

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wyeside Group Parish Council, held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall, on Wednesday 6th December 2023 from 7.45 pm

In attendance were:

Councillors: D. Gurney, J. Dale, R. Mitchell, J. Lycett Green (in the Chair), P. Gorringer, O. Whittall, D. Hughes, H. Light, Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright and Ward Cllr Philip Price plus one member of the public

Cllr John Lycett Green (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 A. Rawstorne, J Hughes and D. Roper. Cllr A. Smith was not present. Get well wishes were recorded for Cllr Rawstorne.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

4. To approve previous minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th November 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 8th November 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 recent activities. There was an advisory that Hereford Hospital had been at full capacity of patients for every day in the recent period. There were concerns about the possible impact of forthcoming junior doctor strikes. The capital budget was going to a meeting with a new approach. There was a sum of £13.5 million adrift on the budget for the forthcoming year presenting challenges to every council run department. The biggest issues were centred round the children's services. These were in "special measures" and staffing issues were paramount with many permanent posts being filled by agency staff. Adjustments would be being made to the children's services budget and the whole council would be "getting a shake up." Funding had been obtained to build the required Peterchurch Primary School. The Southern Link Road and Western By-Pass, plus initiatives for various rail links, were all under review with a view for possible progression. New electric bikes (cargo) had been procured and would be available for use in a similar way to the "Beryl's Bikes" Scheme. A question was asked about electric buses. Why were these not going to Rotherwas?

6. Roads/Lengthsman

(6.1) To report on highway issues

Stockley Hill drainage issues, water freezing on the road. Ditch cleaning and clearance of grips and gullies was required.

(6.2) To discuss update on the vacancy for a lengthsman from 1/12/23

Adverts for the post had been placed in all five notice boards and in the Link and Pump. Councillors were asked to pass details to any possible contacts, known to them, who may be interested in the role.

(6.3) Damage to the village hall parking area at Preston on Wye (e mail refers)

The parish council heard about damage/erosion to the surface of the parking area at the front of the

village hall. It was advised that one of the Village Hall representatives would be discussing the offer to repair the damage/erosion in the surface, following on from building contractor parking at the location.

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

The footpath officer and Tree Warden, Cllr John Lycett Green, advised that he and Cllr Whittall had attended the Woodland Trust Meeting regarding the newly named “Gillian’s Wood” at the Moccas Village Hall on 22 November 2023 from 1.00pm. Cllr Lycett Green circulated some information leaflets from the Woodland Trust about the “Gillian’s Wood – A lasting memory”. “Gillian’s Wood encompasses two woods formally known as Moccas Hill Wood and Woodbury Hill. It sits above one of the most diverse examples of wood pasture remaining in Britain – Moccas Park”. The aim of the Trust was to restore the ancient woodland features. This would be a slow process with the gradual replacement of the conifer planting taking place. More information could be obtained from the Woodland Trust at woodlandtrust.org.uk or on Telephone: 0330 333 3300.

8. Correspondence – Refer to information sheet

The contents of the sheet were noted and included:

Herefordshire Council Various, as circulated including:

Talk Community bulletins

Election expenses invoice.

New bank signatories

The new bank signatories had been confirmed and Cllrs Gorringe, Mitchell and Smith are now able to sign cheques.

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.

9.1) Horse shelter in Cloverdale (Cllr referred)

The shelter appeared to have been moved. No further comment was made on this topic.

10. Finance and Policies

(10.1) **To note bank balance:** The bank balance was noted as £15240.83

(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 December 2023 and January 2024

HMRC (tax) - £90.40 and £113.20

Tyberton PCC (Mowing Donation) £150.00 (re-issued – revised payee)

Herefordshire Council (Election x 5 parishes 2023) £624.37*

Wyenet Internet Services (web domain service) £11.99

*It was agreed that the Clerk would query the election expenses costs with Herefordshire Council, as they had been charged as a sum per each parish village within the group parish.

(10.3) **To determine the precept request for 2024 - 2025**

This was discussed and agreed at £10206.00. The Clerk would advise the precept request to the Herefordshire Council.

11. Matters raised by members for next Agenda

Usual items would be included. Lengthsman appointment and grant funding options

12. To confirm date of the next Meetings as Wednesday 7th February 2024 from 7.45 pm

The date of the next ordinary meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 7th February 2024 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

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 (13 only)

13.0 To discuss implementation of 1/04/23 pay award (back dated) and increment from 1/04/23 in line with HALC and NJC correspondence

The members of the public, and the Clerk, left the room for the discussion of item 12. The parish council resolved that the NJC Pay Award should be implemented together with an incremental uplift, with effect from 1/04/23, and the arrears backdated.

The parish council wished everyone a very Happy Christmas.

The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

SIGNED

DATED