

*Minutes of the Meeting of Wyeside Group Parish Council, held via Zoom Platform (during Covid 19 virus pandemic), on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 from 7.30 pm*

**In attendance on Zoom were:**

Councillors J. Dale (Chair), D. Gurney (co-opted at the meeting), C. Chu, O. Whittall, H. Light, A. Rawstorne, A. Smith and J Newsome, plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright. There was one member of the public present and also PC Jeff Rouse for the first part of the meeting. The Ward Cllr Jennie Hewitt was present from 7.50 pm.

The first Zoom session ran from 7.30 – 8.10 and the second session from 8.15 to 8.55 pm

Cllr Dale welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

**1. Open Session with any parishioners who have joined the Zoom Meeting**

PC Jeff Rouse was present from West Mercia Police. He gave an update on local crime trends and highlighted courier scams where a potential target may be couriered to a local bank by a potential criminal and tricked into drawing out, and handing over, large sums of cash. Other types of scams were still happening in general with phone messages, texts and e mails. A reminder was given to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the Action Fraud Department (an organisation based in London who will investigate scams).

Web address for Action Fraud: - <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-phishing>

Any suspicious texts could be forwarded to mobile phone number: - 7726

Any suspicious e mails could be reported to: - [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

There had been some isolated dog thefts in the Golden Valley area. The PC said that puppies had increased in value during lockdown. Make a note of any suspicious registration numbers observed and watch out for your pets. PC Rouse asked that people report crimes via the website, where possible, rather than by phoning 101. There had been a recent loss of a young life in a drug related situation and drugs in the community, involving young people, were being monitored. A question was asked about the theft of quad bikes, strimmers etc. which had been happening where people had been coming in from other areas to take things. This had also involved incidence of poaching. Reports of both the thefts and poaching had quietened in recent months. PC Rouse left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

**2. Apologies for absence**

There were apologies received from Cllrs B. Bowen, S. Russell and J Darbyshire. Cllrs D Roper and J. Hughes were not present.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

**4. Co-option of new councillor (Moccas Parish)**

There was one candidate present. Cllr Dave Gurney was co-opted. Cllr Gurney would send his details to the Clerk and complete and return his acceptance of office form and declaration of registrable interest form.

**5. To approve previous minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

## **6. Report of North Ward Councillor**

Ward Cllr. Hewitt came into the meeting at 7.50 pm. Ward Cllr Hewitt advised that she would be sending her report later in the month. She highlighted some concerns that she was following up concerning some local planning applications. There was a question about whether ground had been broken on the site of one application and the Ward Cllr would be checking the building control number. The Ward Cllr advised that she had looked into the Knapp Farm application where conditions appeared to have been placed in order to help minimise any future phosphate issues. The Ward Cllr was also asked to check that the public footpath, in relation to the planning for Ploughfields in Preston on Wye, had been placed in the correct position. The Ward Cllr said that she would check this. The Ward Cllr left the meeting at 7.59 pm.

## **7. To consider response to Planning Applications, as notified, and then determined by Herefordshire Council**

There were no new applications for consideration of comments.

## **8. Lengthsman To advise of works for the Lengthsman**

General works as required. A maintenance day would be carried out as soon as practicable.

## **9. Roads and Greens**

### **9.1) To report on highway, greens and related issues**

Potholes in the environs of the Moccas deer park needed to be revisited. Some had been marked and filled but others were still there and some were very bad, particularly by the BT concrete junction box at the side of the road. Cllr Whittall described an ongoing culvert problem in the Bycross area, by the orchard, that required attention. He suggested that an on site visit with the Locality Steward would be advisable to properly explain and show the issues.

Some traffic counting wires had appeared in Blakemere.

The road between Blakemere and Preston on Wye was collapsing in places and some of the defects had been marked.

The road past Preston Church was worn and in need of attention.

## **10. Footpaths and Trees - update**

Cllr Jeff Newsome advised that some improvements had been made to local stiles and access had been made easier now that the stiles were more usable. Some steps had been installed on the footpath from the Preston on Wye tennis courts to Bycross which had made the path usable. Way markers were going up too. Cllr Newsome advised about some tree based initiatives that were taking place and the details of which had been circulated. He emphasised that there was still a need for replacement trees to replace the dying Ash trees.

## **11. Community Crisis and Community Resilience – to receive any update re Covid 19**

The councillors advised that the community volunteers were still working to assist as and when required with things like collection of medicines. A large number of people had received their Covid 19 vaccinations.

## **12. Correspondence – Refer to information sheet**

The contents of the sheet were noted and included:

ROAD CLOSURES - FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021 - 26.02.2021

Talk Community Covid update 26 February 2021

## **Herefordshire Tree Forum**

Winter News from Herefordshire Tree Forum

Orchards for Schools - opportunities for schools with links to a Tree Warden

**DOG THEFTS**

A reminder here for everyone to be **VIGILANT ABOUT DOG THEFTS**

**13. Finance and Policies**

**13.1) To approve accounts and note balances (please see Finance Sheet)**

The bank balance was noted as £14047.44

**13.2) Payments were resolved to be paid as follows:**

Mrs A Wright paid in accordance with contract for March 2021

HM Revenue and Customs (tax) £35.60

Information Commissioner (ICO) £40.00

HALC Subscription 2021 – 2022 £570.18

**14. Neighbourhood Development Plan – to receive any update regarding possible revision programme (if applicable)**

No further update.

**15. Matters raised by members for next Agenda**

Usual items would be included. Also litter picking and grant funding for the community

**16. To confirm date of the next Ordinary Meeting as Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom unless advised otherwise.**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 from 7.30 pm and would be via Zoom, unless advised otherwise.

The Meeting closed at 8.53 pm

SIGNED .....

DATED .....