

Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council,
Held at Welsh Newton Village Hall
On Thursday 14th October 2021
At 7.30pm

This meeting may be recorded under Standing Order 3!

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

In attendance: Mrs. Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk

Public: 10

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Mr. Waqas Manzoor

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 16th September 2021
The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

4. Public Question Time

The following items were NOTED

- The Parish Council could assert their power to block access over the Common now.
- Who gave a parishioners email to the BBC?
- Has planning application 174658 been built according to the plans? *The clerk will ask enforcement.*

5. Planning

5.1 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
14.01.21	204434	Land adjacent to Westwood, Welsh Newton Common, Monmouth, NP25 5RT Proposed change of use of land (paddock) to an outdoor nursery	Object	Refused
11.03.21	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.	Support	Approved with Conditions
10.06.21	210934/5	Robins Rest, Llanrothal, Monmouth, NP25 5QJ Proposed wider rear back door and Listed Building Consent	Object	Refused
29.07.21	212568	Oaklands House, Llanrothal, NP25 5QJ Proposed doorway opening in the wall to link the courtyard garden at the rear of the property to the rest of the garden.	Support	Approved with Conditions

6. Reports

6.1 Ward Cllrs report & Q & A time

The following items were included in the Ward Cllrs report:

- Improvements to Children's Services are ongoing
- HC are concentrating on repairs and improvements to drainage to prevent future flooding
- HC passed a motion to apply for Bathing Water status for the River Wye

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

It was REPORTED that two large companies have now accepted a responsibility for the level of phosphates in the river. Improvements in these areas are now being worked on.

7. Welsh Newton Common

7.1 To consider an update on the Ownership of Welsh Newton Common and next steps

It was REPORTED that the Parish Council had been unable to meet with the solicitor since the last meeting. A meeting will be set up as soon as possible. Until then no decisions will be made on this subject.

8. Finance

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

The clerk REPORTED that finances were healthy for the period. The apparent overspend continues to be because the drainage costs have been taken from expenditure and reimbursed via income. The report was APPROVED, along with the bank statements as evidence of bank reconciliation and budget monitoring.

8.2 To consider the following invoices for payment:

- 8.2.1 Clerk's October Salary
- 8.2.2 Clerk's October expenses £34.74 – previously circulated
- 8.2.3 HALC – Web hosting and Domain Name – March 2020-Feb 2021 £66.00
- 8.2.4 Beaver Framing – Leaving Gift for Cllr Steve Wilkes £15
- 8.2.5 Terry Griffiths Contracts – September PRow and General Maintenance £330.00
- 8.2.6 Autela Payroll Services £50.40

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

9 parishioners left the meeting

9. Lengthsman and footpaths

9.1 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman

None

9.2 To consider work to be undertaken on the parish footpaths

The following items were NOTED for undertaking:

- Trees had yet to be cleared from the WNN8.

1 parishioner rejoined the meeting

10. Highways

10.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

The following items were NOTED for following up.

- Verge cutting in both parishes was yet again shoddy and barely fit for purpose. The clerk will ask how much the contract is to cut these verges.
- Following a response from Welsh Water to the recent letter of complaint written by Herefordshire Council, it would now appear as if timescales for the repair of the Llanrothal Road are to be the beginning of November. There still appeared to be some confusion from Balfour Beatty about land ownership. Cllr Martin Barter agreed to find out details and email the Chair.

11. Correspondence

- Resignation received from Cllr Steve Wilkes.

Cllr Wilkes had been a Parish Councillor since May 2001. It was NOTED that the Parish Council had presented him with a leaving gift, best wishes and thanks for his dedication to the Parishes. It was NOTED that the election notice had been hung.

- Broadband Premises under review in Gigaclear contract

It was REPORTED that Gigaclear are unable to deliver broadband to Llangarron Ward. Discussions are underway at Herefordshire Council to address this and find a solution.

- An email had been received regarding the Code of Conduct and Declaring of Interests. The Clerk confirmed that if Councillors felt they had a prejudice to an item then it was correct they left the room

12. To consider the outstanding actions

None

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

Budget and Precept 2022-23; Role of Vice-Chair

14. Date of next meeting – 11th November 2021

NOTED

2 parishioners left the meeting

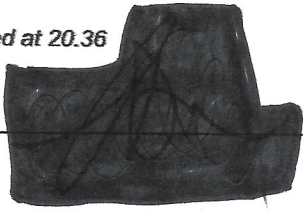
A resolution was passed to exclude the press and public from the following confidential item

15. Employment Matters – the Clerks Annual Appraisal.

The clerk's annual appraisal was successful.

The meeting closed at 20.36

Signed: _____



Dated: _____

20/11/21