

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wyeside Group Parish Council, held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall, on Wednesday 1st March 23 from 7.45 pm

In attendance were:

Councillors: O. Whittall, A. Rawstorne, J. Hughes, D. Hughes, H. Light, J. Green, D. Roper, R. Mitchell and C Chu (in the Chair) plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright, and four members of the public.

Cllr Chu (Chair) welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

1. Open Session with any parishioners

The meeting started with bringing forward some Agenda items for discussion with members of the public who were present. From the correspondence item, Agenda item 8.

Bredwardine Kiosk - defibrillator suggestion. The question of the use of the Bredwardine Kiosk as a defibrillator house was discussed and the parish council agreed for the use to be as a defibrillator house subject to prior notice of any expenditure, as may be required to be met by the parish council, in terms of any upgrade expense or of materials. The actual defibrillator would be supplied by the community but the parish council may be approached for consideration of the cost of replacement of any consumable parts such as the battery or pads.

Preston on Wye Kiosk – the conversion of the kiosk to a library suggestion was considered and warmly welcomed by the parish council. With thanks to those willing to carry out the potential transformation. The new library kiosk would also continue to house the food bank items at the bottom. Book donations would be welcome, going forward, subject to capacity.

Jarvis Eleemosynary - Enquiry regarding possible Bredwardine play area

The parish council reviewed a letter from the Jarvis Eleemosynary Charity requesting help to provide a play/meeting/recreational area for children. The parish council had previously looked at a similar request and had then, as now, regretfully had to conclude that without ownership, access or influence over any such suitable land parcel they would not be in a position to assist with the progression of the idea. They would however be supportive, if such a venture were to progress in the future.

2. Apologies for absence

There were apologies received from Cllrs S. Russell and J. Dale. Cllrs A. Smith and D. Gurney were not present.

3. Declarations of Interest

There was one declaration of interest recorded. This was for Cllr Roper in relation to planning consultation 223902.

4. To approve previous minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st February 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 1st February 2023, were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

5. Report of North Ward Councillor

Ward Cllr. Hewitt had previously advised that she was on compassionate leave. The parish council extended their sympathy on learning of the passing of Cllr Hewitt's sister. The parish council also recorded their sympathy to the Clerk, Alison, whose Mother had passed away on the 9th February.

6. Roads/Lengthsman

(6.1) To report on highway issues

Serious concerns were raised about the road leading up from the Red Lion Public House in Bredwardine. The road had subsided in places and there were some significant drops off the side of the broken highway. The surface of the road was also very poor and water was often to be seen pouring down the road surface causing further issues in terms of icing up in cold weather and a slippage risk. The drains appeared to be very blocked also. This situation had been flagged up previously but it was agreed that the safety aspect would be raised with Ian Connolly, the Traffic Safety Advisor with a view to getting his professional opinion about the issues being experienced by the users of the road. The rat running across Pentre Lane would also be highlighted again, as a safety concern, with the road being thought unsuitable for high volumes of large vehicles.

(6.2) To look at work for the Lengthsman

Lengthsman would be looking at the grips and gullies clearance and to also look at areas of potential flooding during rainstorms etc. Highlighted issues were at Preston on Wye by the "Summerwell Bungalows" and also in Blakemere where a raised driveway near the Church was potentially pushing water further out.

(6.3) To update on any road safety initiatives and TRO, including Blakemere list

The "Z" bend signs still required straightening/replacing in some cases as did the Blakemere sign near the Village Green. It was noted that the Tyberton TRO signs had still not been adjusted, in spite of a number of requests for this to be actioned.

Cllr Chu advised that the "Blakemere List" of road safety wishes etc. would be going out to the villagers for comments via house to house leafleting.

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

The footpath officer, Cllr John Green took delivery of a number of footpath post marker signs from the Clerk. The Lengthsman and the Footpath Officer would meet up to discuss the materials for the Blakemere footpath access steps. The Footpath Officer highlighted an article from "The Times" Newspaper which described walks around England and including Dorestone, Merbach Hill etc. The aims of encouraging tourism, and measures to support it, such as the maintenance of the public rights of way and availability of accommodation, such as Air B and B, were discussed. It was noted that a number of people were diversifying their activities and many were moving out of farming.

8. Correspondence – Refer to information sheet

The contents of the sheet were noted and included:

Herefordshire Council Various, as circulated including:

Talk Community bulletins

Others

Bredwardine Kiosk - defibrillator suggestion

Preston on Wye Kiosk - library suggestion

Jarvis Eleemynsary - Enquiry regarding possible Bredwardine play area

Bulletins had again also been received from the Police and the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward plus from Balfour Beatty: Members Monthly Update and Street works updates

9. Planning – to consider any applications with a view to comments and then determination by Herefordshire Council

There was one application for consideration of comments:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 223902 - The Bank, Preston-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR2 9JU

DESCRIPTION: Proposed siting of fully accessible holiday lodge and associated decking, formation of access track, drainage and landscaping.

APPLICANT(S): Mr & Mrs Roper

GRID REF: OS 338704, 242147

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The parish council considered the planning application and took note of a document that had been made available, via a parish councillor, who had been sent the comments. A number of ecological and habitat topics, including hedgerows, were highlighted in the letter. It was understood that the same letter had also been sent to the Planning Department of Herefordshire Council, by the writer. It was resolved by the parish council that they were supportive of the idea of accessible holiday accommodation but that they would draw the attention of the planning authority to some concerns that had been raised (in the letter) and that may require verification.

10. Finance and Policies

(10.1) **To note bank balance:** The bank balance was noted as £15719.31

(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 March 2023

HMRC (tax) - £90.60

Information Commissioner (ICO) 2023 – 2024 - £40.00

Preston on Wye Village Hall (hall hire May 2022 – March 2023) £135.00

(10.3) **Coronation Event(s) – to consider any support form the Parish Council**

The parish council resolved to support each parish in the group up to a village limit of £200.00 per village. This would mean a maximum of £1000.00, in total, if all five villages held events. Payment would be upon production of an appropriate invoice for event expenditure.

11. Matters raised by members for next Agenda

Usual items would be included. Coronation event update and also appointment of internal auditor for end of year accounts.

12. To confirm date of the next Meeting as Wednesday 5th April 2023 from 7.45 pm

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 5th April 2023 and this would be held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall from 7.45 pm.

Future meeting dates for 2023 – May 12th, (date amended due to election and coronation bank holiday) June 7th, July 5th, no meeting in August, September 6th, October 4th, November 8th and December 6th.

The Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

SIGNED

DATED