

*Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Wyese Group Parish Council held in The Odd House,
Blakemere on Wednesday 1st May 2013 at 8.00pm.*

In attendance

Councillors, J. Williams, A. Rawstone, J Newsome, J Dale, R. Dudman, D Roper, D Price, J Hughes, O Whittall and O. Pugh, plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright, Ward Cllr P Price, and one member of the public

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Julie Williams nominated by Cllr O Pugh and seconded by Cllr O Whittall. Acceptance of Office form signed

2. Election of Vice Chair

Cllr Owen Whittall nominated by Cllr J Williams and seconded by Cllr D Price. Acceptance of Office form signed

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr S Whittall

At this point tribute was paid to Frank Hancorn, who had been a Parish Councillor for Tyberton for many years, and had recently passed away. The councillors stood and observed a minutes silence in memory of him and his contribution to the Parish Council and village life.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. To approve previous minutes held on 3rd April 2013 and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 3rd April 2013, were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

6. Report of North Ward County Councillor

Cllr P Price gave details of the Golden Valley Ward Report. He highlighted some points as follows:-

The budgetary impact was rapidly being felt at Herefordshire Council. The reduction in funding would have a major impact on decisions as to what services would be provided and by whom. The new CEO, Alistair Neal, had requested an immediate review of all services and comparisons against budgets to see if they were deliverable. It was looking likely that 300 FTE posts would need to be shed from the workforce in the next 12 to 18 months. There are no reserves of money to permit stalling in regard to action which must be taken immediately. The Council cannot afford to operate the same level of service with the high level of cuts to its budget. There is a high level of Adult Social care requirement and demand for this is increasing. The Council will need to pare down the operation, to include essential services, and this will mean cuts to subsidies for items such as Arts and Leisure whilst concentration will be given to adult social and vulnerable people care, child safeguarding and business growth. The condition of the County's roads is proving to have an impact on resources, with a £20 million per annum spend required to maintain the status quo. Any new company taking on the maintenance role will be required to pledge £20 million in order to bring the roads back to standard when taking on the contract. It is hoped that when the contract is finalised there will be an improvement in the potholes and general road conditions that are being experienced currently. There will be a focus on digital management of services going forward with less face to face contact to permit more efficient ways of doing business.

7. Planning

The details of the licence application for Bycross Farm were circulated on the information sheet. The licence terms have been granted and it will now be a matter of ensuring that conditions do not deteriorate in terms of littering etc.

8. Council Vacancies

There were still two vacancies for Moccas. Councillors are trying to see if someone will be willing to stand.

9. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Three councillors attended the update meeting held at the Town Hall on the 23rd April. The meeting proved to be interesting and Cllr Rawstone proposed that the Council purchase a large Size 0 map of the parishes to use for marking and reference purposes at meetings regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. The cost of the map would be £22.00 with a further £18 to laminate it, £40 in total. The purchase was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Newsome. Cllr Rawstone would order the map. There would now be a requirement to organise the next meeting, set up a steering group and compose a questionnaire. The purpose of the plan are, amongst other things, to aim for people to have better chances in life, encourage active citizenship, tackle problems and create improved rural and urban environments. There is a wish to encourage sustainability and more rural business enterprise all everyone, including young people. Flyers would be designed to publicise objectives and coffee mornings and other activities would be arranged to reach all age groups and members of the community.

10. Lengthsman To advise works for the Lengthsman

No additional items to advise other than those communicated to Russell Montague previously.

11. Roads To report on highway issues

The collapsed culvert between the ponds at Tyberton had still not been fixed. Clerk to stress to Amey that it was their responsibility to arrange for the repair as it was affecting the Highway for which they have the maintenance contract. Clerk to write in this regard and copy in the Chair and Cllr P Price.

The lamentable state of the roads between the parishes and Hay on Wye was noted and the upcoming festival which contributes so much to the local economy would be a good reason for the poor state of the roads to be addressed. There is a problem with pot holes on the B4352 by the first bank going from the "Weston" towards Hay and about 400m from the Weston. There is a nasty pothole about 3 feet round by 6 inches deep about 300 yards before the railway bridge at Clifford on the Hay road. More potholes are on Pentre Lane at the top of the pitch, being on the Dorstone side of the top.

12. Footpaths To report on footpath issues

To elect Footpath Officers and Cllrs Pugh and Newsome kindly agreed to continue in the role, jointly serving the five parish areas. No further issues noted.

13. Correspondence

As per information sheet

14. To approve accounts

It was resolved to approve the accounts and payments as detailed here. Payments proposed by JW and seconded DP. Carried.

Opening balance

Balance of current account on last statement 21/03/13 £5682.75
Receipts £0.00
Payments Clerk £196.70 (salary £163.20, travel £13.50 home office £20.00)

Tax £40.80
AON UK Limited PC Insurance £712.45

15. Annual Return and Internal Audit

Papers had been received from Grant Thornton for the end of year audit. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Rawstone on these items.

16. Matters raised by members for next Agenda

Annual Audit and end of year accounts, Neighbourhood Plan, Donation for Newsletter, plus to check re the lane on B4352 near to the Council houses at Bredwardine with Cllr S Whittall and Cllr D Price, as it appears to be blocked by undergrowth and requires clearance, (ascertain responsibility for this).

17. To confirm date of next Meeting and discuss Annual Meetings for each Parish

The next main meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Wednesday 5th June at the Village Hall, Moccas at 8.00pm.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

SIGNED

DATED