



WELSH NEWTON LLANROTHAL GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council held at Welsh Newton Village Hall on Thursday 12th September 2024 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present: Councillors: Sue Parkinson (Chair), Martin Barter, Keith Simmons

In attendance: Elissa Swinglehurst (Ward Councillor), Terry Griffiths (Lengthsman)

Public: 4

The meeting opened at: 7:32pm

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Craig Bligh (work) and Debbie Clarke

Apologies were also from the clerk (illness)

2. To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items

There were none.

3. To agree and sign the minutes of the Group Parish Council meeting held on 20th June 2024 and 11th July 2024

Not available. Will be posted on the website when ready.

4. Public Question Time

A member of the public raised a concern about the management of Welsh Newton Common and had been unable to get the Herefordshire Council Commons Officer to visit the common to make an assessment. It was RESOLVED that the clerk write to Herefordshire Council to arrange for a visit.

The issue of overgrown hedges along key routes including from Gwenherrion Farm towards Welsh Newton Common was highlighted, as they create safety hazards for both pedestrians and vehicles. Ward Cllr Swinglehurst agreed to check on the times at which it was likely this would be done.

Signed by the Chairman: *Sue Parkinson*

Dated 19/12/2024



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5. Reports

- 5.1. To consider the Ward Councillors report – Cllr Swinglehurst spoke to her report for August which had been shared with Cllrs and was NOTED. It will be put on the website. Items reported on included:
- **Traffic management:** updates on traffic calming measures and the introduction of additional signage on local roads
 - **Drainage issues:** Discussion on addressing drainage blockages and the importance of the Lengthsman grant for local work
 - **Roadworks and repairs:** Overview of ongoing roadworks including the A40 rockfall, and anticipated improvements to infrastructure
 - **National planning policy framework (NPPF):** changes affecting housing allocations and the implications for local planning policies in Herefordshire
 - **Waste management services:** update on changes to the bin collection service and new contracts being implemented
 - **LED Lighting:** saving costs and a reduction in light pollution
- 5.2. To consider a report from the police community support officer (PCSO)
There was none.

6. Planning

- 6.1. To Comment on Planning Applications for Determination by Herefordshire Council:
- 6.1.1. **241312 – Land at Tump Wood E349158 N216096, Llanrothal, Herefordshire –**
Proposed forestry track – Planning Permission

A dispensation was granted to Cllr Barter to enable the application to be discussed and a comment made.

It was RESOLVED to OBJECT to this application due to the damage done through these works to Tump Wood which is an Ancient Woodland site, and a Special Wildlife Site. Key concerns included:

- Breach of planning regulations by constructing the track without prior permission.
- Significant environmental impact and lack of mitigation measures for affected habitats.
- No evidence of exceptional circumstances that would justify the completion of the works against the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

It was RESOLVED that the clerk would reference the NDP into the response to the consultation to Herefordshire Council.

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- 6.1.2. **241913 – The Hill Farm, Llancloudy, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 8QP** – The retention of an ancillary building used as extended accommodation to the residential planning unit of Hill Farm and the change of use of the land on which it sits to residential – Planning Permission

It was RESOLVED to OBJECT to this retrospective application as the site is in open countryside and falls outside NDP settlement boundaries.

- 6.1.3. **242001 – Land at Llanrothal Court, Llanrothal Road, Llanrothal, Herefordshire, NP25 5QL** – The proposed conversion of traditional barn to a self-build single residential dwelling (C3) and associated development – Planning Permission

It was RESOLVED to SUPPORT this application with the comments:

- The mitigation for wildlife to be improved (for birds in particular.)
- The property to not split into two (or more) dwellings in the future.

- 6.1.4. **242002 – Land at Llanrothal Court, Llanrothal Road, Llanrothal, Herefordshire, NP25 5QJ** – The proposed conversion of traditional barn to a self-build single residential dwelling (C3) and associated development. Solar panels to roof. Listed Building Consent

It was RESOLVED to SUPPORT this application as for the connected application 242001 (item 6.1.3)

- 6.2. To consider and comment on any site issues in relation to the already determined application **241796 – The Coach House, Newton Lodge, Welsh Newton, Monmouth, Herefordshire NP25 5RR** – Proposed extension and alterations

It was RESOLVED to ask Herefordshire Council to ensure that the adjacent Public Right of Way was able to be used during any works.

- 6.3. To consider the National Planning Policy (NPPF) consultation.

It was NOTED that it was unclear at this stage whether the proposed housing targets would focus on urban areas or be spread out to rural communities, and at this stage it will be better to see how these changes affect local planning before responding formally.



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7. Welsh Newton Common

- 7.1. To receive an update on the Market Bridle Path DMMO

This DMMO is being resubmitted as Herefordshire Council do not have a record of it. It was NOTED that there is a cut off date for changes to the definitive map.

- 7.2. To receive an update and consider Tree Maintenance on the Common

It was NOTED that there several trees are affected by ash dieback on the common and that this poses health and safety risks.

It was RESOLVED that tree wardens and tree management be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

It was NOTED that the council's tree officer has left, but that Herefordshire Council will be recruiting into the post, and the current contact email is dutyofficerandnaturalenvironment@herefordshire.gov.uk

- 7.3. To receive an update and consider motorcycles using Bridle Paths on the Common

It was NOTED that the concerns with motorcycles using the bridle path at the end of St. Wolston's Lane, relate to concerns about the conflict this creates with walkers and horse riders.

It was agreed that that any additional signage should ideally be placed at both ends of the path to clearly indicate that it is a bridle path for non-motorized use only and since a part of the path is in Monmouthshire, it was RESOLVED that Cllr Parkinson would the Public Rights of Way Officer in Monmouthshire, to discuss possible signage options and coordinate efforts on enforcement.

8. Noticeboards: To receive an update on the parish noticeboards and consider actions

It was NOTED that:

- **Bus Stop Noticeboard:** There is a glass surface underneath the current damaged cork. The clerk will look to remove the cork and use the glass surface if possible or put up a magnetic surface, if necessary, rather than buy and install a new noticeboard at this stage.
- **Church Noticeboard (St. Mary's):** A broken pane of glass needs replacing, and a lock will be added to prevent unauthorized postings. The Clerk will obtain quotes from local glaziers for repairs and consider updating the cork surface.
- **Telephone Box Noticeboard:** It is currently locked with no accessible key. Otherwise, the cork needs repair or replacement with a magnetic or cork surface and the lock could be replaced.

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- **Llanrothal Noticeboard:** It is due to be relocated from opposite the Nunnery once the Chairman has agreed a site.

9. Lengthsman

- 9.1. To receive an update on work carried out by the lengthsman and the status of the lengthsman contract and lengthsman scheme

The Lengthsman REPORTED that:

- Eight days have been allocated for routine maintenance this year.
- No maintenance work has been carried out since the mid-summer visit.
- He has recently completed an at-risk visit to assess conditions across the parish and several areas needing attention were identified, particularly related to drainage issues and overgrown hedges.
- He has conducted a walking survey of the drainage system to pinpoint problem areas that require immediate intervention.
- He has concerns about Herefordshire Council's requirement for photographic documentation for maintenance tasks, which he believes is excessive and could strain resources.

- 9.2. To consider work to be carried out by the lengthsman

A maintenance session is planned for September, with a focus on clearing hedges and addressing the tree canopy as the leaves begin to fall.

- 9.3. To consider the Local Drainage Fund project proposals and application

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Simmons (Llanrothal), and Cllr Parkinson (Welsh Newton) review the proposed drainage projects, flesh out the required information re [What3Words](#) addresses and photographs where possible and that the council will prioritise the projects to enable grant applications to be submitted.

10. Footpaths

- 10.1. To consider an update on footpath issues and PRow funding

It was NOTED that the PRow grant application had been successful.

- 10.2. To consider the appointment of a parish footpaths officer

It was NOTED that the Lengthsman had been appointed as parish footpaths officer, a voluntary role, but that he would be stepping down due to potential conflicts of

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interest. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk temporarily take on the footpaths officer duties until a volunteer is appointed.

The council expressed their gratitude to the Lengthsman for his hard work in managing the footpaths.

11. Highways

- 11.1. To consider road issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty and the status of current road issue reports

No additional issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty were raised.

There was a discussion about the missing "Welsh Newton" sign on the road coming from Monmouth, which has disappeared, along with a vandalized sign that is now unreadable.

It was NOTED that restoring these signs is important for visibility and safety in the village.

It was NOTED that potential traffic calming measures to help improve safety alongside the new signage such as visual gates have worked well in other areas.

It was RESOLVED that the clerk will contact Herefordshire Council to address the missing signs and check for any available grants for traffic calming.

- 11.2. To consider the maintenance of the Speed Indicator Devices

It was NOTED that the chairman (Cllr Bligh) had previously been the point of contact with Unipart regarding these devices. This will be brought to the next meeting.

12. Finance

- 12.1. To receive and consider the finance report – the 6-month finance report and budget monitor are due to come to the next meeting.

- 12.2. To receive and consider the bank reconciliation, including current balances & any transfer of funds.

It was NOTED that:

- The 2nd August 2024 statement for the Treasury Account showed £6,226.27 after all payments for July. The most recent statement had not arrived.
- The 4th September 2024 statement for the business bank instant (reserve account) is £6,977.17
- At the end of July 2024, the council had £10,501.37 in the Cambridge and Counties Account, i.e. £501.37 interest on the year.

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- The latest bank reconciliation would be completed once online access to the bank account was available to the clerk.

12.3. To consider the current bank mandate

Councillors had not yet received everything needed for making payments. The clerk had also reported that her access was not yet working.

12.4. It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- Clerk – August Salary £428.08
- HMRC – PAYE for clerk's August Salary £107.00

It was NOTED that the September clerk and PAYE payments would be due in between meetings for which detailed amount was not yet available.

12.5. It was NOTED that the following monies had been received:

- Interest on the Cambridge and Counties Account - £501.37
- August interest on the business instant account (Lloyds) - £6.89

12.6. To consider any grant requests or be advised on any upcoming grant requests
There were none.

13. Clerk's update: The clerk was not present, but had provided detailed notes to the chair for the meeting for the agenda items and there were no additional items for discussion.

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

Maintenance of speed indicator devices; possible new signage for bridleway; update on tree maintenance – ash dieback and Tree Wardens; appointment of Parish Footpaths Officer; drainage grant projects

15. Date of next meeting – Thursday 10th October 2024 at Welsh Newton Village Hall

The meeting closed at: 9:22pm

Signed by the Chairman: *Sue Parkinson*

Dated 19/12/2024