

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Woolhope Parish Council Held on Tuesday 27th February 2024 7.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall

Present: Cllr. M. Slocombe - Chairman
Cllr. M. Windham
Cllr. P. Hawkins
Cllr. L. Mair
Cllr. S. Crozier
Cllr. A. May

In attendance: Nick Richmond-Clerk.

1. **To receive apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.**
Apologies were received from Cllr. Rolt & Edward Cllr Durkin. No declarations of interest were made or requests for dispensation received.
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 members of the public were present.
5. **Meetings:**
To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd January 2024.
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:**
No new planning applications were received.
 - b) **To note any planning decisions made:**
P231652 Croose Farm – Replacement of stable block with holiday let - Approved with Conditions – noted.
7. **Highways Matters**
 - a) **To consider any new highways issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty.**
Cllr Slocombe highlighted recent flooding and water from fields that ends up on the roads damaging the road surface. He suggested we draw up a list of locations with what three words to examine what action to take.
 - b) **To consider the road closures associated with the Hills Ford Stages motoring event proposed for Sunday 15th September 2024.**
Despite reports of many locals in favour of the event the majority of councillors have serious reservations over damage to already poor road surfaces and potential other damage. The residents liaison officer for the stage has agreed to meet any councillors and residents at The Crown on 6th March so it was decided to hear what he had to say before making any decision.
8. **Financial Matters**
 - a) **The following payments were authorised:**

£ 466.27 Clerk salary February 2024
 £ 116.40 Clerk tax February 2024
 £ 35.24 Clerk expenses February 2024.
 £ 600.60 HALC/NALC Subscription and Affiliation fees.
 £ 150.00 EEK Design – Ariel map for Broadmoor Common
 £ 400.00 Mackay Tree Services – Tree removal at the Church wall.

The following payments were NOT authorised:

£ 528.00 Terry Griffiths Contracts – village drainage work
 £ 962.40 Terry Griffiths Contracts - village sweeping

c) The bank balance of £19,324.26 as 30th January 2024. was noted.

d) To receive and approve the current 2023-24 accounts and sign the bank reconciliation.

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

9. Neighbourhood Development Plan.

To discuss progress.

The consultant Michael Wellock has incorporated the Reg 14 responses agreed by council into a new draft NDP. The clerk is to provide Michael with a list of the consultees, which should then enable submission of the final NDP to Herefordshire Council. Following this an independent reviewer of the NDP will be appointed to scrutinise the documents and may ask for clarifications. Once this has been carried out the NDP can move to a referendum of parishioners.

10. Broadmoor Common

Update on the expression of interest submitted to Herefordshire Council for a long lease.

The very sad passing of Mark July was noted. It was agreed to put on the council website an outline of his enormous contribution to environmental protection not only in Woolhope but around the country. Council awaits further contact from Herefordshire Council regarding a long term lease of Broadmoor Common.

11. Lengthsman.

To receive an update.

Cllr Slocombe expressed some concerns over the size of Terry Griffiths invoices and the work carried out. It was agreed to invite terry to the next meeting to discuss.

12. Footpaths.

To consider any footpaths issues.

No new issues were reported.

13. Correspondence.

No new correspondence received.

14. To receive an update on replacement noticeboards.

The clerk advised that having phoned and e-mailed the supplier identified by Cllr May without response he has commissioned The Men's Shed in Ross-on-Wye to make a wooden noticeboard with Perspex windows which they have said will be ready in 4-5 weeks.

15. To consider quotations for rebuilding the wall at the Church and removal of the trees.

The trees having been removed successfully it was decided to arrange for Jake Price to poison the ivy such that the wall can be re-examined to assess how much needs rebuilding. Cllr Crozier will arrange with Jake Price.

16. To consider an accessible swing for the playground.

On hold pending fresh quotations.

17. To consider missing village signage.

The Ward Councillor Barry Durkin will be asked about missing village signage at the next meeting.

- 18. To consider new Issues raised by the Village Hall committee.**
Cllr Hawkins advised that he will arrange for a quotation for replacing the rotting posts in the village hall car park.
- 19. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th March 2024 7.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall.** It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 21st May 2024.

Clerk - Nick Richmond
13th March 2024