

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wyeside Group Parish Council, held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall, on Wednesday 6th April 2022 from 8.00 pm

In attendance were:

Councillors: D. Gurney, C. Chu (Chair), O. Whittall, D Roper, A. Rawstorne, J Dale, J Hughes, J Green and R Mitchell plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright and Lengthsman Paul Wright. There were four members of the public present

Cllr Chu (Chair) welcomed everyone to the Meeting. There was a round of introductions to familiarise the council, and the public present, with “who’s who”.

1. Open Session with any parishioners

There were no topics raised during the Open Session.

2. Apologies for absence and resignation of councillor

There were apologies received from Cllrs J Darbyshire and S Russell. Cllrs A Smith and H Light were not present. The news that Cllr Darbyshire would be resigning from 19 April 2022 was discussed. The parish council expressed their great gratitude to Cllr Darbyshire for all of his work and expertise, particularly in relation to planning and the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The fact that Cllr Darbyshire would still be happy to assist in matters relating to the NDP was met with great thanks. The Clerk would write to Cllr Darbyshire to thank him, officially, on behalf of the parish council.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

4. To approve previous minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd March 2022

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 2nd March 2022, were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

5. Report of North Ward Councillor

Ward Cllr. Hewitt had sent her apologies.

6. Roads/Lengthsman/Kiosks

6.1) To report on highway issues

A contractor had replaced tarmac on the road at the far end of Moccas village but the scheduled area, Bodcote Farm to Cross End Farm (deer park to village) had not been completed as yet? This would be queried. The situation of the Moccas Cross was discussed as there was ongoing concern as to its potential to be damaged by vehicles going round the mounting. Barriers had been placed at intervals to safeguard it from impact.

It was noted that the blocked culvert, as previously reported at Moccas, had been cleared following a visit from a contractor due to an unrelated topic.

There was concern expressed about the camber of the road, and some subsidence on the road, travelling from the Moccas memorial towards Blakemere.

It was noted that the road through Tyberton, past the ponds, was in a poor condition and required resurfacing.

It was commented that, generally, the village roads, including specifically Pentre Lane, were vulnerable to sheer traffic volume, and the size of some vehicles, in terms of the potential for damage to the resources of roads, monuments, verges and green spaces. This situation would be kept under review.

6.2) To look at options for children and young people, including play facilities (Bredwardine Village Hall correspondence also refers)

There were representatives in attendance from the Bredwardine Village Hall Committee. Correspondence on the subject of available land for activities, parking and leisure resources had been circulated. The Hall Committee members explained their concerns about the limited time left on the lease agreement for the Bredwardine Hall and also the reduction in amenity use of local land due to a landowner decision. There were insurance implications for land use that had been conveyed to the Hall Committee, and the landowner had made specifications to a reduction in availability (Two events per annum). The Neighbourhood Plan for the Group of Parishes had acknowledged the importance of the amenity value of the village halls, in the group, but the parish council did not have any land to replace the amenity when any lease should expire. The parish council expressed empathy with the situation but it was explained that the parish council could not intervene or intercede in matters relating to possible land usage.

It was agreed that recreational areas were important resources and that provision of same should form part of any future planning aspirations for the villages.

6.3) To update on purchase of new village name signs/notice board for Bredwardine

The new signs evaluation was in progress with dimensions etc. being taken of those most need of replacement. Prices for new signs would be obtained. Possible new posts and fitting costs would also need to be considered. The parish council discussed the price of a commercially made notice board and Cllr Gurney very kindly offered to make a new board, for a more reasonable cost than the commercial one. The PC notice board at Tyberton had lost one of its doors, probably during the recent high winds. No-one was aware of where the missing door currently was.

6.4) To look at vehicle damage to Blakemere Green – prevention?

There had been several recent instances of damage to the edges of the green spaces at Blakemere (outside the Odd House). One of the damaged areas had been repaired. Further damage had occurred. It was wondered whether the small green triangle might be better being removed as it was being run over and churned up by vehicles having difficulty turning around the green area. This would be looked into further at the Blakemere Village Meeting and would be further discussed at the May Wyeside Group Parish Council meeting.

7. Footpaths and Tree Warden – To report on footpaths and trees

The new footpath officer, Cllr John Green, had commenced walking the footpaths and would be exploring more. He would report back findings as located. It was noted that Footpaths had moved back to the control of Herefordshire Council (Hoople) from 1/04/22 and the contact details for the new officer in charge of these would hopefully be known shortly.

8. Correspondence – Refer to information sheet

The contents of the sheet were noted and included:

Herefordshire Council

Various, as circulated including:

Talk Community Notifications

Consultation on Local Area Plan information

Bredwardine Village Hall Committee

Letters in regard to play area and recreational space for Bredwardine

9. Planning – to consider any applications with a view to comments

There were no new applications for consideration of comments.

10. Finance and Policies

(10.1) **To note bank balance:** The bank balance was noted as £14651.56

(10.2) To resolve to accept payments, as per listing

Payments were resolved to be paid as follows:

Mrs A Wright paid in accordance with contract for April 2022

HMRC (tax) £100.80

Information Commissioner (ICO) - £40.00

10.3) To appoint internal auditor for 2021 - 2022

The internal auditor was appointed. This was Mr John Entwisle for 2021 – 2022.

10.4) To confirm new bank signatory

It was agreed that Cllr Chu would become a new bank signatory to replace Cllr Darbyshire. The necessary forms had been obtained by the Clerk, from the bank, and these were duly completed.

11. Matters raised by members for next Agenda

Usual items would be included. Road signs, village roads and speeding concerns (road safety). It was agreed, in principle, that the PC would support, financially the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events to be held in the group. This would be up to a maximum of £200 per parish, or a maximum total of £1000 if all five parishes in the group held an event. The possibility of planting trees for the Jubilee (possibly fruit trees) would be looked at by the Preston on Wye council members.

12. To confirm date of the next Meetings (Annual Parish and Annual Statutory) as Wednesday 4th May 2022 from 8.00 pm

The dates of the next meetings (the Annual Parish and the Annual Statutory) were confirmed as Wednesday 4th May 2022. To run concurrently from 8.00 pm and these would be held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall.

Due to the confidential nature of the business of these agenda items, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it is proposed to put forward a motion to exclude members of the public during discussion of the following agenda item (number 13 only)

13. To discuss implementation of 1/04/21 pay award (back dated) and increment from 1/04/22 in line with HALC and NJC correspondence

The Clerk and members of the public left the room for the duration of the discussion of point 13.

The NJC pay award, on existing scale point, back dated to 1/04/21 and the incremental increase, on the scale, from 1/04/22 were agreed.

The Meeting closed at 9.45 pm

SIGNED

DATED