

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Woolhope Parish Council Held on Tuesday 24th January 2023 7.30pm at Woolhope Village Hall

Present: Cllr. M. Slocombe (in the chair)
Cllr. M Windham
Cllr. L. Mair

In attendance: Clerk – Nick Richmond, Ward Councillor Barry Durkin and parish lengthsman Terry Griffiths.

1. **Apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation**
Apologies were received from Cllr's Rolt, Crozier and May. No requests for dispensation were made.
2. **Co-option of a new councillor.**
Phil Hawkins had applied to be co-opted onto council to fill the vacancy left by Joe Brandt. The election period having passed and no other parishioner having come forward Phil was unanimously co-opted to council and signed the declaration of acceptance form.
3. **Ward Councillors Report.**
Cllr Durkin had not had the opportunity to submit a report.
- 4/5. **Open Forum.**
No members of the public were present. Cllr Hawkins asked if council would purchase and display a 'no fireworks' sign at Berryfield in light of the recent issue when fireworks were set off by individuals attended an event. Cllr Slocombe thought this was the only occasion in living memory of this happening, that a sign might be expensive and could easily be damaged/defaced. It was **AGREED** that the clerk would put a 'no fireworks' sign in the noticeboard at the village hall.
11. **Lengthsman.**
This item was taken next following the arrival of Terry Griffiths.
Terry explained the circumstances of the council's application for a £20k grant from Herefordshire Council for drainage jobs in the parish and the eventual award of £ 4,339 to all the parishes that applied. He detailed the work carried out along with the road sweeping of the village and the additional drainage job completed outside of the grant funded work. Cllr Slocombe had received favourable comments from residents of what had been achieved. The invoices were therefore approved and signed and handed to Terry with the council's thanks.
6. **Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2022.**
Minutes of the meeting of 6th December 2022 were **AGREED** and signed by the chairman.
7. **Planning Matters.**
To consider the following new applications:


28.2.23

- P223813 – Green Hill Farm Woolhope – Agricultural building for storage
- P223875 – Welchston Lodge – two storey extension.
- P223999 – Terrace Hall Woolhope - Proposed internal works
- P224025 – Wigbridge, Putley – garden room extension
- P224050 – Daddlebrook, Checkley – Farm building for dry storage.

All the above applications were supported by council. It was noted that the two storey extension at Welchston Lodge would benefit from environmental measures such as solar panels and heat pumps.

P220394 – Avenue Cottage, Woolhope – Cllr Slocombe reported that a site visit had taken place with Herefordshire Planning officer Gemma Webster, Ward Councillor Durkin and himself. Gemma had advised that HC had evidence that the applicant had purchased part of the adjacent orchard to widen the plot and provide better access. It appeared to Cllr Slocombe that the changes made to the design and the example of a similar construction by the same developer elsewhere that seemed appropriate were likely to gain Herefordshire Council's approval.

8. Highways Matters

- a) No new highways matters were reported. Cllr Durkin asked for any defects to be reported to him to be taken up with the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward during a parish drive through. Cllr Mair said she would provide details of potholes requiring work. Cllr Windham brought up the question of the 'missing' road surface on the Sollers Hope road.
- b) No further developments have happened on the Social Value Projects funded by Balfour Beatty. Cllr Slocombe thinks that there may be progress in the spring.

9. Financial Matters

- a) The following payments were **AUTHORISED**:
 - £ 396.97 Clerk salary December 2022.
 - £ 99.20 Clerk tax December 2022.
 - £ 396.97 Clerk salary January 2023
 - £ 99.20 Clerk tax January 2023
 - £ 20.50 Clerk expenses January 2023.
 - £ 100.00 P Watkins – hedgetrimming Berryfield.
 - £ 100.00 Eyelid Productions – Annual website support
 - £ 4,200.00 TGC Contracts – Grant funded drainage.
 - £ 1,400.00 TGC Contracts – Grant funded drainage.
 - £ 1,320.00 TGC Contracts – Village upkeep street cleaning.
 - £ 480.00 TGC Contracts – Grant funded drainage.
- b) The account balance £ 32,029.46 as at 28th December 2022 was noted.
- c) The budget report was **APPROVED**.

10. Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The clerk advised that the design code document was awaited to add to the draft NDP. Cllr Mair commented that the draft NDP needed amendments made and suggested that upon the return of Cllr's Crozier and Rolt this was carried out. The clerk will contact Herefordshire Council planners again for guidance.

11. Lengthsman & Drainage Grant.

See above.

28.2.23

12. **Footpaths.**

The clerk reported that the 'Walkers are Welcome' group have funding from DEFRA via the AONB to pay for gates to replace stiles and also to pay for installation. Unfortunately the broken stile at Caplor Rise is on a scheduled monument and cannot be replaced without approval from Historic England. It was agreed to put this on the council website asking parishioners for suggestions as to where gates might be installed.

13. **Sunset Cinema.**

It was agreed to keep this on the agenda as an idea for the coronation day in May.

14. **Correspondence**

The correspondence from Barbara Fox was discussed. It was considered that the old telephone box not being an attractive red one it would be better taken away, however if Barbara wishes to put information inside while it remains that would be beneficial. Regarding the marking of footpaths it was suggested that mobile phone apps such as 'Footpath Route Planner' or 'Outdoor Active' can easily be used to download maps or follow footpaths using GPS. Council supports wholeheartedly the display of miniature ponies at the village fete on Berryfield.

15. **Dog bin at St George's Church.**

It was suggested that a dog bin be provided at St George's Church as an existing black bin had been moved without permission. The clerk is to request this from Herefordshire Council

16. **Replacement noticeboard opposite The Crown.**

The clerk is to ask Cllr May if there is any progress with her potential supplier.

17. **Accessible swing for the playground.**

The clerk had a meeting arranged with Wicksteed the original supplier but this had been called off at the last moment as the representative was stuck in snow in Wales. The meeting will be rearranged.

18. **Woolhope Cricket Club.**

Cllr Slocombe advised that council had previously approved the cricket club to install a scorers hut and believed that they had found a relatively inexpensive moveable one that would be appropriate. Council **APPROVED** the use of weedkillers on the Berryfields cricket pitch provided suitable signs are put up to warn members of the public particularly dog walkers and the areas treated are clearly marked. It was suggested that any remaining weedkiller could be used around the village hall where weeds were evident.

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

The next council meeting will be Tuesday 28th February 2023 7.30pm at Woolhope Village Hall.

Nick Richmond
Clerk 31st January 2023