

*Minutes of the Meeting of Wyese Group Parish Council held in The Village Hall, Moccas, on
Wednesday 3rd June 2015 at 8.00pm.*

In attendance

Councillors J Hughes, J. Newsome, A Clipson, R Collins, O Pugh, H Smith, N Bowen, O Whittall and A Rawstorne (from 9.10pm) plus Parish Clerk Mrs A M Wright and Ward Cllr. P Price

1. Apologies for absence and co-option of councillor(s) plus signing of forms

Apologies had been received from Cllrs D Price and J Dale. Cllrs D Roper and S Whittall not present. Hannah Smith was co-opted as a Parish Councillor, proposed by Cllr O Whittall and seconded by Cllr J Newsome. Cllr Smith signed her Acceptance of Office as a Councillor Form and her Notice of Registrable Interests Form.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve previous minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting held on 13th May 2015 and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting, the Annual meeting of the Parish Council, held on 13th May 2015 were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4. Report of North Ward Councillor

Ward Cllr Price had not written his monthly report, as at the date of the Meeting, so he gave an overview of the Planning Process and highlighted in particular some current contentious planning issues, including the proposals for huge volume chicken farming sheds in the County. He explained about the options for prospective applicants to obtain pre-planning advice, for a fee, from the Planning Department which can provide useful guidance as to what may or may not be acceptable in regard to the planning application being considered. There are some occasions where pre-planning advice would not be required and the Planning Department would be able to advise people on this. The Parish Council is the first tier of local government and as such is a valuable resource in terms of helping to assist with planning matters by conferring and commenting on applications and providing information to applicants about the process where appropriate.

5. Planning

There had been one application to consider:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS:	151433 - The Standards Farm, Moccas, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 9LE
DESCRIPTION:	Proposed two storey extension to rear. Proposed demolition of existing infill structure and rebuilding forming additional living accommodation.
APPLICANT(S):	Mr & Mrs F Chester-Master
GRID REF:	OS 335177, 242615
APPLICATION TYPE:	Full Householder

The Parish Council considered the application and commented that they had no objections to raise in regard to it.

6. Lengthsman - To advise works for the Lengthsman

The schedule of verge cutting had been revised from one cut to two this year and was in progress. It was felt to be prudent to see where the gaps are and ask the Lengthsman to trim these once the main cut had been executed. The Lengthsman had been carrying out his routine works and an invoice had been received for payment. There were some road signs requiring washing and repair. Letters were missing from some of the Tyberton signs. These would be identified and reported.

7. Roads - To report on highway issues and latest information from Balfour Beatty
Update on badgers at Popes Place

There had been a change in the approach regarding the badgers at Popes Place from Balfour Beatty. They would not be applying for a Defra Licence to “interfere” with the badgers. The householder had been advised of the decision made. The householder had commented the decision and had thanked the Parish Council for their assistance, as provided.

It was commented that a lot of signs and barriers etc. are left at the side of the road once jobs have been completed and they are not then picked up. The Clerk would advise the Locality Steward concerning this. There were still a number of gullies requiring clearance in Moccas in particular past Cross End Farm.

There were still ongoing issues in the neighbouring parish concerning the B438 through to Letton Road, with poor road surface at Gypsy Lane and also the problem of overhanging trees. Ward Cllr Price advised that the resurfacing of this stretch was scheduled for this year.

The Moccas Parish Meeting had identified some issues at the bottom of Dorestone Hill and the road junction at the bottom close to the Red Lion Public House. The road markings had worn away and there was no adequate signage to denote the road set up. There was a fear that an accident may occur due to people not being able to see the road configuration, or any lines or sign, where they should stop etc. A “Give Way” sign is required and new white lining. There are also some deep drains and pot holes on the road which are causing issues. The whole set up of the junction and road would be highlighted for attention in terms of repairs, signage, and new white lining.

There had been an issue regarding the black poplar tree on the Village Green at Blakemere. The tree had shed a large bough and a concerned resident had reported this to the Parish Clerk on the bank holiday weekend. The Clerk had visited the site and evaluated the situation, making an emergency call out request to the Public Realm Provider, Balfour Beatty for an urgent assessment of the situation. There was the added concern of the forthcoming Blakemere Fete being held on the 7th June in the vicinity of the tree. The Parish Council were informed of the situation by an e mail from the Clerk and a call was made to the neighbouring councillor to discuss the situation, also by the Clerk. Following a number of e mails and conversations, the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward communicated that: “I have inspected the tree, and arranged for its removal within 28 days. I know that the fete is planned for the 7th June, and have noted that in the request for work, but unfortunately can’t guarantee that the work will be completed by then. We spoke with Mr Oscar Pugh, on site, who said he was happy to fence off the area under the tree to ensure that the fete was safe; he also suggested that an alternative venue for the fete might be found – is this possible?”

An alternative venue was identified. The cordon fencing was carried out by Balfour Beatty. It was subsequently extended when it was realised that the canopy was not encompassed by the ground fencing. If further pieces had fallen off they would have been outside the fence line.

There was a discussion over the decision to contact Balfour Beatty and an explanation as to why this had been done was given in that Balfour Beatty is the Public Realm Highway provider for Herefordshire Council. Being the weekend, and with a potentially dangerous situation in hand, the Clerk had taken the steps to try to safeguard the interests of the public, as soon as possible. The Parish Council were kept up to date with the actions and the Chair was in contact with the Clerk over the actions taken. Cllr Pugh did ask that if the tree were removed then the stump be ground down completely. There was a suggestion that a new tree could be planted in its stead.

8. Footpaths - To report on footpaths issues

The Footpath Officer described an issue of overgrowth on the footpath between Byecross and Preston. The path had been used by persons, amongst others, walking from Byecross to the Yew Tree Public House in Preston. There was a particular stretch that was overgrown with nettles and it was agreed that the Chair would meet with the Footpath Officer and the Lengthsman to discuss clearing the obscured path. The possibility of a finger post pointing the route would also be discussed.

9. Correspondence - Refer to information sheet

There had been a communication from the Pensions Regulator regarding the forthcoming legislation regarding the provision of workplace pensions. The Clerk had registered her contact address for further communications on this matter. There had been a Police Bulletin detailing current crime trends and this included a break in and theft of numerous tools, including Stihl chain saws, from a workshop at the Clerk's address in Kingstone.

10. To approve accounts

It was resolved to approve the accounts and payments as detailed here. Proposed by Cllr O Whittall and seconded by Cllr. O. Pugh. Carried
Statement balance at April 2015 £11564.99

<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Precept + lengthsman grant £5474.50, VAT refund £234.70</i>
<i>Payments</i>	<i>Clerk £428.20(salary £370.78, travel £27.45, home office (June) £20.00, stationery £9.97) The Post Office (tax) £4.60 Lengthsman £487.35</i>

11. Neighbourhood Plan Meetings update and Minutes of Meetings

There had been a further Steering Group Meeting held on the 20th May. The draft Plan was really taking shape now and illustrations and maps were being incorporated. There would be a further meeting held on Wednesday 10th June at Moccas from 7.30pm and there would be a "walk through" of the latest edition of the draft Plan. A lot of work has gone into getting it to where it is and this is highly appreciated. All are very welcome to come along and see how things are developing. Representation from Blakemere and Tyberton Parishes would be appreciated as the other group parishes, Bredwardine, Moccas and Preston on Wye, are represented by current Steering Group members. Consultants would be asked to finish the legal planning part of the Plan and a referendum would be held for all parishioners to vote on the finalised Plan's potential adoption. The Minutes of the Meeting, held on the 20th May, were signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

12. Preston on Wye Tennis Club update

Cllr Rawstone updated the Meeting that he had produced a sheet for inclusion with the Village Pump plus a statement regarding how to become a member etc. Cllr Bowen commented that she is a current member of the Club.

13. To receive any update re Voluntary Transport Options

Cllr Rawstone had contacted Community Wheels to advise how they might approach the Parish Council with a request for funding. Dore Community Transport and Hay Dial a Ride were already in annual contact regarding funding requests.

14. Matters raised by members for the next agenda

All usual items plus Bredwardine cycle rack and Monument wall seat proposals

15. Date of next meeting

To confirm date of the next Meeting, the Annual Statutory Meeting as Wednesday 8th July 2015 at The Village Hall, Preston on Wye, at 8.00pm

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

SIGNED

DATED