

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wyeside Group Parish Council, held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall, on Wednesday 4th October 2023 from 7.45 pm

In attendance were:

Councillors: D. Gurney, J Dale, R. Mitchell (in the Chair), P Gorringe, A Rawstone and C Chu plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright and Ward Cllr Philip Price (from 8.04 pm)

Cllr Rich Mitchell (Vice-Chair) welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

1. Open Session with any parishioners

No matters were raised during the Open Session. There were no members of the public present.

2. Apologies for absence

There were apologies received from Cllrs J. Lycett Green, D. Hughes, J. Hughes, A. Smith, O. Whittall and H. Light. Cllr D Roper was not present.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

4. To approve previous minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th September 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 6th September 2023, were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting. There was one addition to the record, previously omitted. This was to record that the following councillors would be added to the list of bank signatories for the parish council bank account; Cllrs Gorringe, Smith and Mitchell. The bank mandate change form had been obtained and would be completed for processing.

5. Report of North Ward Councillor

Ward Cllr. Philip Price had sent his report and he highlighted some of the issues at the meeting. The Ward Cllr advised that budgets were being rearranged at Herefordshire Council. Electric buses were not “moving forward” and so had been taken off the program. The annual budget forecast was currently showing an anticipated over spend of £15 million. Changes to staffing for the children’s services was being sought to gain more permanent staff and less agency. The waste contract was still under review, with possible changes to types of waste collected and recycling initiatives. Collection cycles and the breakdown of waste types were part of the deliberations, including food waste collection. Concerns were raised about the possibility of increased incidence of fly-tipping. The Ward Cllr would raise this as a consideration to be taken into account.

The Ward Cllr said, at the parish council meeting, that the Pontrilas rail project was “not deliverable” at the anticipated level of passenger support. There was a discussion on this topic and some examples of success stories for rail ventures were highlighted, with some suggestions around maximising freight potential by rail link. The eastern link river crossing business case was due out imminently and the costs were higher than anticipated. There were challenges posed by house building targets and infrastructure requirements. Leominster was highlighted.

6. Roads/Lengthsman

(6.1) To report on highway issues including Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO)

Chilstone – near the egg hut

Localised flooding, possibly mains burst near the egg hut at Chilstone. Water was still lying on the road. This was in the Madley Parish area and would be chased up.

No further update on the TRO for the Bredwardine Bridge area or others in progress. They had been followed up.

(6.2) To update regarding the Bredwardine Bridge enquiry

The concerns about blocked culverts and general maintenance/monitoring at the Bredwardine Bridge had been raised with the highways contractor responsible for up the upkeep. The eventual response from the contractor had been somewhat disappointing, and short on specific details. The parish council would advise the contractor that the community would be keeping a “watching brief” on the condition of the bridge and any observations of concern would be flagged. The inspection report summaries would also be requested.

(6.3) To receive any update on the use of kiosks and consider the request for upgrade funding at Bredwardine.

The parish council discussed and considered the request from the Bredwardine and Brobury Village Hall Committee for support with the refurbishment costs relating to the Bredwardine Kiosk, and the housing of a new defibrillator within it. The parish council reviewed the summary of the costs involved and agreed to contribute the sum of £600.00 towards the total cost. Cllr Chu stressed the importance of maintaining a system of regular checks of the defibrillator and the membership of the “Circuit” alerts and record of defibrillators system was noted as being desirable.

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

The footpath officer and Tree Warden, Cllr John Lycett Green, had sent his apologies for absence. No update this time.

8. Correspondence – Refer to information sheet

The contents of the sheet were noted and included:

Herefordshire Council Various, as circulated including:
Talk Community bulletins

Jarvis Eleemosynary Charity

From Rachel at the Jarvis Charity: “The term of office for Mrs J. Maddison as a Nominative Trustee of the Eleemosynary Charity has come to an end. Please can you confirm that she is happy to continue to represent Wyese Parish Council for a further 4 years?” After checking this with the representative and the WGPC, both were confirmed to be in acceptance of this to continue. With thanks to Mrs Maddison. The Clerk would advise Rachel of this decision.

Cllr Carol Chu

A Resignation letter had been received from Cllr Carol Chu. Cllr Chu’s resignation was accepted by the Chair of the meeting, Cllr Mitchell. Cllr Chu would remain in post until after the November parish council meeting. Gratitude for Cllr Chu’s time in office was recorded by the parish council.

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

There were no new planning consultations for discussion with a view to comments.

10. Finance and Policies

(10.1) To note bank balance: The bank balance was noted as £12527.67 (new statement awaited)

(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 October 2023

HMRC (tax) - £90.40

Friends of St Lawrence (Preston on Wye PCC) (Mowing Donation) £150.00

Bredwardine and Brobury Village Hall (Kiosk refurbishment donation) £600.00

(10.3) To consider requests for support with churchyard mowing

The parish council resolved to contribute a donation of £150 towards the mowing costs at the Preston on Wye Church.

(10.4) To update regarding appointing additional signatories for the bank account

The mandate form had been obtained by the clerk and all new signatories (Cllrs Mitchell, Smith and Gorringe) would be completing their details to progress being added to the list of signatories.

(10.5) To begin consideration of the precept request for 2024 - 2025

This would be considered at the November meeting.

11. Matters raised by members for next Agenda

Usual items would be included. Also damage to the green at Blakemere (vehicles moving over the grass) and precept request for 2024 - 2025

12. To confirm date of the next Meetings as Wednesday 8th November 2023 from 7.45 pm

The date of the next ordinary meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 8th November 2023 and this would be held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall from 7.45 pm.

Future meeting dates for 2023 – December 6th

The Meeting closed at 9.38 pm

SIGNED

DATED