

*Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wyeside Group Parish Council, held at the Preston on Wye Village Hall, on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 from 7.45 pm*

**In attendance were:**

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

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

**1. Open Session with any parishioners**

There were no comments made during the open session.

**2. Apologies for absence**

There were apologies received from Cllrs J. Lycett Green, A. Rawstone and H Light.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

**4. To approve previous minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 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 Herefordshire Council and local matters. The constant excavation of the road at Peterchurch was causing ongoing problems and road closures. There needed to be better co-ordination of utilities and pipe laying etc. to try to minimise disruption.

There were numerous issues with the highways and flooding and erosion were the main topics. It was hoped that the newly obtained funding for the lengthsman, public rights of way and drainage schemes would enable local contractors to help tackle the issues. The parish council would express an interest in all three grant funding opportunities. It was advised that the current contract with the Public Realm Provider, Balfour Beatty, could go a “number of different ways”. These were still being discussed.

The Director of Children’s Services had left Herefordshire Council following a further report on the service. A new appointment had been made and the post holder would commence in July 2024.

The murals that were being painted onto various buildings around the City of Hereford were being funded by grant awards.

**6. Roads/Lengthsman**

**(6.1) To report on highway issues**

There were road defects, literally everywhere. Potholes and localised floods, blocked drains, grips and gullies requiring clearing following the recent protracted rainfall. It was agreed that the local issues on the minor roads would be discussed with the lengthsman.

**(6.2) Vacancy for a lengthsman**

Mr Celfyn Amos, a local resident, had expressed an interest in the role. There was a discussion about the condition of the roads and requirements for action. It was agreed that an informal meeting would be held, with the prospective lengthsman, to discuss the five parishes and road issues. The lengthsman would require the appropriate public liability insurance and this would be contractor responsibility. A parish representative from each of the five villages would meet with the clerk, the

previous lengthsman, the Chair of the parish council and the new lengthsman to look at the parish maps and highlight known issues. This was arranged to take place the following week.

#### **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.

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

The contents of the sheet were noted and included:

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

Talk Community bulletins

#### **Lengthsman Scheme - update**

New Contract for 2024 – 2025 Lengthsman received Details for the schemes with grants related to the scheme are being passed back to Herefordshire Council from April. New e mail address is:

[Lengthsman@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lengthsman@herefordshire.gov.uk)

#### **Local Area Plan Consultations**

Consultation on a new Local Transport Plan for Herefordshire, details at:

[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ltp](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ltp)

Consultation on the Draft Local Plan 2021 – 2041 (Regulation 18) Consultation, more details at:

<https://hlp.commonplace.is/>

The consultation runs from 25 March 2025 until 20 May 2025

The Clerk had placed notification posters about the consultations into the notice boards for each parish within the group.

#### **TRO – Yellow lines at Bredwardine**

The Clerk had chased up the non completion of the TRO yellow lines marking up for the area around Bredwardine Bridge. The reply that was supplied, by Balfour Beatty, to Will Cox the Traffic Engineer was as follows:

*Hi Alison,*

*I have heard back from HC who have chased BBLP who have said the following:*

*“Only part of the scheme could be marked out because when we came to mark the lines around the central island, following removal of significant amounts of leaf debris, the carriageway condition was such that it was not possible to line without some localised resurfacing.*

*I’ve had feedback to say that the works are scheduled to be completed in April. With the weather as it has been recently, lining can be a challenge with wet roads but we would hope there may be an improvement in April that will allow us to progress.*

*I would suggest if you are advising third parties, you state planned for April, but completion being subject to weather conditions for the lining works.”*

#### **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 £11912.69

**(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 April 2024

HMRC (tax) - £98.80

**(10.3) To discuss appointment of internal auditor for 2023 – 2024**

The parish council discussed the appointment of a new internal auditor, following the retirement of the previous internal auditor, Mrs Walker. The new appointment was Charlotte Bull (cost £40.00).

The external auditor was PKF Littlejohn, as in previous years.

**11. Matters raised by members for next Agenda**

Usual items would be included. Lengthsman appointment and grant funding

**12. To confirm date of the next Meetings (Annual Parish and Annual Statutory as Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from 7.45 pm**

The date of the next meetings, the Annual Parish and the Annual Statutory, were confirmed as Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and these would be held, concurrently, at the Preston on Wye Village Hall from 7.45 pm.

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

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

SIGNED .....

DATED .....