

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wyeside Group Parish Council, held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall, on Wednesday 8th November 2023 from 7.45 pm

In attendance were:

Councillors: D. Gurney (from 8.02pm), J. Dale, R. Mitchell (in the Chair), A. Smith, D. Roper, O. Whittall, D. Hughes, H. Light, A Rawstone and C Chu plus Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright and Ward Cllr Philip Price (from 8.15 pm) and one member of the public

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

1. Open Session with any parishioners

No matters were raised during the Open Session.

2. Apologies for absence

There were apologies received from Cllrs J. Lycett Green, J. Hughes and P Gorringe.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

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

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 4th October 2023, were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

5. Report of North Ward Councillor

Ward Cllr. Philip Price updated the meeting about drain blockages at “Ploughfields”. The Locality Steward had been advised and responsibility for the extent of clearance had been established. Some of the road was not adopted by the highways and would therefore be householder responsibility. Potholes were also an issue at Upper Bellamore and water was lying there.

A Transport Scrutiny Meeting had been held on 8 November 2023. More government guidance was awaited on forward plans for transport, cycling, walking etc. General health and wellbeing, encouraging walking and cycling were at the heart of policy thinking. The local transport plan would cover major infrastructure. The new “Core Strategy” or Local Area Plan, when ratified, would be above the Neighbourhood Development Plan unless the NDP was still identified to be carrying the “relevant weight” in planning decision making. The boiler replacement initiative had been moved back in terms of deadline date. There were still questions about provision of electric vehicle (EV) charging points and new houses would be expected to either have appropriate points or access to them close by.

A question was asked about the temporary traffic lights that had been in use for some weeks in Edgar Street. The Ward Cllr would make enquiries and feedback to the Clerk on this.

6. Roads/Lengthsman

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

Chilstone – near the egg hut

There was localised flooding near the egg hut at Chilstone. This was still ongoing. The rotary machine had been through opening up grips etc. but there were still blockages to be cleared by the deer park at Moccas. The ditch leading towards the Yew Tree Public House in Preston on Wye, and the leaves on the gullies on Stockley Hill needed clearing. It was reported that a collision with a dog had occurred on Pentre Lane and the dog had, sadly, lost one of its legs. The driver had, allegedly, not stopped to check on the welfare of the dog. All incidents need to be reported to the police so that a picture of the issues of speeding and passing on the lane can be noted. The road surface on Pentre Lane, particularly near Pentre Farm, was also advised to be breaking up.

(6.2) To discuss vacancy for a lengthsman from 1 December 2023

The current lengthsman would retire on 30 November 2023. Adverts would be produced to advertise for a replacement. Thanks were expressed to the outgoing post holder.

(6.3) Damage to the village green at Blakemere

The parish council heard about tyre damage to the village green at Blakemere. The grass was being damaged by vehicles, large ones, driving across the grass edges instead of keeping to the roadways. There was a discussion about the possible placing of boulders to prevent vehicles driving on the grass. There were also concerns expressed about the lack of parking provision for church services etc. when the church was in use and the green provided parking space. Feedback from the village would be sought, by the local councillors, and the view of the locality steward would be asked regarding any possibility of boulder placement.

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. It was agreed that Cllr Green be invited to attend the Woodland Trust Meeting regarding the newly named “Gillian’s Wood” at the Moccas Village Hall on 22 November 2023 from 1.00pm. Cllr Whittall may also attend. There were two parish council places available for the meeting.

8. Correspondence – Refer to information sheet

The contents of the sheet were noted and included:

Herefordshire Council Various, as circulated including:
Talk Community bulletins

Woodland Trust

An E mail had been received concerning the acquisition of woodland and the renaming and replanting of the woodland:

“Dear Moccas Parish Council,

Earlier this year we, thanks to a donation from John Bulmer and family, and in memory of his sister Gillian, were able to buy Woodbury Hill Wood, which is adjacent to Moccas Hill Wood.

Woodbury Hill is an ancient woodland which, like many ancient woodlands, was clear felled and planted with fast growing conifer in the 1950’s. This was due to the demand for fast growing timber at the time. Ancient Woodland is precious and cannot be replaced. The opportunity to take ownership of this precious woodland, with the aim to restore this woodland back to good ecological condition in response to the wildlife crisis, was too good to miss. Alongside this is the ability to work across the landscape, and together with Natural England and the Duchy who also manage wood adjacent to this enables us to have more impact through partnership working. We have spent much of this year assessing the woodland and on the back of this we have been working out how best to manage this woodland with restoration as the primary focus and alongside this we have been exploring the options for new paths and signage. This includes the naming of the Moccas Hill Wood and Woodbury Hill to Gillian’s Wood in memory of Gillian Bulmer, who was a great supporter of trees and woods across the UK, as well as the Woodland Trust and the work we have done in Herefordshire. Without this incredible support we would have not been in a position to purchase the wood.

We would very much like to share our thinking and plans so far for the wood and propose a meeting on 22nd November at 1pm at Moccas Village Hall (with a visit to Gillian’s Wood weather dependant).

For logistic purposes on site we would like to limit the number to two councillors per parish, if possible.

If you have any questions in the meantime please email southwestenquiries@woodlandtrust.org.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Richard Brown

Lead Site Manager – Woodland Trust”

Bredwardine Village Hall

A thank you letter has been received for the PC donation towards part of the cost of the renovation of the Bredwardine Kiosk for the housing of a defibrillator. The Committee will keep the parish council informed ahead of any pad or battery replacement requirements.

Cllr Carol Chu

The November parish council meeting was Cllr Chu's last meeting. The parish council thanked Cllr Chu for her time in office. The casual vacancy would be advertised.

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 at the meeting.

10. Finance and Policies

(10.1) **To note bank balance:** The bank balance was noted as £16686.35

(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 November 2023

HMRC (tax) - £113.20

Tyberton PCC (Mowing Donation) £150.00

(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 Tyberton Church.

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

A new mandate form had been received by the clerk and Cllrs Rawstorne and Whittall signed the new document authorising the new signatories, Cllrs Mitchell, Smith and Gorrington to be added.

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

This would be considered at the December meeting.

11. Matters raised by members for next Agenda

Usual items would be included. Also horse shelter in “Cloverdale”, potholes on the green at Preston on Wye, lengthsman recruitment 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 6th December 2023 and this would be held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall from 7.45 pm.

Meeting dates for 2024 – No meeting in January, February 7th, March 6th, April 3rd, May 8th, June 5th, July 3rd, no meeting in August, September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th and December 4th

The Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

SIGNED

DATED