

Minutes of the Meeting of Wyese Group Parish Council held in The Village Hall, Preston on Wye, on Wednesday 2nd December 2015 at 7.30pm

In attendance

Councillors O. Pugh, D. Price, J. Dale, A. Rawstorne, H. Smith, O. Whittall, A. Clipson, N. Bowen J. Newsome, R. Collins, D. Roper and J. Hughes plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Ward Cllr P Price. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Vice Chair, Cllr Dale, for chairing the November Meeting. He then acknowledged the resignation of Cllr S Whittall who had spent nearly two decades serving as a Parish Councillor, representing Bredwardine Parish. Sue said that she had greatly enjoyed her time on the Parish Council but was now going to be moving on. The Parish Council gratefully acknowledged the contribution that Cllr Whittall had made and a huge “thank you” for all of her work was recorded. The Clerk would write to Sue to formally thank her, on behalf of the Parish, for all of her work for the community and to wish her all the very best for the future in whatever she decides to do. There would now be a vacancy for a parish councillor for Bredwardine and the Clerk would advise Electoral Services of this.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve previous minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 4th November 2015 and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council, held on 4th November 2015 were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

4. Report of North Ward Councillor

Ward Cllr. Price had sent his apologies. He would be sending a report to follow.

5. Planning

There had been one new application to consider.

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| APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: | 152844 - The Smithy Cottage, Moccas, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 9LB |
| DESCRIPTION: | Replacement of windows including making the window opening smaller to the rear. Replacement of the roof covering to the single storey element attached to the rear elevation. Removal of an internal partition to a first floor bedroom.(Retrospective) |
| APPLICANT(S): | Mr Ben Williams |
| GRID REF: | OS 335498, 242477 |
| APPLICATION TYPE: | Listed Building Consent |

The Parish Council discussed the retrospective application and there were some concerns regarding the fitting of appropriate windows, at the property, which would be conveyed to the Planning Department.

6. Lengthsman - To advise works for the Lengthsman

Cllr Whittall would be liaising with the lengthsman and it was agreed that a parish walk would be arranged with the Locality Steward and the lengthsman to look at the local issues. The Clerk had

attended a meeting with Balfour Beatty. Lengthsman funding would hopefully, subject to approval, be staying the same for the scheme next year and with the matched funding portion capped at 2015/2016 rates.

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

The issues at Hacton Lane, Preston on Wye were on the list for attention. A grit bin had been up-ended and the grit spilt at Holywell (on the road between Blakmere and Preston). There were still signs requiring collection dotted around and included temporary signage as used during repair works at Preston Brook, between Preston and Blakemere. The Clerk would contact the Locality Steward to arrange collection.

Black Poplar Tree at Blakemere – update

Russell Contracting had carried out the crown reduction on the black poplar tree. The invoice had been presented. A running total of spend on the tree would be recorded. It would now be a wait to see how the tree would react to the surgery to remove the large and overhanging branches. Thanks were recorded, to Russell Contracting, for carrying out the works on the tree as requested.

Sandbags – provision of and storage

There had been a request for the consideration of the provision of sandbags for flooding assistance. A discussion followed and it was proposed that a pallet of bags could be requested for storage at Moccas, and at Bredwardine, by kind permission of two farm owners. The Clerk would ask the Ward Cllr if he would be able to perhaps store some sandbags in Preston on Wye. The actual whereabouts of the bags would be advised through the clerk when requested.

8. Footpaths - To report on footpaths issues and look at Tree warden Initiative

The Footpath Officer, Cllr Newsome explained that “way marks” were to be installed at several locations, including Cross End Farm, Moccas, by Balfour Beatty following the meeting with the Locality Steward. There was information about the Tree Warden Scheme and a membership fee of £25.00 could be paid to join this. Cllr Newsome explained some of the activities, such as identifying diseased trees etc. The Parish Councillors decided to have a closer look at what was involved in participating in the scheme and the Clerk would send them the web contact details for the Herefordshire Tree Wardens Network.

A collapsed stile in Bredwardine had been referred for replacement. The details of the landowners had been passed to Balfour Beatty who would contact them to discuss their preferences for a gate or stile at the location.

9. Correspondence - Referring to information sheet

The correspondence received was noted and included: notification from the Lloyds Bank of a reduction in the financial compensation threshold on account holdings, if applicable, from £85,000 to £75,000.

10. To approve accounts

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

Statement balance at October 2015 £10351.58

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| <i>Receipts</i> | <i>Nil</i> |
| <i>Payments</i> | <i>Clerk £607.87(salary £534.48 (travel £33.39, home office (Dec/Jan) £40.00)</i> |
| | <i>The Post Office Ltd (Tax) £133.60</i> |
| | <i>Russell Contracting £456.00</i> |
| | <i>Moccas Village Hall (room hire) £24.00</i> |

Payments proposed by Cllr O. Whittall and seconded by Cllr. D. Price. Carried

It was resolved that Cllr O Whittall should become an account signatory to replace Cllr S Whittall. The Clerk would obtain the forms, as necessary, to effect the changes. Proposed by Cllr J. Newsome and seconded by Cllr. A. Clipson. Carried

11. Neighbourhood Plan Meetings update and Minutes of Meetings

There had been further Steering Group Meeting held on 11th and 25th November 2015.

The next Meeting of the Steering Group would be on Wednesday 6th January 2016 from 7.30pm at Moccas.

Some further modelling of the draft Plan had taken place and it was now, textually, consultant ready. Some photographs had been chosen, and additional ones commissioned, and these would be going into the final plan. The application for grant funding had been completed and was now awaiting a decision.

12. Parish Precept and budget for 2016/2017 to consider and set

The budget was discussed and the proposals for the next year's activities were reviewed. Following consideration, it was proposed that the precept would rise from £7700 to £8300 for the year 2016/2017. The precept was proposed by Cllr Whittall and seconded by Cllr Hughes. Carried. The proposal request form was completed, and signed, and would be sent to the Herefordshire Council.

13. Matters raised by members for the next agenda

All of the usual items would be included, plus the vacancy for a parish councillor for Bredwardine, consideration of donations to the parish churchyards upkeep and village mowers honoraria.

14. Date of next meeting

To confirm date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting as Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at The Village Hall, Moccas, at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

SIGNED

DATED