

Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Group Parish Council,
Held at Welsh Newton Village Hall
On Thursday 9th February 2023
At 7.30pm

This meeting may be recorded under Standing Order 3I

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

In attendance: Mrs. Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk

Public: 9

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 consider the minutes of the Meeting held on 12th January 2023.
The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

4. Public Question Time

The following items were RAISED:

- Would the PC be able to put bollards/large stones on the Common to prevent it being eroded by traffic cutting corners and reversing? *To be an agenda item in March*
- The light at The Lodge is dazzling drivers – can something be done? *Has the issue been mentioned to the home owner?*
- A parishioner has been emailing HC Tree Officer but getting no response. *The clerk will email the officer.*

Mr. Terry Griffiths – Parish Lengthsman joined the meeting

5. Welsh Newton Common

5.1 To consider the quote received for the slow down signs to be placed on the Common and Lower Llanrothal Road £208.80
It was RESOLVED to proceed and purchase the 4 signs needed.

5.2 To consider an update on communication with parish councils with un-owned (Section 9) commons and next steps
The clerk REPORTED that she had had three responses so far – two supported the proposed motion. It was AGREED that the clerk would email the remaining parishes for a response for re-discussion in March.

6. Planning

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

| Date | App. No. | Description | PC Comment | HC Decision |
|----------|----------|---|------------|--------------------------|
| 10.06.21 | 211817 | Tregate Farm Bungalow, Rockfield Rd, NP25 5QL Proposed new detached garage, carport and storage building. | Support | Approved with conditions |
| 14.04.22 | 220597 | Great Oaks, Welsh Newton, Monmouth, Herefordshire NP25 5RR Proposed stable block and arena for family horses | Support | Approved with conditions |
| 14.07.22 | 222020 | Steepways, Welsh Newton, Herefordshire, NP25 5RT Proposed development of 2 dwellings. | Object | Approved with conditions |

6.2 To consider the following planning application for determination by Herefordshire Council:

6.2.1 224237 - Upper Cwm Farmhouse, Welsh Newton, Monmouth, NP25 5RW

Proposed internal and external alterations/repair. Replacement roof and windows. New mezzanine at first floor
It was RESOLVED to support this application

6.2.2 224062 - The Coach House, Newton Lodge, Welsh Newton, Monmouth, NP25 5RR

Proposed erection of an extension to existing dwelling.
It was RESOLVED to support this application

6.2.3 224072 - Land at Llanrothal Court, Llanrothal Road, Llanrothal, NP25 5QJ

1224247 The proposed conversion of traditional barn to a single residential dwelling (C3) and associated development and Listed Building Consent

It was RESOLVED to support the application with the following comments:

- Careful consideration needs to be given to the ecological survey and the protection of bats
- Exterior lighting must be kept to a minimum
- The design must be in keeping with the surrounding buildings
- A condition should be added to not allow future residential use of the office/car port.
- Llanrothal Court and one other property already solely use the spring for their water source. Evidence should be provided that this source can sustain adding another dwelling to it.

- A traffic management plan should be put in place for the development that allows for the highway access to remain open to parishioners at key times of the day. This is the only access available to parishioners and should not be blocked.
- Previous reports from highway consultants have raised concern about the structural integrity of the bridges along the highway. The traffic management plan should limit the size of vehicle that can access the development site during build to only those that will not damage the highway. (Added following item 9.1)

It was NOTED that access via the private driveway was a civil issue and not one that the PC could comment on. It was ADVISED that the existing condition of the culvert and driveway should be recorded prior to the development starting, so that any damage caused could be rectified by the applicant.

6 parishioners left the meeting

7. Reports

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

The report was NOTED

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

This item is included in the Ward Cllrs report.

8. Finance

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

The clerk REPORTED that spend is on track against budget. It was NOTED that the first Drainage Grant Claim for £1200 has been submitted. It was further NOTED that several donations have been received to assist with the cost of the defibrillator purchase and installation in Llanrothal. The report was APPROVED and signed as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation.

8.2 To consider the following invoices for payment:

8.2.1 Clerk's February Salary

8.2.2 Clerk's February expenses £29.85 – previously circulated

8.2.3 Terry Griffiths Contracts – Routine Footpath Works as agreed £190

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

8.3 To note the payment made for the defibrillator cabinet as agreed 12th January 2023 £574.99

NOTED

9. Lengthsman and footpaths

9.1 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman

None

The lengthsman sought clarification on the number of maintenance days remaining this financial year and confirmation of the total cost of drainage works. It was AGREED he should discuss both with the clerk after the meeting. The lengthsman also queried whether anyone had details on how the Lengthsman scheme will be funded by Herefordshire Council from April. The clerk confirmed that HC were still working on the details but that she would let him know as soon as the information becomes available.

The Lengthsman raised concerns about the structural integrity (based on a report written by Amey) of some of the bridges along the Llanrothal Road if large lorries were used to assist with application 224072. It was AGREED that the clerk should add these concerns to the planning response.

10. Highways

10.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

None

10.2 To consider the cost of an annual maintenance plan for the SID's

The clerk REPORTED that the cost of a maintenance visit would be £495 plus VAT. It was RESOLVED to pay for a maintenance visit. It was AGREED that the Chair and the clerk should draw up a list of items that needed checking.

11. Defibrillators

11.1 To consider an update on the purchase of a cabinet and the installation of the defibrillator in Llanrothal

It was REPORTED that the cabinet had arrived and installation had been agreed with Browns electrical FOC. It was REPORTED that several parishioners living in Llanrothal had made donations towards the cost of the cabinet. They were thanked for their generosity.

12. War Memorial

12.1 To consider the quote to upgrade the area around the war memorial

A quote for £1200 had been received. It was NOTED that the lengthsman AGREED to cover the cost of labour by way of a contribution to the project. He was thanked for his generosity. It was RESOLVED to go ahead with the works and to finance them from reserves.

12.2 To consider and approve the design and installation of an interpretation board.

The clerk REPORTED that her contact had been unable to find out any further information on the three WWII names. It was RESOLVED to pursue the idea of a simple board, detailing the history of the memorial as well as the names of soldiers. A QR code should be added that linked to a web page with further information.

12.3 To consider the quotes received to upgrade the war memorial

The clerk REPORTED that no third quote had been received since the last meeting. It was RESOLVED that a follow up email should be sent to the company requesting a quote. It was NOTED that the War Memorial is listed. The clerk AGREED to seek advice as to whether any permissions were needed to undertake works.

13. To consider adding a communication network to the Emergency Plan

It was RESOLVED that this was important and should be discussed further at the March meeting

14. Correspondence

None

15. To consider the outstanding actions and updates

None

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

HC owned land in St Wulstan's Wood.

17. Date of next meeting – 9th March 2023

NOTED

The meeting closed at 9.07pm

Signed: _____



Dated: _____

9/3/23