



WELSH NEWTON LLANROTHAL GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Extarodinary Meeting of the Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council held at Llanrothal Church on Thursday 31st July 2025

Minutes

Present: Councillors Ed Walker (Chair), Julie Francis, Sue Parkinson and Lissy Tomlinson

In attendance: Andrée Mitchell (Clerk/RFO, PFO)

Public: 0

The meeting opened at: 8:02 pm

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Keith Simmons and Cllr Martin Barter.

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

There were none.

3. To agree and sign the minutes of the Group Parish Council meetings held on 26th June 2025 and 10th July 2025.

The minutes are to come to the next scheduled meeting.

4. Planning

4.1. To Comment on Planning Applications for Determination by Herefordshire Council:
There were none.

4.1.1. Planning Re-consultation - 241312 - Land at Tump Wood E349158 N216096,
Llanrothal, Herefordshire: Proposed forestry track.

Members had reviewed the woodland management plan submitted for this application and following discussion it was RESOLVED to OBJECT to the application with comments urging enforcement and referring to the NDP and covering concerns including:

- The over-engineered road and infrastructure, which appear excessive and disproportionate to the size and purpose of the woodland.
- The importance of the woodland's status as an ancient and protected site, highlighting the need to preserve its ecological value and prevent unnecessary harm.

Signed by the Chairman *Ed Walker*

Dated *11th September 2025*



WELSH NEWTON LLANROTHAL GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

- The scale and design of the proposed works are not justified and that the development compromised protected habitats.
- The potential environmental impacts of the proposed management work, particularly the scale of the road construction and extraction operations.
- The extensive damage inflicted on the ancient woodland, including habitat fragmentation, soil erosion, and the loss of irreplaceable habitats.
- The woodland management plan's vague commitments on replanting, funding, and timescales are considered insufficient, and reliance on natural regeneration alone is deemed inadequate.
- The development is disproportionate, unnecessary, and could set a harmful precedent.

5. Footpaths, Lengthsman, PRow and Local Drainage Fund Grants, and Highways

- 5.1. To consider urgent tasks to be carried out by the lengthsman or reported to Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty

It was RESOLVED to instruct the Lengthsman to clear the overgrown sections of the lower market path, particularly involving an overgrown buddleia that is hazardous and impassable; with careful regard to wildlife such as dormice.

- 5.2. To consider initial schemes for the Public Rights of Way Grant for 2025/26

It was NOTED that the council plans to seek grants for footpath improvements once the initial drainage issues are addressed, with potential site visits with the Locality Steward to be scheduled.

6. To consider promotion of fostering and increase in numbers of foster carers we have locally through the notice boards and websites

It was RESOLVED to request the posters for fostering from Herefordshire Council on the noticeboard and website once space becomes available.

7. To consider councillor training

It was RESOLVED that the council will proceed with arranging HALC in-house planning and governance training for parish councillors at the Village Hall, at a cost of £275 inclusive. The training will be scheduled for either October 16th or 23rd, subject to confirmation, and will be aimed at providing a comprehensive, face-to-face session to ensure all councillors are appropriately briefed on their duties and responsibilities.

8. Finance

- 8.1. To consider a donation in relation to the use of Llanrothal Church for the August parish council meeting

It was RESOLVED to donate £18.00 to the Churches Conservation Trust under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972, based upon £18.00 per month for the use of the churchyard at St John the Baptist Church, Llanrothal for the parish council meeting.

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WELSH NEWTON LLANROTHAL GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

It was NOTED that there is a need for clarification including from the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) regarding ownership and responsibilities for the churchyard.

9. To consider items for the next meeting

The dark skies initiative

Legal ownership and management of the churchyard

Follow-up on the slow-down signage on Llanrothal road

10. Date of next meeting – Thursday 11th September 2025 at Welsh Newton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at: 9:05pm

Signed by the Chairman *Ed Walker*

Dated *11th September 2025*