

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Woolhope Parish Council

Held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at the Woolhope Parish Hall

Present: Cllr. M. Slocombe
Cllr. P. Hawkins
Cllr. A. May
Cllr. L. Mair
Cllr. S. Crozier
Cllr. R. Rolt

1. Open Forum.

Cllr. Slocombe welcomed a larger than normal audience to the Annual Parish Meeting and gave a report on the council business of the previous 12 months.

This included the current situation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which was in the process of being reviewed by Herefordshire Council. Following this process, a referendum for adoption will be held.

The King's Coronation was marked by a lunch at the hall and Coronation mugs given to junior parish members. The Coronation Garden will have a plaque to be displayed and there is a balance of £2,000 to be spent on the garden.

Broadmoor Common lease is still awaiting Herefordshire Council agreement. The work is well under way with the committee and working groups maintaining the conservation plans. The sudden passing of Mark July, who had given so much to the Parish and to Broadmoor Common was also acknowledged.

The Church car park wall repair was also covered with an update on plans for the removal of the ivy and rebuilding the damaged section of wall.

Questions from the attendees were: Precept increase, notice board in the village, dog poo bins, salt bins and the second defibrillator. These were all answered by Cllr. Slocombe as per previous council minutes.

We Don't buy Crime Co-ordinator, Amy Bryce, from West Mercia Police, addressed the meeting about the Towns and Villages Project, referring specifically to smart water to deter thefts in the region. This is something Woolhope had signed up to over 10 years ago, she will liaise with Cllr. Hawkins, who will then report to the parish council to discuss future involvement.

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2. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Cllr. Crozier proposed that Cllr. Slocombe be reappointed as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr. May and all voted in favour. Cllr. Slocombe took the chair. Cllr. Slocombe proposed that Cllr. Hawkins be appointed Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr. Mair and all voted in favour.

3. Appointment of footpaths officer and tree warden.

Cllr. Hawkins was re-appointed footpaths officer. Joe Brandt will continue to act as tree warden.

4. Apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Windham, Clerk Richmond and Cllr. Durkin. No declarations of interest were made nor requests for dispensation received.

5. Ward Councillors report.

Cllr. Durkin had circulated the report prior to the meeting which was explained by Cllr. Slocombe

6. Meetings.

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April were **AGREED** and signed by the chairman.

7. Planning Matters.

- a) P240886 Land at Fairlea – replacement dwelling was considered by the council following several comments by the attendees. The two main concerns were the design of the building being very modern and not in keeping with the look of the village. The second concern was the height of the living quarters being on the upper floor and overlooking the other residences as the frontage being mainly glass.
- b) The applicant was also in attendance and asked that people look at the application properly as she felt that decisions were being made unfairly.
- c) The two issues were agreed as valid, the location is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, was not in keeping with the NDP (not yet adopted) and other buildings in the village. Therefore, the council did not support the application.

8. Highway Matters.

The Ford Hill Stage Rally (proposed for 15th September 2024) was discussed at length with concerns being raised from both Cllr. Hawkins and some attendees about the closure of roads around the village, and the ecological effect of the volume of cars travelling at speed across Broadmoor Common. The benefits to the Parish were also addressed with the potential to generate much needed funds for the hall and village, and the general opinion of the parishoners were overwhelming with support for the event. A decision by Herefordshire Council to


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allow the event is yet to be made and attendees were advised to contact Cllr. Durkin if they had concerns.

9. Financial Matters.

The following payments were authorised:

£466.27 Clerk salary May 2024

£116.40 Clerk tax May 2024

£346.80 Business Services at CAS. Council Insurance renewal

£30.00 Herefordshire Tree Warden Network subscription 2023-24

10. Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Cllr. Rolt confirmed that the document had been proofread with the help of Cllr Mair and had been submitted to Herefordshire Council for independent review. Once returned, it would be submitted for referendum for adoption.

11. Lengthsman.

There are ongoing plans with Terry Griffiths, increasing works required to stop water flooding onto roads which is the main cause of damage to the road surface. This had already been covered in the open forum where increased precept was discussed.

12. Footpaths.

Cllr. Hawkins confirmed that he had checked the rotten footpath sign reported by Cllr. May and reported the sign to the PROW team at Herefordshire Council by the reporting APP.

13. Correspondence.

No new correspondence received.

14. Update on replacement noticeboards.

Addressed in the open forum. The new noticeboard has not yet been erected in the village. It was questioned by the attendees, why the old one was being replaced as it was in relatively good condition. The council agreed to consider recycling it when replacing the other notice boards at Terrace Hall, Broadmoor Common and The Nurdens.

15. Rebuilding the wall at the Church.

Also addressed in the open forum, Cllr. Slocombe explained that the work completed to date was cutting back the trees, and ivy, exposing the damaged stonework. Quotes for the work required were in the region of £20,000-£30,000. This meant that the original plans to rebuild the wall were financially prohibitive, in order to keep to a reasonable budget and retain the authenticity of the original wall, it was agreed to rebuild to a lower height and retain as much of the original as possible. At this stage, no rebuilding has been agreed until further investigation of the original wall has been completed.

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16. To consider an accessible swing for the playground.

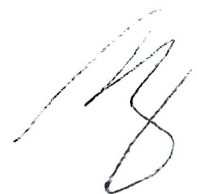
Cllr. Slocombe stated that this issue was stuck as a new flooring had to be laid and would need overnight supervision as required by the fitter. This was not acceptable to the council so the project had not progressed any further.

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th June 2024 at Woolhope Parish Hall.

Vice Chair – Cllr. P. Hawkins
22nd May 2024

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A handwritten signature, possibly of the Vice Chair, Cllr. P. Hawkins, written in ink.