

# Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council,  
Held at Welsh Newton Village Hall  
On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
At 7.30pm

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

**Present:** Councillors: Mr Craig Bligh (Chair), Mr Martin Barter, Mr Keith Simmons, Ms Elissa Swinglehurst, Sue Parkinson, Debbie Clarke and Mrs. Rhiannon Marks

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

**Public:** 22

**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**  
Cllrs: Rhiannon Marks and Debbie Clarke DECLARED DPI's against item 6.2.2 and SIGNED the Register of Interest book.

**3. Minutes**

**3.1 To agree and sign the minutes of The Group Parish Council meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023**  
The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

**4. Public Question Time**

The following items were RAISED:

- Can the Cllrs introduce themselves.
- A query was raised about the issue with putting signs on the highway to advertise a business – it was NOTED that this is the responsibility of Herefordshire Council not the Parish Council

**5. Welsh Newton Common**

**5.1 To consider an update on setting up a Commons Working Group and next steps**  
It was NOTED that an advert will go out when the newsletter is delivered and that this item is deferred until then.

**5.2 To note the retrieval of rocks from WN Common and next steps**  
It was NOTED that at the extraordinary meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 it was AGREED that the rocks would be removed from the common as they are larger than expected. However due to the threatening behaviour by some residents of the Common aimed at the lengthsman's team this has had to be delayed. It was AGREED that any behaviour of this sort is completely unacceptable. Thanks were expressed to the lengthsman and his team for the outstanding work they do around the parish.

**6. Planning**

**6.1 To note planning application approved / refused by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting**  
The following applications were NOTED

Date	App. No.	Description	PC Comment	HC Decision
09.02.23	224072/ 224247	Land at Llanrothal Court, Llanrothal Road, Llanrothal, NP25 5QJ The proposed conversion of traditional barn to a single residential dwelling (C3) and associated development and Listed Building Consent	Support	Refused
13.04.23	230866	Yew Tree Cottage, St Woolstons Road, Welsh Newton, NP25 5RT Proposed erection of a three bay garage	Support	Approved with conditions
08.06.23	231252	Great Oaks, Welsh Newton, Monmouth, NP25 5RR Proposed porch.	Support	Approved with conditions
13.07.23	231486	Upper Cwm Farmhouse, Welsh Newton, Monmouth, NP25 5RW New main staircase. Internal alterations to ground floor WC/study area.	Support	Approved with conditions

**6.2 To consider the following planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council**

**6.2.1 – 232383 - Land at Woodside Stables, From Great Hall Road To St Woolstons Road, Welsh Newton,**  
Proposed variation of condition 2 of planning permission 203907 (Proposed new dwelling) - to increase roof height.

It was NOTED that the appeal examiner did not highlight an issue with the roof height of the earlier application, however as the height of this application is still contrary to Policy WNL4 of the NDP it was RESOLVED to object to this application.

*Cllrs: Debbie Clarke and Rhiannon Marks left the meeting*

**6.2.2 - 232624 - Laurel Cottage, Welsh Newton, Monmouth, Herefordshire NP25 5RT**

Proposed rear orangery, canopy to side elevation and external cladding (this is a revision of approved application 203506)

It was RESOLVED to support this application as it is in keeping with the scale of the property and the material used are consistent with those used currently.

*Cllrs: Debbie Clarke and Rhiannon Marks re-joined the meeting*

*14 members of the public left the meeting*

## **7. Reports**

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

The July report was NOTED. A brief verbal update was received.

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

It was REPORTED that works to the wetlands are on-going.

## **8. Finance**

### **8.1 To note the September report and bank balances – Appendix 2**

The clerk REPORTED that few transactions had taken place since the last meeting. The report was SIGNED as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation. It was NOTED that the new investment account is now showing on the finance sheet.

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

8.2.1 Clerks August and September salary

8.2.2 Clerks Expenses £50.13 (previously circulated)

8.2.3 Terry Griffiths Contracts – August roads and specific task - £888

8.2.4 HALC – Web hosting and domain name – May 2021- April 2023 £270

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

## **9. Lengthsman and footpaths**

### **9.1 To consider any works for the lengthsman**

The following items were NOTED for undertaking:

- Clear the fire hydrant near Hazeldene.
- Clear WNN10 – The Market Path
- Can the centre of the U71223 be scraped
- Can the “slow down” signs be erected in Llanrothal and on Welsh Newton Common

It was queried whether a rotten stile could be replaced with a kissing gate. Cllr Swinglehurst agreed to speak to the landowner.

The lengthsman REPORTED that the summer programme of works has been completed and that last years winter programme and ditch clearance works had had a positive impact on this years drainage. The works on the War Memorial are due to start this month.

### **9.2 To consider the threatening behaviour towards the lengthsman and his team on WN Common.**

As NOTED under item 5.2, it was REPORTED that the lengthsman's team had been subjected to threatening behaviour from some residents while working on Welsh Newton Common. The Parish Council apologised to the lengthsman that he had had this experience. It was NOTED that the Parish Council would not insist that the Lengthsman or his team carry out any more works on the Common and if any more such behaviour was experienced, it should be reported to the police. It was NOTED that after lengthy discussions the team were willing to carry on undertaking works. The Parish Council thanked the lengthsman for this as it was NOTED there is no one else to carry out any maintenance works if the Lengthsman won't do it. It was AGREED that a note of thanks to the Lengthsman should go in the next newsletter.

## **10. Highways**

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

The following items were NOTED for reporting:

- U71222 - the length of unclassified road from the livery stables at Westwood to the end of St Wulstans Lane needs resurfacing
- Manson's Lane from the junction needs resurfacing.

## **11. Defibrillators**

### **11.1 To consider an update on the installation of the defibrillator in Llanrothal and CPR training**

It was REPORTED that the electrician had been in discussions with the Chair but had not yet installed the Llanrothal defibrillator. It was NOTED that CPR training will be arranged. It was AGREED that a map should be displayed showing the location of all the defibrillators in the parishes, along with What3Words. It was AGREED that extra signage should be discussed at the next meeting. It was NOTED that there are no paediatric pads in the cabinet at the village hall.

### **11.2 To consider the defibrillator recall notice and software update needed.**

The recall notice was NOTED. It was RESOLVED that the Chair would look at the Parish Council owned defibrillators.

### **12. To consider the notice board at Welsh Newton Church and Llanrothal**

It was AGREED to defer this item until a suitable site at Llanrothal had been found.

## **13. Correspondence**

- Armed Forces Outreach Letter – NOTED – No action
- Comment regarding logging of issues with Herefordshire Council – NOTED

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

Methods of improved communication; distributing the newsletter at the same time as the village hall.

### **15. Date of next meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Welsh Newton Village Hall**

NOTED

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

**16. To consider the clerk's resignation and recruitment of a new clerk**

The clerk's resignation was NOTED and accepted. The clerk was thanked for her hard work on behalf of the parishes over the past six years. It was RESOLVED to appoint HALC to undertake the recruitment process and clerk cover while a replacement clerk is found.

*The meeting closed at 9.30pm*

Signed: 

Dated: 12/10/2023