

*Minutes of the Meeting of Wyeside Group Parish Council held in The Village Hall, Moccas, on  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 at 8.00pm*

**In attendance**

Councillors J. Newsome, A. Clipson, R. Collins, O. Pugh, N. Bowen, D. Price, D. Roper, J. Dale, O. Whittall, J Hughes, H. Smith plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright and Ward Cllr. P. Price and PCSO Fiona Witcher for part

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr A. Rawstorne and Cllr S Whittall was not present.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**PCSO Fiona Witcher** was in attendance and she gave an update on local crime. There had been some tarmac layers in the area. The car park at the Seven Stars Public House had their car park done. There was a theft from a locked container on the site at around the same time and this was discovered after the workers had left the site although there is no actual proven link between the tarmac layers and the theft. She updated regarding Countryside 999 who would be filming locally. A colleague, Tom, was currently on a course to become a wildlife officer. A cautionary tale was relayed regarding possible bogus meter readers. A theft took place following entry to a shed where a combination lock was in use, the owner of the shed had not long since shown a “meter reader” inside the shed to read the meter. The lock was found opened and the combination must have been used to do this. This was a reminder to all of the importance to always check and, if necessary, verify the ID of unknown callers.

There was a discussion on the forthcoming organised cycle race on the 19<sup>th</sup> September and a reminder of the Ploughing Match at Lower Moccas Farm on the same day. PCSO Witcher explained how a rolling road block and stewards would be used to endeavour to keep things running smoothly during the cycle race trials.

There was a quick update regarding cuts to the force. PCSO Witcher would still be in post. A concern was raised regarding an incident late at night where vehicles were observed in Tyberton and there were “persons” unknown shining lights up to the houses. A white van and green pickup had been sighted but there was some issue with the registration numbers and the vehicles had not been traced.

Thanks were conveyed to PCSO Witcher and she left the meeting at 8.20pm.

**3. To approve previous minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and matters arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council, held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015, were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting with the addition of the tree specialist name of Jerry Ross under item 7. There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere.

**4. Report of North Ward Councillor**

Ward Cllr. Price gave a resume of this report. He updated the meeting regarding the legislation on mud on roads and the liability that could be incurred if mud were to be a contributory factor in an accident and it was proven that the road had not been cleared following mud dispersal. A statement by Balfour Beatty had been produced. It was also noted that prosecution could follow if mud was proved to be a contributory factor in an accident.

Cllr Price explained about an important Questionnaire that had been produced by Herefordshire Council to seek the opinions on different suggestions on how money could be saved or generated. He asked that everyone take the time to complete the Questionnaire and copies were handed round

to facilitate this. It was hoped that rural areas as well as others would feed back into the process so that all differing areas could be fully represented when decisions are subsequently taken. There were still large and ongoing savings required and challenges to some of the responsibility requirements, made of the Local Authority by Central Government, were being instigated. There were some comments regarding road repairs and pot hole filling where efforts made had not achieved a very satisfactory outcome in Shenmore. There was just no spare cash in the system to sort out repairs and there was a complaint that roads seem to be repaired when they do not really need to be. This is because of planned scheduling under a maintenance action program. It was also commented that lots of road signs that have been used are simply left on site. This was described as both wasteful and messy. The Clerk would alert the Locality Steward, in general, regarding the signs that are not being collected back in.

## **5. Planning**

There had been one application to consider:

<b>APPLICATION NO &amp; SITE ADDRESS:</b>	<b>152382 - Sheep Pastures Farm, Vowchurch, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 0ST</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>Proposed extension to kitchen and replacement front entrance porch. To include new entry level toilet, new window at first floor level and replacement windows.</b>
<b>APPLICANT(S):</b>	<b>Mr &amp; Mrs Ben and Mimi Chester-Master</b>
<b>GRID REF:</b>	<b>OS 337592, 238335</b>
<b>APPLICATION TYPE:</b>	<b>Full Householder</b>

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

It was noted that some seemingly inappropriate windows had been fitted into a listed property, in one of the group parishes, and this was under Planning Enforcement enquiry.

## **6. Lengthsman - To advise works for the Lengthsman**

An invoice for works carried out in May, June and July had been received and presented for payment. The Chair read out the actions taken including grass cutting and hemlock removal. The invoice was approved with the other payments as presented.

An issue was reported near to Forge House in Tyberton where the ditch was full/ not functioning and when downpours had occurred the road had quickly become flooded and with no means of escape for the water. This would also be discussed by Cllr Whittall and Cllr Roper with the Locality Steward.

## **7. Roads - To report on highway issues and latest information from Balfour Beatty**

Kinley Lane was cited. The drain is not running there and this would be added to the list for the Locality Steward. The ditching issues by the Moccas sign entering the village from Blakemere direction and the potential for flooding on the road were ongoing and would also be included. Cllr D Price reported that the lay-by road surface near to the Weston Farm Buildings had suffered erosion as the area was often underwater, and not therefore visible, this could be a hazard for drivers using the lay-by as a pull-in.

The white lining at the junction in Bredwardine had been renewed but the signage issues were unresolved.

The road sign to Hay, in Blakemere, was pointing to Preston on Wye and not to Hay.

To consider quotations and any matters relating to the Black Poplar Tree at Blakemere. Three quotations had been received and these were reviewed by the Parish Council. The Report by Jerry Ross had made some recommendations regarding possible crown reduction in the first instance although quotations for both this and total removal of the tree had been sought. Following discussion it was resolved that:

- An Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting would be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm, at the Blakemere Village Green, to discuss the options for the tree with the residents of Blakemere, as may wish to attend.
- Once the action(s) had been decided the preferred quotation would be selected
- The Extraordinary Meeting would be advertised by a notice in the Link, Pump, notice boards and by flyers to be delivered to all households in Blakemere. Cllrs Collins and Pugh kindly agreed to deliver the flyers. The Clerk to arrange the publicity and provide the flyers and notices.
- Copies of the Tree Report, by Jerry Ross, would be available electronically upon request to the Clerk.

#### **8. Footpaths - To report on footpaths issues**

The Footpath Officer stated that the Byecross to Preston on Wye Footpath Meeting had not yet taken place. This site would be included when the Locality Steward Parish Walk was arranged with the Chair. The Locality Steward had been back in touch but the meeting needed to be confirmed. The Footpath Officer would be carrying out stile clearance as an ongoing action.

#### **9. Correspondence - Refer to information sheet**

The correspondence received was noted and included Neighbourhood Watch initiative correspondence which was discussed and felt to be already in place, with community members looking out for one another. HALC training and information updates had been circulated along with police bulletins and Council news.

#### **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 July 2015 £8,237.34

<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Nil</i>
<i>Payments</i>	<i>Clerk £457.14(salary £386.05, travel £29.25, home office (Aug/Sept) £40.00, postage £1.84)</i>
	<i>The Post Office (Tax) £59.80</i>
	<i>Grant Thornton Audit £120.00</i>
	<i>Lengthsman £521.00</i>
	<i>Moccas Village Hall (room hire) £15.00</i>

#### **11. Neighbourhood Plan Meetings update and Minutes of Meetings**

There had been further Steering Group Meetings held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July and the 12<sup>th</sup> August. The draft plan was really taking shape and a lot of hard work had gone into getting it ready for an approach to consultants who had been invited to tender to finalise the plan ready for presentation to the consulting bodies. Five consultants had been contacted and responses were starting to be received. Once an idea of likely costs has been ascertained then grant funding can be applied for. The Minutes of these Meetings were signed as true and correct records of the Meetings. The next Meeting of the Steering Group would be on the 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at Moccas.

#### **12. To consider advertising regarding replacement Editor for The Pump**

Cllr Collins reported that a new Editor had been recruited, Liz Hassler, and she would be joining Shirley Collins to continue to produce the editions of the Village Pump. This news was received

with thanks to all concerned.

**13. Bredwardine cycle rack and Monument wall seat proposals**

This item would be on the next agenda.

**14. Community Governance Review – to consider any preliminary response**

It was commented that ongoing bureaucracy puts people off being a councillor. The Register of Interest Form was particularly unpopular. It was stated that if the review were not to take place this would save money. Wyese Group Parish Council believes that they are “happy as they are and wish to be left alone”.

**15. Matters raised by members for the next agenda**

All usual items plus Bredwardine cycle rack and Monument wall seat proposals plus Citizens Advice Bureau re possible attendance for information and Black Poplar Tree update

**16. Date of next meeting**

To confirm date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting as Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at The Village Hall, Preston on Wye, at 8.00pm

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

SIGNED .....

DATED .....