

Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council,
Held at Welsh Newton Village Hall
On Thursday 11th November 2021
At 7.30pm

This meeting may be recorded under Standing Order 3l

Present: Councillors: Mr. Craig Bligh (Chairman), Mr. Martin Barter, Mr. Keith Simmons, Mr. Waqas Manzoor and Ms. Elissa Swinglehurst

In attendance: Mrs. Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk
Mr. Terry Griffiths – Parish Lengthsman

Public: 6

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Ms. Debbie Clarke

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

None

3. To appoint a Vice-Chair.

This item was deferred.

4. To agree and sign the minutes of The Group Parish Council meeting held on 14th October 2021

The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair

5. Public Question Time

The following items were raised:

- Why is the DMMO for the Market Path submitted in 2015 still not on HC's website although a more recent application is? *The clerk will chase this up.*
- Was there any update on the legal consultation. – *The Chair confirmed that there was not, although the PC is working hard to move it forwards.*
- Information was received about correspondence relating to the Common by the then HC Commons Officer. – *NOTED*
- It was queried who had put the two new signs on the Common. – *The Chair confirmed it was not the PC – he also stated that it would be sensible if tasks such as erecting signs could be undertaken by the PC to ensure a co-ordination approach. He confirmed that there is no legislation as such preventing small signs from being erected on the Common. It was AGREED that Cllr Manzoor would survey residents in the area to see what the consensus on the way forward with signs most effective speed awareness sign locations and agreement for the PC to support re-do the sign naming of ALL properties on the Common.*

6. Planning

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

None

6.2 To consider a response to Herefordshire Council's Local Plan Update – pre-consultation survey

It was RESOLVED to defer this item until the next meeting – with Cllrs requested to submit their comments by Wednesday 17th November for the clerk to collate in preparation.

7. Reports

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

The report was summarised and NOTED

An update on the Gigaclear situation was requested. – there is due to be a decision taken by Herefordshire Council on the 17th November 2021.

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

It was REPORTED that discussions are still ongoing.

8. Finance

8.1 To note the November Finance report and bank balances – Appendix 2

The clerk REPORTED that finances healthy for the period. The report was APPROVED and signed as evidence of bank reconciliation and budget monitoring.

8.2 To consider the following invoices for payment:

8.2.1 Clerk's November Salary

8.2.2 Clerk's November expenses £29.32 – previously circulated

8.2.3 Welsh Newton Village Hall – 4 x meeting hire - £60

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment

8.3 To consider the draft budget and precept for 2022-23 alongside the Reserves Policy – Appendix 3 and 4

IT was RESOLVED that a reserve fund was necessary to cover ongoing and replacement costs of the defibrillators over the coming years. It was further AGREED that a budget heading for legal costs was necessary moving forwards. It was NOTED that due to a decrease in spending over the pandemic and successful grant applications, the reserve funds had now become large enough. It was AGREED therefore to keep the precept at £13,900 and use the unallocated reserves for any payments over and above this figure for the coming year. It was RESOLVED to approve the final budget at the January meeting once an understanding of legal costs have been clarified.

9. Lengthsman and footpaths

9.1 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman

The lengthsman REPORTED that he had been undertaking maintenance days as per his schedule. He now has a powerful pressure jetter which is making clearing culverts easier. This has meant that the drainage task at Small Acre due to be grant funded was now no longer necessary. It was AGREED that these funds should be used on extra maintenance days. It was NOTED that remaining grant needed claiming before the end of March 2022. The planned drainage task at Newton Pitch will still be undertaken. Cllr Swinglehurst requested that any silt jetted into the Mallybrook River as a result of this clearance work should be properly cleared.

The lengthsman queried whether the drainage issues, caused by the Welsh Water sump by Small Acre, were still an issue. Cllr Manzoor will ask residents for their opinions.

The lengthsman has REPORTED the longstanding overflow of effluent coming from Firwood to Balfour Beatty. It was REQUESTED the clerk also report this to the Environment Agency.

The lengthsman REQUESTED that a letter of thanks be written to Mr Davies of Lower Buckholt Farm. He has generously allowed the lengthsman to use access across his property to reach Llanrothal, as well as allowing him to refill the jetter and store grit. This was AGREED.

9.2 To consider work to be undertaken on the parish footpaths

The lengthsman confirmed that the first scheduled day of work had been undertaken. It was REQUESTED that he clear around the bus shelter when he next undertakes a village up-keep day.

10. Highways

10.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

None

11. Correspondence

- Planning Enforcement – application 174658

Planning enforcement has confirmed that no breach has taken place.

- Freedom of Information Request regarding verge cutting in the parishes

The response received back by the PC did not breakdown costs effectively enough. The clerk has resubmitted further questions.

- Co-option of a Parish Councillor for Welsh Newton

The period allowed for an election to be called has now passed. The PC is now able to co-opt.

- Closure of the Llanrothal Road

The clerk REPORTED that further information had been received today. A new date for the start of works has been set as the 13th December. She further REPORTED that both HC member responsible for highways and the Leader of the Council are continuing to push for these works to begin on behalf of the parish.

12. To consider the outstanding actions – Attached

The PC are still waiting for a date to meet with the solicitor.

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

Area by the war memorial – to include the picket fence and wildflowers; proposal to Cllr John Harrington to allow for a highways budget for PC's to complete urgent highways works and then reclaim the costs from HC

14. Date of next meeting – 9th December 2021

NOTED

The meeting closed at 21.20

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

9/12/21