

Minutes of the Annual Statutory Parish Council Meeting

AGM of Bredwardine Parish Council held on Monday 22 May 2017 at 7-30pm in The Village Hall, Bredwardine

In attendance

Cllrs: John Darbyshire and Dennis Price, and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr John Hughes and Parish Clerk, Alison Wright.

2. Matters Arising

Wyeside Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr. Darbyshire reported that the Wyeside Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has been accepted by the Hereford Council (HC) for independent examination. Three inspectors were offered to carry out the independent review, and the person selected was the one with the most experience of examining rural NDP's.

The HC planning department has commented that they would prefer use of settlement boundaries with development allowed within the boundaries and/or adjacent rather than the Wyeside NDP stated preference for contiguous development from the centre of each village.

Wyeside Group considers the HC preference would allow fragmented development, due to the scattered nature of each village. Whereas the Wyeside preference would ensure critical mass and stronger communities could grow from the centre of each village. A defence document is being written to be included in the papers given to the examiner to champion the case for contiguous development from the centre of each village.

The independent examination commences 26 June 2017 and the NDP referendum is likely to be in the Autumn of 2017.

Bredwardine War Memorial

Last year's request for a dwarf wall around the back of the Bredwardine War Memorial, together with a seat, and a curb stone to be placed in front, to discourage vehicular parking, has been rejected due to lack of funds. Balfour Beatty was also approached to see if they could assist but as the memorial was off the road there was no safety case which would require them to use their budget and carry out any works.

Consequently, the Bredwardine quarry owner Graham Kirk was approached by Cllr Denis Price and agreed to provide two large stones free of charge. Dennis and Graham delivered and installed the two stones in front of the memorial last week. Their offer and delivery of a solution free of charge is greatly appreciated. The stones have been positioned against the memorial so that no vehicle can park closer than 900mm. This close proximity to the memorial was necessary to ensure farm vehicles can park adjacent to allow traffic to pass, as this is the only lay-by option adjacent to the B4352 for some miles in either direction.

Pot Holes and Drainage

Fine Street was reported in 2016 PC AGM meeting about halfway along its length follows a creek and has become loose gravel across its entire width for some distance and needs re-surfacing. Picture taken and has been added to the list of outstanding repairs.

Orchard Place cul-de-sac road was also reported by a parishioner, as being in poor condition with

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numerous potholes and possible danger to older walkers as there is no footpath. A picture was taken and has been added to the list of outstanding repairs. The road leading to the Church also has a number of potholes that need re-surfacing.

There are some large potholes at the edges of Pentre Lane which need repairs some of which are within the Parish of Bredwardine although the majority are within the Dorstone Parish, again these are in the queue.

Unfortunately, budgets have been cut for road repairs and it maybe some time before these repairs take place. However, it was noted that we seem to be doing a lot better than other areas in Herefordshire for road repairs. Wigmore which is on a main through road going north was used for comparison purposes and has a significant number of large potholes and uneven patch repairs.

Housekeeping

It was reported in PC AGM 2016 that:

- Grass verges are cut too early on Bredwardine Hill stopping the wild flowers from re-seeding. Whilst the work is appreciated can it please be done a couple of weeks later to allow reseeded? This year (2017) the grass verges have not been cut early, possibly because of the dry weather.

- Chemical Spraying around roadside light reflectors removes grass which then allows nettles and weeds to replace the grass. A better solution is required. Chemical spraying has not been carried out this year probably because of a number of complaints from Wyese and other parishes.

Bredwardine Bridge

Wyese Group of Parishes received copies of inspection reports for Bredwardine Bridge and received an undertaking from Balfour Beatty that the structure was safe and did not need a weight restriction to be introduced.

Bicycle Racks

Two bicycle racks have been installed on the old memorial plinth by HC free of charge, opposite the Red Lion Hotel at the request of local residents and for passing cyclists who may want to stop in the village for a break.

3. Concerns Raised by the Public

Footpaths

It was reported that footpath BD8 is in a poor state; and an unsafe stile on this path has been reported to BBLP, but no action has been taken. The unsafe stile is at the top of the steep bank above Fine St, (path begins at Cherry Orchard). There are now 4 stiles on this footpath that need urgent attention. This path is a popular walking route between Arthurs Stone and Bredwardine, which is now becoming impassable to those less agile, and dangerous to all.

Cllr Darbyshire agreed to take an action to discuss these footpaths with Cllr Newsome the footpaths officer, at the next Wyese Parishes meeting 7/06/17.

The Meeting closed at 8-00pm

SIGNED

DATED