

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 14th January 2021
At 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Mrs. Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk

Public: 6

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence
None

2. To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items
None

3. To agree and sign the minutes of The Group Parish Council meeting held on 10th December 2020
The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

4. Public Question Time

The following items were RAISED:

- The notice boards need attention as one is swollen and hard to open and another needs the backing redoing.

Cllr Steve Wilkes took over as Chair as Cllr Bligh's wife was too unstable.

Cllr Debbie Clarke joined the meeting alongside another parishioner

5. Report

5.1 Ward Cllrs report & Q & A time

The verbal report included the following items:

- Herefordshire Council is still responding to Covid issues. The vaccination programme is successfully being rolled out.
- Budget setting is being undertaken although is very hard this year with unknown elements due to the pandemic.
- Council tax looks likely to increase by 4.99%
- There is a 2% decrease in the number of households paying Council tax due to financial difficulties caused by the pandemic.

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

It was REPORTED work continues to try and find a solution to the issues by both the Environment Agency and National Resources Wales.

6. Common

6.1 To consider an update on the survey on the future management of the Common

It was REPORTED that further updates and approvals were needed before this survey could be sent out. It was AGREED that these updates and approval could be formalised via email between meetings.

6.2 To consider the installation of traffic calming signs on the unadopted highway on the Common.

It was NOTED that the lengthsman will collect the signs and arrange for installation.

7. Planning

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

The following table was NOTED

Date	App. No.	Description	PC Comment	HC Decision
12.03.20	200645	2 Woodside Cottages, Welsh Newton, Monmouth, Herefordshire NP25 5RS Proposed two storey extension.	Support	Approved with conditions
08.10.20	202582	Nantewain, Broad Oak, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8QZ Proposed storage building.	No Comment	Approved with conditions

7.2 To consider planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council

7.2.1 203907 - Land at Woodside Stables, From Great Hall Road To St Woolstons Road, Welsh Newton, NP25 5RT

Proposed new dwelling.

Parishioners RAISED several points with regard to this application.

It was RESOLVED to OBJECT to this application for the following reasons:

- It does not satisfy NDP Policy WNC1 – meet the need for affordable housing
- It is contrary to NDP Policy WNL1 – enhancing the local character, wildlife and habitat of the area
- It is contrary to Policy LD2 as there are protected species (Dormice) known to be living in the hedgerows.
- The highway to the property is unsuitable for an increase in traffic.
- There is concern that the drainage from this site will impact on the Lower Wye SAC
- There is nothing in the application in response to the Climate and Ecological Emergency

7.2.2 204346 - Land adjacent to Steepways, Welsh Newton, Herefordshire, NP25 5RT

Proposed development of two dwellings.

It was RESOLVED to OBJECT to this application for the following reasons:

- It does not satisfy NDP Policy WNC1 – meet the need for affordable housing
- It is contrary to NDP Policy WNL1 – enhancing the local character, wildlife and habitat of the area
- It is contrary to Policy LD2 as there are protected species (Dormice) known to be living in the hedgerows.
- The hedgerows earmarked for removal are on common land.
- The highway to the property is unsuitable for an increase in traffic.
- There is concern that the drainage from this site will impact on the Lower Wye SAC
- There is nothing in the application in response to the Climate and Ecological Emergency
- The application is lacking in detail
- Access to the site is over common land

7.2.3 204434 - Land adjacent to Westwood, Welsh Newton Common, Monmouth, Gwent NP25 5RT

Proposed change of use of land (paddock) to an outdoor nursery

It was RESOLVED to OBJECT to this application for the following reasons:

- There is very little detail included.
- Access is along an unsuitable highway that is already at capacity.

7.3 To consider the appeal submitted for application 202048 - The Old Shop, Manson, Monmouth, NP25 5RD

Proposed construction of a holiday cabin to accommodate 2-4 people.

It was AGREED that no further comment was necessary.

7.4 To consider next steps in formulating an Emergency Planning Policy

It was REPORTED that the following items were raised by parishioners as useful to be included in such a policy:

- Someone to clear fallen trees
- Water supply shortage on the Common

It was AGREED this would be looked further at the next meeting.

Cllr Debbie Clarke and two parishioners left the meeting

7.5 To consider an update on the NDP Review meeting with Herefordshire Council

It was REPORTED that if the wording of the NDP was changed to state “any hard surface capable of supporting year round traffic” instead of “made up road” this would be a minor change; if the wording were changed to “tarmacked road” this would be considered a material change. Comments from the Development Manager were also NOTED. It was AGREED to revisit this at the February meeting

8. Finance

8.1 To note the January Finance report and bank balances – Appendix 1

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

8.2 To consider the following invoices for payment:

8.2.1 Clerk's January Salary

8.2.2 Clerk's January expenses £9.78

8.2.3 Terry Griffiths – November roads maintenance £447.60

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment

8.3 To note the direct debit payment to ICO due to be taken on 21st January 2021 £35

NOTED

9. Lengthsman and footpaths

9.1 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman

It was NOTED that the lengthsman was busy completing drainage projects. The clerk REPORTED that the lengthsman has the projects in hand – although he may have to miss a couple of maintenance days in the coming two months to ensure that all the projects are completed. The recent flooding is causing issues as some of the drains are still full. The lengthsman is requesting that ward Cllrs put pressure on Balfour Beatty to allow an extension of time (1 month) for these projects to be completed due to the flooding and Covid-19. It was NOTED that the lengthsman was happy to have a liaison Cllr for each parish to ensure feedback to the Parish Council, on tasks undertaken, was available.

9.2 To consider work to be undertaken on the parish footpaths

None

10. Highways

10.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

The following items were RAISED:

- Can the highway leading to Llanrothal Church be logged as needing resurfacing?
- When will the works to the collapsed culvert on Llanrothal Road by Spout Pitch be completed? The closure signs need to be made clearer to prevent lorries becoming stuck.

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

It was AGREED to defer this item until February.

One parishioner left the meeting

11. Defibrillator

11.1 To consider an update on the installation of the defibrillator

It was REPORTED that the electrician is waiting for a date to be given to him by the Parish Council. It was AGREED that Cllr Debbie Clarke should liaise with the Village Hall Committee and email Cllr Craig Bligh a convenient date sometime during the next two weeks. Cllr Bligh will make sure the electrician is present.

11.2 To consider an update on the installation of a defibrillator on the Common

It was NOTED that an update was awaited.

12. Environment

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

It was REPORTED that the map of verges was still underway.

12.2 To consider fly-tipping in the parishes

The clerk REPORTED that she had logged the fly-tipping along Old Shop Lane. It was AGREED that the clerk should send out a reminder, in the next newsletter, of the need to dispose of garden waste correctly.

13. To consider an update on replacing the notice boards on Welsh Newton Common.

The lengthsman will be looking at this shortly. It was AGREED that all the notice boards should be reviewed at the next meeting.

14. Correspondence

The clerk REPORTED that she was awaiting the cost of "planning training" for Cllrs with HALC. Further details about how future meetings are to be held will be given by HALC shortly.

15. To consider the outstanding actions

It was REPORTED that any outstanding issues are awaiting updates.

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

To consider any tenders received for the 2021-22 lengthsman contract, CENSUS 2021 information.

17. Date of next meeting – 11th February 2021

NOTED

The meeting closed at 21.30

Signed: _____



Dated: 11 Feb 2021