

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Woolhope Parish Council Held on Tuesday 25th July 2023 8.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall

Present: Cllr. M Slocombe - Chairman
Cllr. M Windham
Cllr. P Hawkins
Cllr. R. Rolt
Cllr L. Mair

In attendance: Nick Richmond- Clerk and Mark July.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr's Crozier and May, and Ward Councillor Durkin. Cllr Slocombe declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 Planning application 232136. No written requests for dispensation were received.

2. **Ward Councillors Report.**

Ward Councillor Durkin's report had been circulated. Cllr Slocombe noted that the Hereford by-pass was being re-investigated no doubt duplicating costs already incurred. A hold had been put on moving the library and the review of the core strategy had been paused. Herefordshire Council is 3% over budget a figure of £ 5.3 million.

3. **Co-option of a new councillor.**

No one has come forward to fill the vacancy so far.

4. **Open Forum.**

Mark July spoke on the NDP Reg 14 consultation saying that the response form was very onerous and people should be able to comment in any way they chose. He had noticed some typographical errors in the draft NDP and was advised that a new version with corrections made by Cllr Mair had been put on the council website. Mark said he would forward his responses to the clerk. Mark then moved on to speak about Broadmoor Common. It had recently come to light that the existing Tenancy at Will had never been converted into asset transfer or lease and Herefordshire Council have sent an expression of interest form to start this process. Mark July advised that it would be better to operate on a long lease say 30 years such that ownership remained with Herefordshire Council to protect the parish council from having to take action in the event of any illegal trespassing on the common. The clerk is to revert to Herefordshire Council to ask if a different process is possible as the expression of interest form seems onerous and inappropriate.

5. **Minutes of the Annual meeting held on 16th May 2023 and the Parish Council meeting of 20th June 2023.**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 16th May 2023, and the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th June 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

26.9.23



6. **Planning Matters.**

P232135/6 The Butchers Arms – extension of public house and conversion of outbuildings to form letting bedrooms. Cllr Slocombe took no part in the consideration of this application. Other Councillors voted to support the application.

P232054 Fosbury Fruit Farm Putley – retention of a static caravan. Cllrs voted to support the application.

7. **Highways Matters**

No new highways matters were reported.

The wall at the Church having been cleared by Balfour Beatty as a social value project advice is now needed on how to proceed with any renovations and it was decided to approach Joe Price for this advice.

8. **Financial Matters**

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

£ 466.27 Clerk salary July 2023

£ 116.40 Clerk tax July 2023

£ 27.99 Clerk expenses July 2023.

£ 626.80 Dave Smith Tree Care – 2 days deer fencing Broadmoor Common

£ 18.00 EEK Design – Map purchase Broadmoor Common

£ 63.00 Woolhope Village Hall

b) The clerk is to ask Lloyds Bank if all seven councillors can be signatories on the bank account. If not then the signatories are to be Cllrs Slocombe, Windham, Hawkins and Rolt.

c) The bank balance of £20,597.18 as at 29th June 2023 was noted.

d) The accounts were received and approved. Cllr Hawkins signed the bank reconciliation.

9. **Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

The clerk has e-mailed statutory consultees sending the draft NDP, design code response forms. It was agreed that Cllr Rolt will have copies of the draft NDP printed for distribution with copies being made available at The Crown and the Village Hall.

10. **Broadmoor Common**

Covered under agenda item 4 open forum.

11. **Lengthsman.**

It was agreed that the clerk would submit an expression of interest form for the 2023-24 Parish Lengthsman Scheme.

12. **Footpaths.**

No new issues reported. Cllr Hawkins will be walking footpaths in his capacity as officer. The clerk advised that Joe Brandt has agreed to be the councils tree officer.

13. **Correspondence**

No new correspondence received.

14. **Replacement noticeboards.**

It had been decided that the new noticeboards will just have 'Woolhope Parish' as the header.

26.9.23



15. **Rebuilding the wall at the Church.**

See agenda item 7.

16. **Accessible swing for the playground.**

The clerk is to find out if flooring can be obtained direct from the manufacturer for Balfour Beatty to install.

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

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 26th September 2023.

Clerk - Nick Richmond

11th August 2023


20.9.23