

*Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting of Wyeside Group Parish Council held in The Village Hall, Preston on Wye, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 8.00pm*

**In attendance**

Councillors J Dale (in the Chair), J. Newsome, R. Collins, D. Roper, D. Price, O. Pugh, N. Bowen and Ward Cllr P. Price plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs J. Hughes, H. Smith, J. Darbyshire and A. Clipson. Cllr A. Rawstone was not present. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. To approve previous minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 and matters arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council, held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 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.

**4. Report of North Ward Councillor**

Ward Cllr. Price summarised his report. He gave an update on the Herefordshire Council budget position including funding for “Fastershire” broad band and from the Rural Support Grant. High collection percentages were reported for both council tax and business rates.

The Public Realm street light replacement, of 12000 lights, had been completed and this had considerably reduced light pollution, and carbon emissions, for the county.

The contract had been awarded for the Link Road behind the football ground in Hereford City and work should be starting towards the end of July 2016.

The Southern Link Road Planning Application had been approved on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. Requests made to the Secretary of State, for a call-in of the application, had been rejected and the Herefordshire Council were prepared to defend the decision in the event that a Judicial Review should be lodged. A modelling exercise/census was underway to inform the business case for the road network.

People were being asked where they were going, how many in car etc. Tubes on the roads and cameras were also collecting data. There were some questions over parking charges at this point. It was advised that Merton Meadow has a reduced price for those parking before 7.30am.

There was an update on complaints and compliments made to Balfour Beatty. Findings revealed a reduction in complaints and an increase in compliments between 2014 and 2015.

There was a comprehensive update on the Nutrient Management Board which brings together all interested parties to inform on and seek to manage phosphate levels reaching the water courses etc. There were still spikes observed in levels, high and low, but the overall levels were falling. The situation regarding phosphate levels has to be mitigated and evidence was showing that the plan was working.

**5. Planning**

There had been no new applications to consider.

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

The current Lengthsman had advised that he would be leaving the post in the autumn of 2016. A new lengthsman would be required and advertising would commence regarding this. It was hoped that there would be a period of overlap to allow for knowledge transfer. The Chair had obtained maps for the purpose. The Lengthsman would be asked to clear overgrowth from around the speed and village name signs.

### **7. Parish Annual Meetings – input regarding canoe transporters and actions**

Ward Cllr Price advised that there was a Policy for Navigation on the River Wye. There was a wish to get canoe companies to register although other counties did not have such policies making implementation more difficult. In regard to the trailers transporting the canoes, it was suggested that the Parish Council should write to Richard Ball, Assistant Director of Placed Based Commissioning, to request the inclusion of terms of highways safety in the Wye Navigation Policy Document. The Clerk would draft and circulate this suggestion before sending it to Mr Ball.

### **8. Roads - To report on highway issues**

Potholes reported on the left hand bend in the road by Lower Blakemere Farm. Potholes observed opposite Steerfield Cottage and near to Pope Place on the road between Preston on Wye and Blakemere. The situation of the road condition by the property named Woodfield (out of parish) was again highlighted.

The Bredwardine Bridge enquiry, by the Parish Council, for upkeep documents and evidence of this had generated a response from the officer at Balfour Beatty. Cllr Darbyshire was looking at the information supplied. An update would follow the evaluation of the information sent.

### **9. To approve Financial Regulations 2016, Transparency Policy & Complaints Policy**

**The Financial Regulations 2016** were approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr D. Price and seconded by Cllr. O. Pugh.

**The Transparency Policy** was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr D. Price and seconded by Cllr D. Roper

**The Complaints Policy** was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr. J. Newsome and seconded by Cllr N. Bowen.

A request would now be made for these documents to be available to view on the Bredwardine and Brobury website.

### **10. Footpaths - to report on footpaths issues**

The Footpath Officer reported that there were no fresh issues to note but that some form of path marker was needed for the path from Byecross to Preston on Wye. This would be placed on the next Agenda to discuss the ordering of a marker/finger post for the path.

### **11. Correspondence - Referring to information sheet**

The correspondence received was noted and included: money had been reclaimed for the lengthsman grant monies spent and grant money had been awarded for the Neighbourhood Plan, following a fresh application being made.

Attention was drawn to an opportunity to attend a meeting to discuss the Herefordshire Council Budget matters at the Shire Hall, Hereford on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm. Those wishing to attend the meeting were asked to advise the Clerk who would inform the Parish Liaison Officer.

### **12. To approve accounts**

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

Statement balance at May 2016 £8918.84

*Payments Clerk July £534.07 (salary £447.38, tax rebate £36.40 travel £26.64, home office (July) £20.00 postage £2.06, stationery £1.59)*  
*Clerk August £306.50 (salary £286.50, home office (Aug) £20.00)*  
*The Post Office Ltd (Tax) £35.00*  
*Impact Print (NDP) £103.00*

12.2) *To consider donations for the three village halls in lieu of audit fee*

It was resolved that the three halls, Bredwardine, Moccas and Preston on Wye should each receive a donation of £20.00 in lieu of an audit fee. Proposed by Cllr Roper and seconded by Cllr Newsome. Carried

The payments were proposed by Cllr J. Dale and seconded by Cllr O. Pugh. Carried

**13. Neighbourhood Plan Meetings - update on consultation and feedback from event**

The Event had been a success with nearly forty people attending to see a presentation and ask questions. The evening had provided an opportunity for people to see and hear what had been happening and to find out more information. Feedback from the Event was now being considered for refinement of the draft plan.

The next Steering Group Meeting would be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm at Moccas. All welcome.

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

All of the usual items would be included plus sign for footpath to be purchased. Update on new lengthsman recruitment also.

**15. Date of next meeting**

To confirm date of the next Ordinary Meeting as Wednesday 7th September 2016 at The Village Hall, Moccas, at 8.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm

SIGNED .....

DATED .....