

***Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wyese Group Parish Council, held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 from 7.45 pm***

**In attendance were:**

Councillors: D. Gurney, J. Dale, R. Mitchell, J. Lycett Green (in the Chair), D. Hughes, A. Rawstorne, J Hughes, A. Smith, P. Pugh (co-opted) and D. Roper. Parish Clerk Mrs A. M. Wright and Ward Cllr Philip Price plus two members of the public and PCSO Pete Knight (for the first part of the meeting).

Cllr John Lycett Green (Chair) welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

**1. Open Session with any parishioners**

PCSO Pete Knight was present at the meeting. He advised that there was no crime to report for the Wyese Group parishes but neighbouring parishes, such as Madley, had seen a number of break-ins to sheds and outbuildings. Several arrests had been made in connection with the incidents and enquiries were ongoing. The Home Security and Farm visits to look at security measures etc. were still on offer and if a call was made then the police would come out and give advice, plus undertake property marking as required. "Neighbourhood Matters" Bulletins were continuing to update on crime trends and information. There had been a number of "scrap collecting" vans going around. Those present were advised to keep a note of any numbers of vehicles believed to be "suspicious". All parties, police and residents, would be working together to deal with the issues.

**2. Co-option of Councillor**

There was one candidate present, for consideration for co-option to represent Blakemere within the Wyese Group. This was Phillip Pugh. Cllr Pugh was duly co-opted and he signed his acceptance of office form at the meeting.

**3. Apologies for absence**

There were apologies received from Cllrs H. Light, P. Gorringer, and O. Whittall

**4. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

**5. To approve previous minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023, were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**6 Report of North Ward Councillor**

Ward Cllr. Philip Price updated the meeting about recent activities. The Annual Budget Setting Meeting of Herefordshire Council was imminent. A balanced budget was to be presented. The budget was £13.5 million adrift at the end of quarter three of the budget year. Adult's and Children's Social Care budgets were big expenses with problems recruiting staff leading to the use of a high percentage of agency staff, at increased costs. Extra funds had been awarded from funding for rural services. This would mean more funding for the Lengthsman Scheme. Extra funding was also available for drainage works to employ people to clear and maintain drainage works. Matched funding was also available. There was an allocation of £445,000.00 towards public rights of way as defects were closing many local paths. The objective was to try to get more local work done to help keep water off the roads.

The details of the roads agenda set for a meeting on 8/02/24 would be out at the end of the month. This would include information about the proposed Eastern River Crossing and the Southern Link Road.

## **7 Roads/Lengthsman**

### **(7.1) To report on highway issues**

Cllr Roper had spoken with the Locality Steward, Paul Norris, about the Stockley Hill drainage issues, where the drains were “falling apart”. Pentre Lane was also in urgent need of jetting of drains and attention to the roadway. Cllr J. Hughes asked whether an up to date traffic survey could be undertaken to establish the volume of traffic using Pentre Lane. The Clerk would ask Ian Connolly, of West Mercia Police about this from a road safety perspective. The Ward Cllr advised that the river crossing bridge at Glasbury had “concrete cancer” and required repair works.

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

Cllr Lycett Green and Ward Cllr Price were aware of a possible candidate for the position of lengthsman and would discuss the role with the person.

## **8. Footpaths and Tree Warden – To report on footpaths and trees**

The footpath officer and Tree Warden, Cllr John Lycett Green, advised that he had cleared the overgrowth on a blocked bridleway.

## **9. Correspondence – Refer to information sheet**

The contents of the sheet were noted and included:

**Herefordshire Council** Various, as circulated including:

Talk Community bulletins

Local Area Plan Consultation

## **Blakemere Defibrillator**

A request for support with the purchase of a new battery for the Blakemere Defibrillator had been received from Dr Carol Chu.

## **10. 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. Ward Cllr Price confirmed that the application 233614, for the Old Post Office in Blakemere, had been passed on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## **11. Finance and Policies**

**(11.1) To note bank balance:** The bank balance was noted as £13226.71

### **(11.2) 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 February 2024

HMRC (tax) - £183.80

HALC – Subscription 2024 – 2025 £743.35

Village Mowers 2023 (17 recipients) Total £535.00

Defib World (Blakemere Defib battery) £254.59

## **12. Matters raised by members for next Agenda**

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

## **13. To confirm date of the next Meetings as Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 from 7.45 pm**

The date of the next ordinary meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and this would be held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall from 7.45 pm.

**Future Meeting dates for 2024** – March 6th, April 3rd, May 8th, June 5th, July 3rd, no meeting in August, September 4th, October 2nd, November 6<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>

The Meeting closed at 8.18 pm

SIGNED .....

DATED .....