had also been approved so this could be claimed in addition to the remaining £918. The clerk will ask the Lengthsman for suggestions of works that could be covered by this.

10. Highways

10.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

None

11. Communication

11.1 To consider methods to improve communication throughout the parishes

It was AGREED that Cllr Debbie Clarke should draw up a plan for how to move this forward for discussion at the next meeting.

11.2 To consider distributing the newsletter at the same time as the Village Hall

It was AGREED that the newsletter would go out in early December and be delivered alongside the Village Hall letter. Thanks were expressed for the offer of delivering the two newsletters together.

12. Defibrillators

12.1 To consider an update on the installation of the defibrillator in Llanrothal and CPR training

It was NOTED that the defibrillator at Llanrothal has now been installed. It was NOTED that the clerk had forwarded contact details for Anubis Training who can deliver defibrillator training. Cllr Sue Parkinson AGREED to investigate dates and costs.

13. To consider the notice board at Welsh Newton Church and Llanrothal

It was AGREED to defer this item until the next meeting, and to include all notice boards in the discussion.

14. Correspondence

None

15. To consider items for the next meeting – No discussion

Budget and precept 2024-25; where the "slow-down" signs should be placed on the Common

16. Date of next meeting – 9th November 2023 at Welsh Newton Village Hall

NOTED

A resolution was passed to exclude the press and public from the following confidential item:

All members of the public left the meeting

17. To consider an update on the recruitment of a new clerk

The clerk REPORTED that no applications had been received to date.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm

Signed: _____ Dated: _____