

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Woolhope Parish Council Held on Tuesday 26th July 2022 7.30pm at Woolhope Village Hall

Present: Cllr. G Chapman
Cllr. M Windham
Cllr. S Crozier
Cllr. J Brandt
Cllr. R Rolt

In attendance: Clerk – Nick Richmond, Ward Councillor Barry Durkin and one member of the public

1. **Apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation**

Apologies were received from Cllr's Slocombe and May. No requests for dispensation were made. Cllr Windham declared an interest in planning application 222176 as a friend of the applicant.

2. **Ward Councillors Report.**

Cllr Durkin reported that PROW (Public Rights of Way) and TRO's (Traffic Regulation Orders) having been taken back under the control of Herefordshire Council rather than Balfour Beatty the personnel to carry out the work required within Herefordshire Council is reducing from 3 to 1 as one is retiring and another leaving. The result of this will be further delays in resolving the waiting list of over a hundred TRO applications. No questions were raised.

3. **Open Forum.**

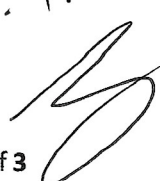
The member of the public was attending the meeting to explain the background to her planning application which was on the agenda. She enquired at this point about a road closure that had been applied for by Welsh Water in connection to her planning application, in relation to the delays in TRO's advised by Cllr Durkin. Cllr Durkin advised that applications for road closures would also be affected by the staff shortage at Herefordshire Council. Cllr Brandt enquired which side of the road the water supply was situated and was advised it was on the same side of the road as the applicant's property and he therefore queried why a road closure was required. It was suggested that she ask Welsh Water about this, however it may be that health and safety considerations might make the road closure unavoidable. Cllr Durkin advised that he would take up the road closure application with Herefordshire Council on her behalf.

4. **Minutes of the meeting of 28th June 2022.**

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 28th June 2022 were **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Planning Matters.**

To consider the following new application:

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- a) P222176 – Fairview Bungalow C1295 – replacement dwelling and garage. The applicant explained the circumstances surrounding the application to replace the current pre-fabricated building with a new dwelling behind the existing one, which is barely visible from the road and will not be as high as the two properties close by. Given the need to update the accommodation for her family needs council voted unanimously to support the application.
- b) No planning decisions were noted.

A new planning application had been received on the day of the meeting relating to a new accommodation block at The Crown Inn. The clerk had asked for an extension for comments until after the next council meeting in September but advised that this was unlikely to be granted. It was therefore **DECIDED** that if the extension was not granted an extraordinary meeting would be called to consider the application before the comments deadline of 16th August.

6. **Highways Matters**

- a) The lack of road surface on the road to Sollers Hope between Sapness Cottage and Whittlebury Barn had been reported by the clerk to Herefordshire Council but no response has been received so he will chase this up.

b) **Social Value Projects funded by Balfour Beatty.**

Cllr. Chapman advised that he has spoken to a contact of his who works in the field of playground equipment, who advised that pouring concrete into a mould would not produce a suitable surface for table tennis. A better option for a 'free' concrete pour would be to create a base on which to put a metal table.

7. **Financial Matters**

- a) The following payments were **AUTHORISED**:

£ 396.97 Clerk salary July 2022.
£ 99.20 Clerk tax July 2022.
£ 18.00 Clerk expenses June 2022.
£ 36.00 Woolhope Village Hall
£ 547.92 Matt Slocombe – expenses re Platinum Jubilee celebration.

- b) The account balance of £ 23,387.95 as at 30th June 2022 was noted.

- c) The budget report was received and approved.

In relation to the Jubilee expenses Cllr Slocombe had asked that the possible location of a Jubilee oak tree be discussed, and after some debate it was thought that the best place would be on Berryfields placed such that it would eventually hide an electrical pylon. Cllr Brandt advised that he could source an English oak on behalf of council.

8. **Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

The clerk reported that he has applied for a grant for the current financial year but has not received an answer as yet and is chasing. Cllr Rolt referred to the zoom meeting held a while back and the actions that were agreed from that meeting. Once the actions have been carried out a further working group meeting should be held to take matters forward.

9. **Tennis Club.**

The tennis club have now agreed that council can give them ten years notice to terminate which is the final issue to be agreed on the terms of the lease. It was therefore proposed that Cllr Slocombe be approved by council to sign the new lease on it's behalf. A vote being unanimous in support of the proposal Cllr Slocombe is authorised to sign the lease which may be available in the next couple of weeks.

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10. Lengthsman & Drainage Grant.

The clerk will has instructed the lengthsman to proceed with jobs WHPC002 (Lower Buckenhill) and WHPC006 (Bent Orchard) to utilise the £ 4,339 drainage grant from Herefordshire Council, and has also request the lengthsman to carry out a further road sweep through the village and a road sweep on the Sollers Hope road. The clerk phoned the lengthsman who advised that he was putting the drainage works into a programme to be carried out once summer footpath work had subsided. The clerk will ask Cllr Slocombe if he has spoken to the landowner concerning the area that floods near the end of Stoney Rise that could be easily remedied by clearing a ditch with a mini-digger.

- 11. Footpaths.** No new issues were identified. Council had been contacted by Prof. Timothy Wilson regarding footpath W050, in relation to the blocked entrance identified, no footpath sign and the path covered by crops. The clerk will contact footpaths officer to have a sign put in and will ask if he can arrange a replacement gate via Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty. The crop may in fact shortly be harvested so there is probably little point in asking the farmer to clear the path.

12. Correspondence

No new correspondence was received.

13. Replacement noticeboard opposite The Crown.

This matter was deferred as it was not known if Cllr May had spoken to the owner of the wall, and there was question as to whether a replacement was required. The clerk had suggested a replacement because the existing noticeboard had no windows so the notices were exposed to the elements.

14. Accessible swing for the playground.

Cllr Chapman,s contact advised against council installing an arm for a swing given it would be liable if the arm failed and caused an accident. It was AGREED that the clerk would organise an inspection report on the playground and Cllr Chapman and the clerk will source quotations for an accessible swing and the clerk will investigate a national lottery grant to fund any improvements.

15. Date, time and venue of next meeting and items for the next agenda.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday 27th September 2022 7.30pm at Woolhope Village Hall.

Nick Richmond
Clerk
29th July 2022

Signed By the Chairman:

Date:

27.9.22
