

Minutes of the Meeting of Wyese Group Parish Council held in The Odd House, Blakemere, on Wednesday 6th February 2013 at 7.30pm.

In attendance

Councillors, J. Williams, A. Rawstone, O. Whittall, D. Price, J Hughes, J Newsome, J Dale, R. Dudman and O. Pugh, plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright, Ward Cllr P Price, CSO Witcher and 2 members of the public

The Vice Chair, Cllr Williams, was in the Chair in the absence of Cllr. S Whittall. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Williams explained that Cllr S. Whittall had resigned from her position as Chair but was remaining as a Parish Councillor. Cllr Williams then formally advised everyone of the sad news that Cllr Lawrie Whittall had passed away. She said that he would be a sad loss to the Parish Council and tribute was paid to his contribution over the many years that he had been a Parish Councillor.

1. Apologies

Cllr S Whittall and Cllr D Roper

2. Declarations of Interest and election of Chair and Vice Chair

None declared at this point. Declaration of Interest forms were handed out to new councillors for completion and to be returned at the next meeting. There then followed the election of new Chair Julie Williams, proposed by Cllr O Whittall and seconded by Cllr D Price. Vice Chair: Owen Whittall proposed by Cllr O Pugh and seconded by Cllr J Hughes.

CSO Witcher gave an update re local policing issues at this point. She said that it had been relatively quiet over the Christmas and New Year period. Most issues had been around break-ins to outbuildings, such as sheds and garages, and the theft of tools and power tools. There was some concern over the structure of policing going forward but there would be a retained police presence based in Peterchurch.

3. To approve previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 5th December 2012, were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4. Report of North Ward County Councillor

Cllr P Price began by paying tribute to Cllr Lawrie Whittall. Cllr Whittall had been on the Council since the early 1970's and had represented Moccas Parish. He held the post of Chair for 29 years and Cllr Price described him as "one of the best community minded people ever and...a fantastic person to work with....the community owes him a great vote of thanks....he supported everyone through thick and thin". We will miss Cllr Lawrie Whittall and his highly valued contribution to the Parish Council.

Cllr Price explained that some money had been released from next year's funding to help to address some of the pressing road issues, namely on C and unclassified roads which had deteriorated alarmingly due, in no small part, to the unprecedented poor weather conditions. He also explained about the budget position for Herefordshire Council and described some of the measures that had been presented to Cabinet. There had been a public consultation held and a good proportion of people had taken time to put their views forward as to how the budget position, with reducing funds available, could be addressed. Council Tax would be increased by 1.9%. Cllr Price invited people to contact him with any questions they may have.

5. Planning

Notification received 1) Site: Haystone Orchard, Preston on Wye, Hereford, HR2 9JX
Description: Construction of a double garage Application No: S130044/FH

Grid Ref: OS. 338074, 241611 Application type: Full householder
The Council resolved to support the application.

6. Council Vacancies

There were two vacancies for Moccas. The Clerk would contact Herefordshire Council in regard to the vacancies. The vacancies to be published in the Link and the Pump publications.

7. Neighbourhood Plan Update

A Service Level Agreement (SLA) had been received from Samantha Banks. This detailed the service that would be provided by the Local Authority in regards to the Neighbourhood Plan. This was circulated and would be approved, and signed, when agreed at the next meeting. A Steering Group would be required. Cllr Rawstone again kindly agreed to help. A list of attendees of the meeting held at Moccas Village Hall on 31/10/12 would be contacted to see if they would like to form part of the Steering Group. Cllr Williams to obtain list from Cllr S. Whittall and co-ordinate e mails with Cllr. Rawstone. Adverts, to encourage people to join in, would be requested to be placed in the Pump and Link under each village's section.

8. Donations for Churchyard maintenance

It was resolved to make a donation to the Parish Churches of each of the five villages, Bredwardine, Moccas, Blakemere, Tyberton and Preston on Wye, in the sum of £150.00 for each Church to help with churchyard maintenance expenses. Proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Rawstone and was carried unanimously. The amount of the donations would be discussed, at the appropriate time, to determine how much they would be the next time around (2014).

9. Lengthsman To advise works for the Lengthsman

The Lengthsman Co-ordinator, Russell Montague, had been involved in a productive "Parish Walk" meeting on 5/02/13 with the Amey contractors and together they had identified and agreed a number of remedial tasks that would be undertaken. There would be pressure hosing of blocked drains and clearance of ditches, gullies and grips and also pothole filling. It was stated that it would be necessary to "lean" on landowners to please clear their ditches, where possible, as blocked ditches were contributing to flooding issues. It was reported that pipe dimensions were inadequate, in some places, and that a leaning telegraph pole had been reported to British Telecom. Issues on Pentre Lane, with flooding and road disintegration, had also been highlighted. Thanks were extended to Russell for his time and trouble in meeting with Amey and for demonstrating where the issues are to them.

10. Roads To report on highway issues

It was reported that there was a bad piece of road past Bredwardine Bridge going left towards Letton at junction of the corner by "Gypsy Lane". This would fall under Staunton Parish's jurisdiction but the Clerk would let Amey know about it. The Clerk highlighted some helpful information from Cllr Graham Powell (Ward Councillor for Golden Valley South) who had sent a comprehensive reply regarding road issues, namely potholes, and measures being implemented to try to help deal with them.

11. Footpaths To report on footpath issues

A wooden footpath fingerpost, previously located between Ploughfield and Preston on Wye Church and opposite the tennis court, had "disappeared". Clerk would advise Jonathan Roger at Amey of this.

12. Correspondence

These were acknowledged as per information sheet and included resignation letter, as Chair, from Cllr S. Whittall and SLA from Herefordshire Council for the Neighbourhood Plan.

13. To approve accounts

It was resolved to approve the accounts and payments as detailed here.

Opening balance	£ 6345.34	
	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>£0.10</i>
	<i>Payments</i>	<i>Clerk £333.14 Tax £68.20,</i>
Closing Balance	£ 5944.10	

14. Matters raised by members for next Agenda

Neighbourhood Plan, Parish Council vacancies

15. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 6th March 2013 in the Village Hall, Preston on Wye at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.15pm

SIGNED

DATED