

Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Council Meetings of Wyeside Group Parish Council, held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall, on Friday 12th May 2023 from 7.45 pm

In attendance were:

Councillors: D. Gurney (from 7.56 pm), C. Chu (in the chair for the meeting), D Roper, A. Rawstorne, O Whittall, J Dale, J Hughes, D Hughes, J Lycett Green (elected as new chair) and R Mitchell (re-elected as vice chair) plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright and two members of the public were present and also PCSO Pete Knight and PCSO Margaret Andrzejewska from the Golden Valley Police Team.

Cllr Chu (in the Chair for the meeting) welcomed everyone to the Annual Group Parish and Annual Statutory Meetings of the Wyeside Group Parish Council.

Annual Group Parish Meeting

1. Annual Group Parish Meeting

There were no topics raised, by the public, during the Wyeside Group Annual Parish Meeting.

Golden Valley Police Team

PCSO Pete Knight and PCSO Margaret Andrzejewska were in attendance. They updated the meeting regarding a recent suspected incident of poaching which had occurred on 19 April 2023 at around 1.00am. There was ongoing work taking place, regarding this, and increased signage had been placed on the B4352, to help act as a deterrent. PCSO Knight apologised for the frustrations being experienced with the 101 reporting service. He urged people to still ring in and report any incidents of concern (101 - non emergency – for emergencies RING 999). The police will attend (subject to crew availability).

The property marking service was still in operation. Smart water kits for home use and also the police will security mark items (tools, quad bikes etc.) to help deter theft and assist with the recovery of stolen property (return to owner). Contact the PCSO at Peterchurch for details:

PCSO Margaret Andrzejewska, phone 07773 053895

E mail: margaret.andrzejewska@westmercia.police.uk

More police presence had been noted and patrols were out on the “late shift”.

The Annual Group Parish Meeting closed at 7.51 pm and the police representatives left the meeting.

Annual Group Statutory Parish Meeting

1. Co-option of councillor (Bredwardine)

Following the May 4th 2023 elections, there was a vacancy for a councillor for Bredwardine for co-option. There was one nomination put forward, Hamish Light (not present). Hamish was proposed by Cllr Whittall and seconded by Cllr Roper. Cllr Hamish Light was duly co-opted (in his absence).

2. Election of Chair and receipt of acceptance of office

Cllr John Lycett Green was nominated for Chair by Cllr Chu and seconded by Cllr Mitchell. Cllr Lycett Green accepted the role of Chair.

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

Cllr Mitchell was nominated by Cllr Roper and seconded by Cllr Whittall. Cllr Mitchell accepted the role of Vice Chair.

4. Apologies for absence

There were apologies received from Cllr H Light (newly co-opted) and from new Blakemere Cllr, Philip Gorringe. Cllr A Smith was not present.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

6. To approve previous minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th April 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 5th April 2023, were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

7. Report of North Ward Councillor

The outgoing Ward Cllr, Jennie Hewitt had sent a leaving message to the parish council. The new councillor for the Golden Valley North Ward, following the May 4th elections, was Cllr Philip Price.

8. Lengthsman To advise of any works for the Lengthsman

The clearing of grips and gullies, particularly areas prone to flooding, would be carried out. General upkeep and clearance would be undertaken.

9. Roads

To report on highway issues

There had been culvert clearance carried out at Preston Court. There were some concerns regarding water flooding on the road at Blakemere near to Well Cottage. Balfour Beatty had put up flood signs to warn people but the problem did seem to be getting worse?

Some Madley parish issues were advised. The turnpike road from the Madley end going towards the egg fridge was very broken up and a cyclist had nearly come off their bike there in recent days. Also the Lulham to Madley Road was in need of attention.

Village mowers in Blakemere – way forward and co-ordinator

Cllr Philip Gorringe had been sent details about the mowing by Cllr Chu. It was hoped that he would take on the co-ordination of the mowers for Blakemere. To be confirmed next time.

Village Greens –who can use them and land registry

There was a query raised about parking on the village greens and the possibility that, in the future, people may try to assume ownership and parking rights on the greens in relation to property. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Lycett Green would look into the situation, as regards land registry, and any historic “commoners rights” that may relate to the greens within the group parish. It was not an option for householders to take “ownership” of land for householder parking entitlement as the greens/commons were a public (commons) amenity.

10. Footpaths and Tree Warden – To elect a Footpath Officer and Tree Warden and to report on footpaths

Cllr John Lycett Green was nominated for the roles of Footpath Officer and Tree Warden. Cllr Green accepted the roles. He reported that he was engaged in improvements to the steps over the hill path at Blakemere. As a point of interest, Cllr Lycett Green also advised of the walking pilgrimage, for the Golden Valley, as detailed on: <https://www.abbeydoredeanery.org/gvpw/>
No update on trees this time.

11. Correspondence – Refer to information sheet

The contents of the sheet were noted and included:

Herefordshire Council

Talk Community Newsletters

Election bulletins and updates – stop press – Philip Price has been elected as the Golden Valley North Ward Councillor and replaces Jennie Hewitt.

Report, from the Clerk, regarding a highway safety visit to Bredwardine Hill and Pentre Lane:

“This morning at 10.00 am I met with Ian Connolly, the Traffic Safety Adviser for West Mercia Police. Also in attendance were John Darbyshire from Bredwardine Hill plus a neighbour of his, Anne, who had attended the WGPC meeting when concerns were noted, and also Cllr Hamish Light.

We had a brief discussion outside the Red Lion, Bredwardine (meeting place) and then Anne left us. Ian, John, Hamish and myself drove up the Bredwardine Hill making note of the defects, drops, road collapses, lack of passing places and much more as we went up. We stopped at a convenient point and walked back down to look at the defects more closely. I came back up first then John returned home and Hamish, Ian and I went round the whole circuit, past Arthur's Stone and then examined Pentre Lane. While we were doing this, Ian experienced first hand the squeezing efforts of passing, and he saw the sloping bank where delivery vans have toppled over, after mounting the bank there. We also had a revving hard and fast vehicle steaming up the hill, straight at us which ably demonstrated the way people try to "floor it" to get up the hill!! Ian was clearly impacted by what he had seen today. Broken roads, blocked ditches and drainage systems, damaged road edges with deep tyre traps, and inadequate warning signage to name but a selection.

The outcome of today is that, whilst he does not have a budget to throw at the issues, he is going to highlight what he believes are some of the things that could help and make the point about the very real safety issues that are being experienced. He is going to write to Paul Norris, in response to the e mail he sent, as a first step. I will keep you all informed of developments.”

This was discussed and it was agreed that the situation would be followed up due to ongoing concerns. Previous land owner offer to provide possible passing places would also be advised to the road safety personnel. A further update meeting on site would be looked at and to include Simon Hobbs of Highways, if possible.

Bredwardine Bridge TRO

The pending Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), for Bredwardine Bridge, would be chased up to see if the measures would be implemented ahead of the summer volume parking and traffic in the bridge area.

12. Finance and Policies

(12.1) To approve accounts and note balances: The bank balance was noted as £16838.12

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 May 2023

HMRC (tax) £113.20

Dr A C Maddison (web services) £200.00

Dr A C Maddison (notice board for Bredwardine) £519.71

BHIB Ltd. (Parish Council Insurance) £723.39

(12.2) To adopt the new Code of Conduct, as circulated separately

The Parish Council resolved to adopt the new Code of Conduct for 2023 and onwards, as previously circulated.

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

There was one application for consideration of comments:

APPLICATION NO & SITE ADDRESS: Planning Consultation - 231166 – Rowlesford Farm, Moccas, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR2 9PT

DESCRIPTION: Provision of a steel portal frame agricultural building to provide storage for grain, straw and all other agricultural products

GRID REF: OS 335762, 241533

APPLICATION TYPE: Planning Permission

The parish council discussed the planning application 231166. There were “serious concerns” expressed by the council, and by local residents, in relation to the access to the proposed site for the steel framed agricultural building. The access was down a narrow lane, past other properties, and then via a green lane with what was believed to be “unsuitable” access. The parish council would object to the current proposal, as the access was not felt to be suitable and the likely disruption of additional heavy traffic not desirable to existing households. It was felt that an alternative access point, from a main highway, should be considered - if the scheme were to be progressed. There were also concerns regarding the low lying nature of the site, in terms of drainage, and the possibilities of pollution and flooding.

14. Matters raised by members for next Agenda

Usual items, and end of year accounts for 2022 - 2023, would be included.

Thanks were recorded to Cllr Carol Chu, for her time as chair of the parish council, and also to retiring councillor Simon Russell who had been councillor for Blakemere for a number of years. Thank you both.

15. To confirm date of the next Ordinary Meeting

The date of the next meeting was to be confirmed: **Wednesday 7th June 2023 at 7.45 pm** in the **Preston on Wye Village Hall.**

Future meeting dates for 2023 – July 5th, no meeting in August, September 6th, October 4th, November 8th and December 6th.

The Meeting closed at 9.08 pm

SIGNED

DATED