

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Woolhope Parish Council Held on Tuesday 24th October 2023 7.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall

Present: Cllr. M Slocombe - Chairman
Cllr. M Windham
Cllr. P Hawkins
Cllr. A. May
Cllr R. Rolt
Cllr S. Crozier

In attendance: Nick Richmond- Clerk, and Mark July.

1. **To receive apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.**
Apologies were received from Cllr. Mair. No declarations of interest were received or requests for dispensation.
2. **Ward Councillors Report.**
No report was received.
3. **To consider the co-option of a new councillor.**
No one has come forward to fill the vacancy.
4. **Open forum**
To receive the views of local residents on parish matters.
No residents were present at the start of the meeting.
5. **Meetings:**
To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th September 2023.
The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Planning Matters**
 - a) **To consider new applications received since the last meeting now due for consideration:**
 - P233007 Fairlea, Woolhope – Replacement dwelling.** Councillors considered that this was a good design and voted to support the application.
 - P233024 Ridge Cottage Putley – Extension first floor, concealed utility room & rebuilt external store.** All voted to support the application.
 - P232794 – Avenue Cottage – revised scheme.** Council having objected to the scheme originally some deficiencies were noted in the revised scheme. The clerk is to comment that Herefordshire planners should insist that the reinstated hedge in the first scheme is included in the revised scheme, that the timber weatherboarding is maintained with the same spec, and that, given the large area of driveways these be in permeable substrate with grids to prevent problems with rainwater runoff.
 - b) **The following planning decisions were noted:**
 - P232136 Butchers Arms Woolhope Extensions approved with conditions.
 - P232365 Broadmoor Cottage Single & two storey extensions approved with conditions
7. **Highways Matters**
 - a) **To consider any new highways issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty.**
No new issues were raised.
 - b) **To consider progress on social value projects.**
The wall at St George's Church was discussed. The clerk and Cllr's Windham and May had

28.11.23

met Joe Price at the wall to view it's condition and obtain a quotation from Joe for it's rebuilding. Given the likely high cost of rebuilding it would probably have to be tackled in sections the first section being the furthest away from the church where part of the wall has collapsed completely and a section leaning dangerously. The first action however is to take down trees around the wall and then spray the ivy to kill it off, which may mean the section nearest the church might not be in bad condition once revealed. Joe agreed to provide a quotation. It was decided that the clerk would approach Joe Brandt for a quotation for the tree work and then prepare a letter to residents advising them of what is planned.

8. Financial Matters

a) The following payments were authorised:

- £ 466.27 Clerk salary October 2023
- £ 116.40 Clerk tax October 2023
- £ 31.75 Clerk expenses September 2023.
- £ 27.00 Woolhope Village Hall room fees .
- £ 546.00 Woolhope Cricket Club Berryfield Maintenance.
- £ 342.00 Signs & Labels Broadmoor Common signs.
- £ 252.00 PKF Littlejohn external audit.
- £ 62.40 Historic Building Repairs.

c) To note the bank balance of £24,454.13 as at 29th September 2023 was noted.

d) The current 2023-24 accounts were approved and bank reconciliation signed by Cllr Hawkins.

e) To consider the draft budget for 2024/25. The draft budget was considered but needs updating once the likely costs of the wall rebuilding are known. The clerk is to find out what if any restrictions exist in raising the precept, as it has not been raised for several years and expenditure on the wall and the playground may place council finances under some strain.

9. **Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

The clerk advised that all the Reg 14 responses had been sent to the consultant for him to summarise and suggest any changes to the draft NDP. Mark July had joined the meeting and he commented that council should now be referring to the NDP in planning application comments.

10. **Broadmoor Common**

The clerk had submitted an EOI to Herefordshire Council in obtaining a long lease on Broadmoor Common but had been advised that insufficient details had been provided and no financial accounts of what had been spent. Mark July kindly offered to redraw the EOI and the clerk will produce expenditure details to be included. Council thanked Mark in advance for offering to assist in this task.

11. **Lengthsman.**

It was noted that the lengthsman had carried out the sweep of the village and it looked very tidy. As council has funding of £4,578 from Herefordshire Council to spend on C and U roads it was decided to instruct the lengthsman to clear all drains, ditches, gully's and grips through the village as soon as possible, to carry out a further sweep through of the village in December and book in a maintenance day in February. Councillors are to advise the clerk of any flooding issues with a 'What3words' location so he can ask the lengthsman to incorporate these into the maintenance day.

12. **Footpaths.**

No new footpaths issues were reported.

13. **Correspondence.**

No new correspondence received.

14. **Replacement noticeboards.**
Cllr May is to provide the clerk with contact details of the noticeboard constructor.
15. **Rebuilding the wall at the Church.**
See agenda item 7b.
16. **To consider an accessible swing for the playground.**
The clerk will request an updated quote from the supplier.
17. **To consider an application for an additional waste bin at the village hall and re-siting the existing bin to a more prominent position.** This matter remains under consideration and the clerk has received a request from the Churchwarden for a dog bin at the bottom end of Berryfields which he will request from Balfour Beatty.
18. **The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th November 7.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall.**

Clerk - Nick Richmond
30th October 2023