

Minutes of the Meeting of Wyese Group Parish Council held in The Village Hall, Preston on Wye, on Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at 7.30pm.

In attendance

Councillors J Dale, J Hughes, D Roper, D Price, R Dudman, O Pugh, O Whittall, J Newsome, N Bowen and A Rawstone plus Parish Clerk Mrs A M Wright, Ward Cllr. P Price, PC Wendy Powell (for part), (Russell Montague) Lengthsman Co-ordinator, new councillor Hannah Smith and three members of the public

1. Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs S Whittall and A Clipson. At this point a new councillor for Tyberton Parish was co-opted. She is Mrs Hannah Smith. Proposed by Cllr Dale and seconded by Cllr Roper. Cllr Smith then signed her Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interest papers. A warm welcome was extended to Hannah.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared at this point.

Open Session

There were no matters raised.

3. To approve previous Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 5th November 2014 were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4. Report of PC Wendy Powell

PC Powell reported that things had been relatively quiet on the “theft” front but that there had been one report of a theft from a shed in Middlewood. Help was being sought for information on a number of instances of lamping and poaching, with activities being carried out openly in various areas, including Madley, Moccas and Hay. It was thought that in some cases the activities could be used as a diversion for other crimes occurring “behind the scenes”. There had been a case of sheep worrying at Vowchurch and a number of sheep have died, or will probably die, as a result of the incident. The police are continuing to stop and search drivers, of any vehicle considered suspicious, and the public are urged to report any suspicions and registration numbers where there may be a concern. These numbers are followed up and the registered keeper will be asked to explain why a vehicle was in a certain vicinity etc. The PC was not at liberty to disclose any particular information about drivers who had been stopped and why.

Report of North Ward County Councillor

Ward Cllr P Price gave his report, which can be read in his separate report entry. The Ward Councillor explained further regarding the inspection of the lodged Core Strategy and said that the Inspector had a list of questions for the Council which were currently confidential. There will be a public examination of the papers arranged for 10/02/15. There have been some material changes made to the conditions relating to urban housing developments in that going forward any development of urban housing of up to ten properties will not need to have any element of affordable housing provision attached to it. The Core Strategy, to which all Neighbourhood Plans will need to align, will effectively have now had the “gate post moved”.

There was an update on the relief road and the plans had been called in to the Scrutiny Committee for review about the decision and the future of the proposals. There had been issues raised about the route, ancient woodlands and botanical species. Ultimately the decision to build the road could be overturned and if delays persisted then it was possible that the Council would enter the period of

“purdah” in the run up to the May elections and would not be able to progress any decisions taken by the current administration in the lead up period. Further details can be read in the Ward Councillor’s separate account.

5. Planning

There had not been any further applications received.

6. Lengthsman To report on lengthsman issues

Works were ongoing and further invoices were presented. The Lengthsman had been working up Bredwardine Hill. There had been an amount of ditching works undertaken and clearance and grips inserted and Bill Montague of RB Montague and Sons said that the works were to be a gift to the parishes and no payment would be due. This very generous gesture was greeted with gratitude and appreciation by the Parish Council and many thanks were conveyed. At this point, the Lengthsman Co-ordinator announced his decision to stand down from the role. Many thanks were recorded for all of his work over the past years. A replacement Co-ordinator would be sought and an advert placed for this role. The Parish Council would assume responsibility for the co-ordination, in each parish area, until a new person was appointed. There would be “parish walks” arranged with Linzy Outtrim the Locality Steward to co-ordinate responses and to be proactive in dealing with issues. After consideration and discussion of the Lengthsman Funding scheme, and assigned base grant amount per annum of £1919.00, it was proposed that the amount contributed by the Parish Council should be £1200.00 and this would then be match funded by the Council to give an overall Lengthsman Budget for 2015/2016 of £4319.00. This additional sum would be reflected in the precept requested. Proposed by Cllr Dale and seconded by Cllr Roper. Carried.

7. Roads To report on road issues

A number of issues were reported and the respective councillors gave their mobile phone numbers to be passed to Linzy Outtrim for her attention of the matters:

- Blocked drain in Bredwardine from the new cottages towards the “Weston”
- Road on the way to Clifford approx 100 yards past the “Lions Den” breaking up
- Upper Bellamore Farm pipe needs replacing
- Moccas Deer Park gullies require opening up
- Dorstone Hill pipes blocked

8. Footpaths To report on footpath issues

The “way-mark” signs as obtained by the Footpath Officer were being put up and a further number were now in place.

9. Correspondence

The items were noted as per the information sheet and included information concerning how to obtain assistance with keeping warm in winter via information provided by Herefordshire Council. Call 0800 677 1432 (free from landlines) or e mail khw@mea.org.uk for advice and information about grants for heating and insulation, cheaper fuel bills, dealing with installers, making your home more energy efficient and The Energy Company Obligation and Green Deal.

There was also an update on transport usage, for the parishes, by Dore Community Transport with a total of 79 journeys being reported for the last twelve months.

10. To approve accounts

It was resolved to approve the accounts and payments as detailed here. Proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Whittall. Carried

Statement balance at 24 Oct 2014 £9144.26

Receipts £193.50 Reimbursement re Neighbourhood Plan front runner fund

*Payments Clerk £382.44(salary £298.55, travel £37.53, home office £40.00 (Dec/Jan), stamps £6.36)
The Post Office (Tax) £11.00, Moccas Hall (Room hire) £49.50, Lengthsman £189.00 and Lengthsman Co-ordinator £19.20 plus prize fund for draw £255.00*

NB. It was advised at this point that two cheques, issued at the November meeting, had been misplaced. These would be cancelled and once confirmation of this had been received, they would be re-issued.

11. Neighbourhood Plan Meeting update and minutes of meetings

The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held on 19th November were signed as a true and correct record. Martin Winrow, The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Vice-Chair, then updated the meeting regarding what was happening with the Plan and said that there had been an 80% return of forms. There would now be a lot of work to complete to turn the data into an outcome and some results would hopefully be known by the end of January 2015. Many thanks were recorded to all of the Team for their work in distributing the questionnaires, collecting them, and also a very big thank you to Martin for entering the data from the forms and all of his hard work on the project. At this point the Prize Draw was held in front of all members and public present with the Parish Clerk drawing the winning tickets from all those who had entered at random. The Prizes were drawn as follows:

Young Persons: 1st Prize £50.00 to Jedd Carpenter, 2nd Prize £20.00 to James Carter, 3rd Prize £10.00 to Martha Davey

Adult: 1st Prize £100 to Charlie Amos, 2nd Prize £50 to Roy Minter and 3rd Prize £25 to D. Smith

It was agreed that Cllr Whittall would draw the cash and present the prizes to the winners. Cllr Whittall was issued with a cheque for £255.00 to cover all of the prizes.

12. Budget and precept 2015/2016

Following discussion, and mindful of commitments to be made to the continuation of the Lengthsman Scheme, as agreed under item 6, it was proposed by Cllr Whittall and seconded by Cllr D Price that the precept be raised to £7700.00. This was resolved and carried unanimously. The Precept Request Form was signed by the Chair and Clerk and would be forwarded to the Accountancy Team at Herefordshire Council.

13. To discuss new Lengthsman Grant amount re matched funding

This item was discussed under Item 6 and proposal recorded for 2015/2016 funding.

14. Financial Regulations – New Model

The Chair would ask if Cllr Clipson could review the Financial Regulations revised model for suitability with a view to the adoption of the contents, at a subsequent meeting, once this was completed.

15. Matters raised by members for the next agenda

Financial Regulations, New Lengthsman Co-ordinator.

At this point in the meeting, concern was raised regarding the state of the village green area in Preston near to Thatch Close and Huntley Court. The grass was being parked on and becoming muddy. It was agreed that a note should be sent to the Link and Pump to request that drivers try to park with care to minimise damage to the grass.

A “thank you” message would be inserted to the Link and Pump, by kind permission of the Editorial Teams, to thank the Village Green Mowers and also Russell Montague for his work as Lengthsman Co-ordinator and the firm of RB Montague & Sons for carrying out recent drainage

works, in the parishes, free of any charge as a gift to the parishes.

16. Date of next meeting

The next main meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Wednesday 4th February 2015 at the Village Hall, Moccas, at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

SIGNED

DATED