

Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council,
Held at Welsh Newton Village Hall
On Thursday 9th December 2021
At 7.30pm

This meeting may be recorded under Standing Order 3!

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

In attendance: Mrs. Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk
Mrs. Rhiannon Marks – Potential co-optee
Mr. Matthew Hall – Potential co-optee

Public: 6

- 1. To receive and accept apologies for absence**
Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Mr. Keith Simmons
- 2. To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items**
None
- 3. To appoint a Vice-Chair.**
It was RESOLVED to appoint a vice-chair at a later date. Cllr Waqas Manzoor has expressed an interest and will attend training.
- 4. To agree and sign the minutes of The Group Parish Council meeting held on 11th November 2021**
The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair
- 5. Public Question Time**
The following items were RAISED:
 - A query as to whether the public should be allowed to vote for the Vice-Chair was raised.
- 6. To consider the Co-option of a Parish Councillor for Welsh Newton**
Mr Matthew Hall and Mrs Rhiannon Marks were asked to say a few words about why they wished to be a Parish Councillor. Cllrs voted. Rhiannon Marks received the most votes and was co-opted onto the Parish Council, signed the Acceptance of Office Form and joined the meeting.
- 7. Planning**
 - 7.1 To note planning application approved / refused by Herefordshire Council since the last meeting**
None
 - 7.2 To consider planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council**
 - 7.2.1 214028 - The Uplands, Welsh Newton, Monmouth, Herefordshire NP25 5RT**
Redevelopment of existing outbuilding for use as granny annex ancillary to the main dwelling.
It was RESOLVED to support this application on the condition that it is not used as a separate dwelling in later years. They would also wish to see the climate change checklist, mentioned in the pre-application details, attached.
 - 7.3 To consider a response to Herefordshire Council's Local Plan Update – pre-consultation survey**
It was AGREED to submit the response as previously circulated – Appendix 3
- 8. Reports**
 - 8.1 Ward Cllrs report & Q & A time - Appendix 1**
The report was NOTED and included the following items: Shop Local Scheme; new waste plan for November 2022 and further broadband delays.
 - 8.2 A brief report on the situation of the River Wye and phosphate levels.**
It was REPORTED that The Wye Navigation Board is also discussing the water quality of the river.
- 9. Finance**
 - 9.1 To note the December Finance report and bank balances – Appendix 2**
The clerk REPORTED that finances were on target for the time of year. The report was APPROVED and signed as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation.
 - 9.2 To consider the following invoices for payment:**
 - 9.2.1 Clerk's December Salary
 - 9.2.2 Clerk's December expenses £29.32 – previously circulated
 - 9.2.3 Terry Griffiths – works as agreed £940.80The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

10. Lengthsman and footpaths

10.1 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman

The following items were RAISED:

- To remind the lengthsman to clear the blocked drains on the A466

10.2 To consider work to be undertaken on the parish footpaths

None

11. Highways

11.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

None.

The clerk REPORTED that she had emailed for more details on the drainage and minor works schemes planned for 2022-23. She has REQUESTED feedback on whether the drainage issue on the A466 is to be included.

11.2 To consider feedback on placing signs on the Common

It was AGREED to defer this until the January meeting to allow for all responses to be received.

11.3 To consider submitting a proposal to Cllr Harrington to request that HC allows PC's to fund urgent highways projects for reimbursement by HC at a later date

It was RESOLVED to submit a proposal. The clerk will draw up a draft for circulating and approving via email.

12. To consider the upgrading the area around the war memorial

It was REPORTED that following agreement from the landowner, a working party would shortly clear the area and make a plan for an improvement plan for 2022. Cllr Martin Barter AGREED to lead on this.

13. Correspondence

- Freedom of Information response – *the clerk has requested financial information for area H.*
- Citizen's Advice Outreach Service – *noted*
- A letter from a parishioner regarding several issues had been received. *These were summarised and noted*
- An email had been received from a parishioner about issues on the Common – *the response from Helen Beale (Herefordshire Council's Commons Department was read out.*

14. To consider the outstanding actions and updates

The items in the table below were updated and agreed:

Date	Minute	Item	Status
13.06.19	11.5	Update on the Market Path DMMO submitted in 2015	Clerk has now received the original application for checking by Councillors. The application was checked for re-submitting. Following feedback from HC – further detail is needed to complete the application. HC contacting the Commons Department for clarification. Clerk still awaiting response. Clerk contacted Jackie Lewis – has yet to come back with information Jackie Lewis will investigate
09.12.21	14.0	Clerk requested further information as to why this is not listed on the Herefordshire Council site	
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. Clerk received letter from Rob Hemblade – this route is not deemed a priority. Clerk received a letter in December (dated July 2021) stating that additional evidence would be needed in order to allow this application to be considered more quickly. The clerk was asked to find out how many more forms would be needed.
09.12.21	14.0		
14.10.21	7.1	Welsh Newton Common Ownership	The Parish Council is waiting for a meeting date with the solicitor
09.12.21	14.0		The Chair summarised the situation. It was AGREED to ask the solicitor to look at the issue of Commons Ownership in the first instance. The possibility of obtaining ownership could be understood quickly. It was RESOLVED to allow £1000 for this advice and contact. The solicitor will provide an estimate for any subsequent work and advice following this. It was expected that the issue of ownership could be reported on at the January meeting. The clerk was authorised to liaise with the solicitor.

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

Approval of draft budget and precept for 2022-23 alongside the Reserves Policy; Hold some meeting at Llanrothal Church; Set up an information evening titled "Wooded Landscapes – and how to manage them".

16. Date of next meeting – 12th January 2022

NOTED

The meeting closed at 20.48

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

13th Jan 2022