

Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council

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

This meeting may be recorded under Standing Order 31

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
PCSO David Alexander

Public: 2

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Debbie Clarke

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 9th February 2023.

The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

4. Public Question Time

PCSO David Alexander made the following comments:

- He encouraged parishioners to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters as this is the best way to hear about local issues and concerns
- There have been some well-organised scam calls recently by a group pretending to be police officers.
- Parishioners can now report issues and concerns online
- The Safer Neighbourhood Team will come to an event and security mark equipment if wanted.
- There have been six incidents logged in the parishes since January.

PCSO Alexander was thanked for attending the meeting, he then left

5. Welsh Newton Common

5.1 To consider an update on communication with parish councils with un-owned (Section 9) commons and next steps
The clerk REPORTED that she had received responses from six parish Councils. Two were happy to support the motion to Herefordshire Council. It was RESOLVED to submit the motion to Herefordshire Council regardless after the May elections.

5.2 To consider placing bollards/rocks at various locations on the Common to prevent further erosion by vehicles.

The clerk REPORTED that under Common Land Guidance Sheet 1c, the placing of bollards or rocks are works considered exempt from the Section 38 Consent Process. She has yet to hear back from the insurance company. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Manzoor would liaise with Sue Parkinson and determine exactly where the rocks were needed and how many. The clerk will contact Callow Quarry and ask if they would consider donating the rocks.

6. Planning

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

None

7. Reports

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

NOTED

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

It was REPORTED that the second phosphate summit was held in Cardiff yesterday. Actions are ongoing.

It was RESOLVED to move item 12 to next on the agenda

12. To consider the Herefordshire Council owned land in St Wulstan's Wood and submitting a Community Asset Transfer Expression of Interest Form

It was REPORTED that HC own a small area of land in St Wulstan's Wood. It was NOTED there is possibly no public access to the site. It was RESOLVED to submit an Expression of Interest form to transfer ownership of this piece of land to the Parish Council.

One member of the public left the meeting

8. Finance

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

The clerk REPORTED that finances were on track. The report was APPROVED and signed as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation. It was RESOLVED that due to an increase in interest rates, it would now be prudent to invest some of the PC reserves in a higher interest fixed term account. It was RESOLVED to do this. Cllr Craig Bligh and Elissa Swinglehurst will investigate and recommend a suitable account for approval by email so that this transfer of £10,000 can proceed.

8.2 To consider the following invoices for payment:

8.2.1 Clerk's March Salary

8.2.2 Clerk's March expenses £33.55 – previously circulated

8.2.3 HALC 2023-24 subscription £453.53

8.2.4 Terry Griffiths – Lengthsman tasks as agreed £960.00

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

8.3 To note the payment made for the "slow down" signs as agreed in February and updated by email £417.60 NOTED

9. Lengthsman and footpaths

9.1 To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman

The laurel hedge at the crossroads alongside the A466 needs cutting back as visibility is difficult. It was AGREED that Cllr Swinglehurst would speak to the owner of the property.

9.2 To consider signing the lengthsman grant agreement for 2022-23

It was RESOLVED to sign and submit the agreement. It was AGREED that the clerk should investigate whether the materials for the war memorial upgrade could be claimed using this money. It was REQUESTED that the clerk ask the Lengthsman to replace the drain cover by the war memorial using this grant money.

10. Highways

10.1 To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty

The following items were RAISED for reporting:

- Pothole by The Callows needs refilling.

It was REPORTED that a litter pick is due to take place on the 26th March. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should forward the litter-picking kit hire form to Cllr Swinglehurst to fill in. Should kits not be available it was RESOLVED that grabbers and hi-vis vests up to the sum of £50 could be purchased.

One member of the public left the meeting

11. Defibrillators

11.1 To consider an update on the installation of the defibrillator in Llanrothal

It was REPORTED that this is due to be installed on the 23rd March at 9am

12. Moved to before agenda item 7

13. War Memorial

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

The clerk REPORTED that an A2 board would cost in the region of £515. It was RESOLVED that Cllrs should forward any photos or historical information to the clerk to collate for approval at the April meeting.

13.2 To consider the quotes received to upgrade the war memorial

The clerk REPORTED that she had still only received 2 quotes. It was RESOLVED to ask the lengthsman to chase up the third quote.

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

It was RESOLVED to defer this item until Cllr Clarke is present.

15. Correspondence

- Our Community Can Grant – NOTED

- Email from Parishioner regarding the war memorial plans – *the clerk has responded.*

16. To consider the outstanding actions and updates

None

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

Possible change to May meeting date; Coronation

18. Date of next meeting – 13th April 2023

NOTED

The meeting closed at 20.50

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

13/4/23