

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Woolhope Parish Council Held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 7.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall

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

In attendance: Nick Richmond-Clerk, Ward Councillor Durkin and Sally Webster from the Broadmoor Common Steering Group.

1. **To receive apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.**
Apologies were received from Cllr Crozier. No declarations of interest were made or requests for dispensation received.
10. **Broadmoor Common**
 - a) **To receive a verbal report from the steering group meeting and approve the signing of the grant document and the purchase of the Ryetec machine with recovery of £ 8,424 under the FiPL grant.**
Sally Webster reported from the steering group meeting that the cut and collect Ryetec machine would considerably enhance the wild flowers on the common and cut down the manual labour required previously to clear a small area, so the group proposed that council purchase the machine and recover 80% of the cost under the FiPL grant. Cllr Slocombe suggested that council could conclude a leasing agreement with Jake Price under which the £2,500 cost to the council could be recovered over a period of 7 years. It was agreed to proceed with the purchase providing a suitable agreement was reached with Jake Price.
 - b) **To consider a contribution toward a bench as a memorial to Mark July and approve the scattering of his ashes on the common.**
Council supports the idea of a bench and Cllr Slocombe suggested that depending on what funds came forward two benches should be considered one by the pond and the other to replace an existing but damaged bench. Council considers it completely appropriate that Mark July's ashes be scattered on the common.
2. **Ward Councillors Report.**
Cllr Durkin's report had been circulated. Cllr Durkin highlighted the recent flood groups meeting and said that a new spirit of co-operation existed to promote coordination between Herefordshire Council, Parish Councils and its contractors to identify and deal with flood areas. Local flood groups can be given powers to close and re-open roads in danger of flooding. Cllr Slocombe asked that councillors advise the clerk of roads that flood to develop a database that can then be used to co-ordinate its efforts to keep water off the roads in partnership with landowners who have responsibility to keep ditches clear such that road surfaces are not damaged by flood water.


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3. **To consider the co-option of a new councillor.**
No one has come forward as yet. Cllr May said she knew someone who was interested and will ask them to contact the clerk.
4. **Open forum. To consider the views of local residents on parish matters.**
The only member of the public present was Sally Webster whose contribution was made under agenda item 10 above.
5. **Meetings:**
To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th June 2024.
The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.
6. **Planning Matters**
 - a) **To consider new applications received since the last meeting now due for consideration:**
P220525 - Land on the Northern side of the C1297 and the Eastern boundary of Haugh Woods - APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 - for the re- erection of a replacement dwelling.
Councillors were concerned about the risk of flooding and the possibility of the degradation of the pond on Broadmoor Common from foul water and it was agreed that the clerk would pass on these concerns to the planners.
P241636 - Dappledown, Woolhope- Walnut - reduce crown by approx 1-2m in order to help give sufficient light to the property.
Council supported this application.
 - b) **To note any planning decisions made:**
None notified
7. **Highways Matters**
 - a) **To consider any new highways issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty.**
 - 1) **To consider the road closures associated with the Hills Ford Stages motoring event proposed for Sunday 15th September 2024.**
Cllr Durkin advised that the organisers of the rally had agreed to some minor alterations to the route of the rally in other parishes and had asked for any issues with the rally to be notified to him. The clerk advised that he had asked for comments on the council website but no one had come forward with any. While councillors were on the whole opposed to the rally on safety concerns most parishioners supported the holding of the rally. Cllr Durkin said that in the circumstances he felt that the road closures associated with the rally would be approved.
8. **Financial Matters**
 - a) **The following payments were approved:**
£ 466.27 Clerk salary July 2024
£ 116.40 Clerk tax July 2024
£ 300.00 HALC Internal Audit
£ 75.00 Woolhope Village Hall bookings.
£ 13,176.00 C1600C Super Ryetec Mower
 - b) **The bank balance of £22,876.71 as at 15th July 2024 was noted.**
 - c) **The accounts as at 15th July 2024 were approved and Cllr Hawkins signed the bank reconciliation.**
 - d) **To consider financial support to the cricket club to enable the purchase of a Masport lawnmower £ 279.00 and a Stihl Brushcutter £374.99**
Cllrs Slocombe and Mair outlined the reasons for the request but abstained from voting. All four other councillors voted to give a grant of £ 653.99 to the Cricket club for them to purchase the equipment.
9. **Neighbourhood Development Plan.**
Cllr Rolt had no response from Herefordshire Council regarding the final NDP and Design Code. He will copy in the clerk when asking for a reply.

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10. **Broadmoor Common**
See above.
11. **Lengthsman.**
The clerk advised that the lengthsman has been asked to carry out a sweep of the village and the clearing of village drains using a jetter lorry by the end of August.
12. **Footpaths.**
Cllr Hawkins reported that the steps at Underhillm Farm had been replaced by the landowner and it was agreed that the clerk will express the council's thanks to the landowner .
13. **Correspondence.**
No new correspondence had been received.
14. **Berryfield**
To approve the use of Berryfield for the Village Fete on Monday 26th August 2024.
It was agreed to approve the use of Berryfield for the village Fete and to approve the event in future years on August Bank Holidays.
15. **To consider quotations for rebuilding the wall at the Church.**
The ivy is to be sprayed by Jake Price to remove it.
16. **To consider an accessible swing for the playground.**
The clerk is to obtain new quotes.
17. **To consider missing village signage.**
The missing sign on Broadmoor Common was reported to Herefordshire Council some time ago but nothing has happened. Now the Woolhope sign at Wessington has also disappeared so the clerk will report both.
18. **To consider new Issues raised by the Village Hall committee.**
Cllr Hawkins advised that the bin has been partially obscured by branches and he will remove them.
19. **Replacement noticeboards.**
It was agreed that the new noticeboard be installed at the Nurdens and others ordered to replace old noticeboards. Cllr Hawkins will take some pictures and send them to the clerk.
20. **Policy Review**
The updated Code of Conduct including the amendment requested by Cllr Rolt was approved.
21. **Council not meeting in August the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th September 2024 7.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall.**

Clerk - Nick Richmond
1st August 2024

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