

# Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council,  
**Held online via Zoom – due to the Coronavirus Pandemic**  
**On Thursday 11th March 2021**  
**At 7.30pm**

*This meeting may be recorded under Standing Order 3f*

**Present:** Councillors: Mr. Craig Bligh (Chairman); Mr. Steve Wilkes, Mr. Martin Barter, Mr. K. Simmons, Ms. D. Clarke and Ms. Elissa Swinglehurst

**In attendance:** Mrs. Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk

**Public:** 6

**1. To receive and accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr. Mr. W. Manzoor

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

None

**3. To consider the recording of meetings and the availability of recordings.**

It was NOTED that meetings will be recorded and distributed to those who ask to see them

**4. To agree and sign the minutes of The Group Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

**5. Public Question Time**

The following items were RAISED:

- Could the minutes and the Ward Cllrs report be circulated via email to parishioners?
- Who is responsible for the trees on the Common – *no one*
- What paperwork is needed to undertake works to trees with TPO's - *a planning application needs to be submitted*
- It was agreed the planning applicant could speak under item 8.2

**6. Reports**

**6.1 Ward Cllrs report & Q & A time - Appendix 1**

The report was NOTED

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

It was REPORTED that there had not been a meeting since the last report.

*One parishioner joined the meeting*

**7. Common**

**7.1 To consider an update on the survey on the future management of the Common**

The clerk REPORTED that she had received 7 responses so far. The closing date is the end of March. It was NOTED that one response had come back with the monitoring number crossed out which invalidates the response. It is hoped more parishioners will respond by the deadline.

**8. Planning**

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

The clerk REPORTED that no decisions had been made.

**8.2 To consider planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council**

**8.2.1 210167 - Land at Lower Skenchill, Llanrothal Road, Llanrothal,**

Proposed alteration and conversion of three existing redundant agricultural buildings to holiday lets, removal of existing Dutch barn, erection of extension to barn 1, formation of parking, landscaping, drainage and erection of a mixed-use storage building.

It was RESOLVED to support the application for the following reasons:

- It complies with NDP Policy WNL8 – conversion of rural buildings to residential use.
- It complies with Policy WNL9 – New business development in former agricultural buildings
- It complies with policy WNL1 part 2 – keep external lighting to a minimum generally – see below.
- It complies with policy WNL 1 part 3 – preserves the character of the buildings
- It complies with policy WNL1 part 6 – Local habitats and wildlife should be preserved and enhanced

The following concerns were raised:

- The limited water supply in the area although it was noted that a borehole was being put in.
- The large areas of glazing – being both out of keeping with the character of the buildings and a potential source of light pollution – it was suggested that photo-reactive glazing be used.
- Vehicles need to be able to drive in and back out of the properties in a forward direction as visibility may be

It was requested that a condition be added to the application that the developments must remain as holiday lets. It was further requested that solar energy and electric car charging points also be considered.

The applicants were thanked for taking the time to come and speak to the Parish Council

### **8.3 To consider next steps in formulating an Emergency Planning Policy**

It was AGREED that the clerk should email parishioners to ask for contact details of anyone who felt able to help with some aspect of emergency assistance.

*Cllr Debbie Clarke left the meeting*

### **8.4 To consider whether to undertake an NDP Review**

It was AGREED to wait until the NPPF and Core Strategy have been updated before undertaking a review.

### **8.5 To consider the whole Council Planning Training undertaken with HALC**

It was NOTED that the whole Council had attended planning training by HALC. It was deemed a useful exercise and a positive and enlightening experience for all councillors regardless of their previous planning experience.

## **9. Finance**

### **9.1 To note the March Finance report and bank balances – Appendix 2**

The clerk REPORTED that finances were healthy. The report was APPROVED as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation.

### **9.2 To consider the following invoices for payment:**

9.2.1 Clerk's March Salary

9.2.2 Clerk's March expenses £65.76

9.2.3 HMRC PAYE £311.20

9.2.4 HALC 2021-22 Subscription £385.69

9.2.5 Terry Griffiths Contracts – Drainage Grant-Funded Works – total £7920 – Appendix 3

9.2.6 Terry Griffiths Contracts – Routine maintenance as agreed £447.60

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment

### **9.3 To consider purchasing an unknown Tommy silhouette £200**

It was AGREED that the Council should purchase one silhouette at a cost of £200

## **10. Lengthsman and footpaths**

### **10.1 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman**

Mud is once again causing issues on the U71223. It is coming from the neighbouring fields. It was AGREED the clerk should write to the land owner – requesting he assist with cleaning the highway and consider not ploughing right to the edge of the field.

### **10.2 To consider work to be undertaken on the parish footpaths**

Trees have fallen across WNN8 – it was AGREED that clerk should write to the landowner to request they are cleared.

### **10.3 To consider the lengthsman tenders received for 2021-22**

It was AGREED to appoint Mr Terry Griffiths for a further year as lengthsman.

## **11. Highways**

### **11.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty**

None

### **11.2 To consider an update on installing white gates (traffic calming) on the approach to the village**

It was REPORTED that this will be looked at later in the year.

*One parishioner left the meeting*

### **11.3 To consider an update on the grant-funded drainage works**

The clerk REPORTED that all but seven of the drainage tasks had been completed. She has managed to get an extension on the completion of the remaining past the 31<sup>st</sup> March if needed. She will submit the grant claim form for those tasks completed and invoiced for so far.

### **11.4 To consider the highway closure of the Welsh Newton to Llanrothal road.**

It was REPORTED, that despite numerous requests, the works to this highway are not due to be completed until the financial year 2021-22. There has been no date given. The clerk and Ward Cllr have emailed Cllr John Harrington to ask for assistance in making these works a priority. It was NOTED that despite barriers being put up, traffic was still using the highway. The tarmac is not supported by anything so this is very dangerous. It was further NOTED that Welsh Water could not work on the water main as it was too dangerous for operatives to be there. It was AGREED that the clerk should do the following:

- request from Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council that either concrete barriers are installed across the highway to prevent traffic using it or that a steel plate is laid over the road to allow traffic to use it in the short-term.
- Submit a Community Commissioning Application requesting the cost of the works is quoted for. If this cost appears affordable the Council will investigate the possibility of funding the works itself and being repaid by Herefordshire Council when funds are available in the new financial year.

## **12. Defibrillator**

### **12.1 To consider an update on the installation of the defibrillator and registration of the machine**

It was REPORTED that the machine was installed and working. The clerk will register the machine and email parishioners an instruction sheet on how to use it. It was NOTED that no previous instruction is needed to use the machine though as it talks you through the process. The issue of training would be investigated once the present situation opened up.

### **12.2 To consider an update on the installation of a defibrillator on the Common**

No update was received.

**13. Environment**

**13.1 To consider an update on promoting wild flowers on the wide verges in the parishes**

It was AGREED that Sue Parkinson would continue to map the verges in Llanrothal and liaise with "Verging on the Wild" as to next steps. Sue was thanked for her efforts with this project.

**14. To consider the notice boards.**

The clerk has not heard back from the lengthsman with regards the condition of the notice board by the church.

**15. Correspondence**

None

**16. To consider the outstanding actions – Attached**

The following item was NOTED

| Date     | Minute | Item  | Status  |
|----------|--------|---|---|
| 10.09.20 | 10.4   | Footpath over deregistered Common by Newton Lodge | Clerk has now received the forms and will liaise with Cllr Steve Wilkes – underway. Clerk has received a brief update from HC PROW Officer. Cllr Steve Wilkes has filled in most forms – and the clerk the rest. The form has been submitted to HC. Two further evidence forms have been received and submitted to HC |

**17. To consider items for the next meeting – No discussion**

None

**18. Date of next meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

NOTED

The meeting closed at 21.34

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: 8.4.21