

Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting of Wyeside Group Parish Council held in The Village Hall, Preston on Wye, on Wednesday 4th May 2016 at 8.00pm

In attendance

Councillors O. Whittall (Chair), J. Dale (Vice Chair), A. Clipson, N. Bowen, J. Newsome, A. Rawstorne, J. Hughes, H. Smith, D. Roper and Ward Cllr P. Price plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright and two members of the public (one being new Councillor - John Darbyshire – co-opted)

1. Co-option of councillors, Election of Chair and receipt of acceptances of office

Mrs A Wright (Clerk) took the chair and asked if there were any candidates for co-option. John Darbyshire was nominated by Cllr Dale and seconded by Cllr Whittall. John Darbyshire was duly co-opted and signed his Acceptance of Office and Registrable Interest Declaration Forms. The Parish Council extended a warm welcome to John as a fellow Parish Councillor, for the Bredwardine Parish, within the Wyeside Group Parish Council.

A request was made for nominations for Chair. Cllr Owen Whittall was proposed by Cllr Dale and seconded by Cllr Roper. There were no other nominations received and Cllr Whittall was duly appointed as Chair. He signed his Acceptance of Office Form.

Cllr Whittall resumed as Chair for the Meeting.

2. Election of Vice Chair and receipt of acceptance of office

A request was made for nominations for Vice Chair. Cllr John Dale was proposed by Cllr Whittall and seconded by Cllr Roper. There was one further nomination received, for Cllr Clipson, but this was declined. Cllr Dale was duly appointed as Vice Chair. He signed his Acceptance of Office Form.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Dennis Price and Roger Collins. Cllr Oscar Pugh was not present. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. To approve previous minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 6th April 2016 and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council, held on 6th April 2016, were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting. There were no matters arising in addition to those covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

6. Report of North Ward Councillor

Ward Cllr. Price summarised his report. He explained the statistical findings of the usage of Bus Route 448 and the findings were that the route was very heavily subsidised. If revenue in relation to subsidy did not increase then the route could be vulnerable and may be withdrawn. The Ward Cllr asked for feedback as to how important the service was to passengers and 2426 passenger journeys had been recorded during the survey period to March 2016.

The Preston on Wye Annual Village Meeting had been held that evening and the other four group villages had arranged their meetings over the next few weeks.

There was an update regarding the provision of gypsy and traveller sites for both residence and transient purposes. It was advised that no sites were currently planned for the Golden Valley North Ward Area.

There was an update on the road building programs for both the City Link and Southern Link Roads. The Southern Link Road application would be considered by the Planning Committee on 6th June 2016. There were details of the objectives and it was noted that the final decision on the size of

the carriageway, single or dual, was to be determined. A question was asked as to whether the overall effect of the building of the road may move the problems of congestion further up the road network and into Shropshire? Further details of matters relayed on all topics can be read in the Ward Cllr's Report.

7. Planning

There had been no new applications to consider.

8. Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Clerk and Cllr Darbyshire updated the meeting regarding the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan Event planned for the 9th June at Moccas Village Hall from 7.00pm and the consultation which would run, regarding the draft plan, for a period of six weeks from the 16th May 2016. The parish councillors were asked to encourage their residents to attend the June Event and to feed back any comments, to the Steering Group, via the published channels. Flyer newsletters were undergoing production for distribution to all properties in the five parishes within the group. There had been a further meeting held on the 20th April and the minutes of the meeting were signed. The next meeting of the Steering Group would be held on May 18th from 7.30pm at Moccas Village Hall. The Parish Council approved the draft plan and thanked the Steering Group for all of their work. The contribution made by Cllr Darbyshire was particularly mentioned as he had put in a considerable amount of work on behalf of the communities to bring the draft plan together. A big "Thank you" was recorded to Cllr Darbyshire.

9. Lengthsman - To advise works for the Lengthsman

Cllr Whittall would liaise with the Lengthsman regarding his regular tasks and ask him to look at the identified issues as follows:

- Drain issue on lane through Upper Bellamore on Hereford side of the lane.
- Three drains at the bottom of Dorestone Hill, by the ditch and hedge, requiring attention including possible clearance of the ditch

If these issues cannot be resolved by the Lengthsman, the Locality Steward will be contacted.

Also: Cllr Whittall would speak to a local resident regarding the placing of stones at the roadside. It was advised that no stones should be placed within 6 feet of the highway as there could be implications should an accident occur.

10. Roads - To report on highway issues and update on dog fouling signs

The dog fouling warning signs were up in Preston on Wye and Cllr Rawstorne thanked the Clerk for doing this. It was the responsibility of all dog owners to ensure that they clear up after their pets if they foul in a public place. The situation would be monitored.

The Locality Steward was meeting with Cllr Newsome the following week to look at some existing path issues.

Further items to record were raised:

- Pothole on the approach to the bottom of Dorestone Hill (200 yards approx before when coming from the Moccas direction)
- Two deep potholes in Tyberton coming from the Blakemere side they were near to the 30mph signs by the pools and just before Church House Cottage.
- Road near to Moccas Deer Park gate, inside the bend, was breaking up and crumbling at the edge. This requires a survey

11. Footpaths - To elect a Footpath Officer and to report on footpaths issues

Cllr Newsome was proposed as Footpath Officer by Cllr Clipson and seconded by Cllr Rawstorne. Cllr Newsome accepted the role. Cllr Newsome updated the meeting regarding an initiative to uncover "lost" public rights of way. 40 people had gathered to look into lost paths and de-registered ones also. This news was greeted by a mixed response as there was concern regarding the cost of

maintaining the existing network and that more “findings” may, inevitably, lead to higher costs. There was also concern that recent correspondence from Balfour Beatty had indicated that Balfour Beatty would not now supply replacement gates and stiles plus sundries any longer. The cost of any projects would have to be paid from the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Footpath Grant. This had been announced after parish budgets had been set and precepts determined for the forthcoming year. Some parishes had orders for items outstanding from the previous year’s budget and had not had the orders filled. This was not believed to serve the interests of providing access for all which had been a priority. The situation was discussed and the Ward Cllr advised that the Clerk should write to Cllr Paul Rone to raise the concern and request, at the very least, the honouring of existing committed orders for materials. The Ward Cllr would ask Cllr Rone to look at the situation. The Tree Warden insurance question, posed by Cllr Newsome, had been passed to HALC for a consolidated approach to the issue, countywide, to be looked into.

12. Correspondence - Referring to information sheet

The correspondence received was noted and included: a thank you letter from Tyberton PCC for the donation to churchyard maintenance and the “Clerks and Councils Direct” publication which was circulated.

13. To approve accounts

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

*Payments: Clerk £380.79 (salary £322.90, travel £37.89,
home office £20.00)*

Post Office (tax) £35.00

AON Insurance £676.46

Groundwork UK (grant repay re NDP) £5943.83

Donation to web hosting £20.00

The payments were proposed by Cllr O. Whittall and seconded by Cllr. A. Clipson. Carried

The internal auditor was appointed as Mr John Entwisle.

14. Matters raised by members for the next agenda

All of the usual items would be included. Any additional items would be advised.

15. Date of next meeting

To confirm date of the next Ordinary Meeting as Wednesday 1st June 2016 at The Village Hall, Moccas, at 8.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm

SIGNED

DATED