

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Woolhope Parish Council Held on Tuesday 24th September 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 four members of the public.

1. **To receive apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.**
Apologies were received from Cllr Crozier. Cllr Mary Windham declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 Planning P202258 as a close neighbour of Sapness Farm.
4. **Open forum. To consider the views of local residents on parish matters.**
The four members of the public having attended to voice their objections to the planning application for the communications mast this item was taken next. Liz Williams spoke saying that the pictures of the mast in the application were misleading as they did not show the ground cabinets and other infrastructure supporting the mast, and advised that the location is in full sight of the Wye Valley Walk. Rob Price questioned the necessity for the mast and its location given that a previous application in Fownhope had not gone ahead. Lois Pena said that the location near oak trees was damaging to wildlife particularly insects. Cllr Slocombe said that he thought a compromise location was possible but no attempt had been made to consult local residents who see the siting as nonsensical.
2. **Ward Councillors Report.**
The report having been circulated no questions arose. Cllr Durkin advised that the idea of more household waste bins had been dropped. He said that Herefordshire Council are adopting a co-operative and collegiate approach to drainage and ditch to involve landowners, parish councils and Herefordshire Council.
3. **To consider the co-option of a new councillor.**
No movement on this matter.
5. **Meetings: To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd July 2024.**
The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Planning Matters**
 - a) **To consider new applications received since the last meeting now due for consideration:**
P202258 – Sapness Farm – re-consultation retrospective two pairs of stables.
Cllr Durkin explained that the planning application had been forced by Herefordshire Council in order that four years would not elapse and the stables therefore no longer require permission. Several councillors spoke against the application and a vote taken with 4 objecting to the application and 2 abstaining. The clerk will submit that the application is deficient without an ecology report and ask that traffic management and waste management plans are adhered to.

P242218 – Land adj C1297 Martins Close – overhanging Ash tree cut back or dismantle.
Councillors voted to support this application.

P242381 – Land at Common Hill – communications monopole.

See agenda item 4 open forum. Councillors voted to object to the application on the grounds discussed.

b) To note any planning decisions made:

None notified

7. Highways Matters

a) To consider any new highways issues for reporting to Balfour Beatty.

Cllr Windham reported that posts at the Marcle Ridge car park had been damaged, possibly a result of the rally.

b) To consider the effects of the Hills Ford Stages motoring event.

A few issues occurred, Cllr Hawkins reported that people were climbing over barbed wire fences to areas where there were no facilities, and Cllr May advised that a steward asked to use her toilet and left leaflets there. A complaint received that residents did not know about the rally until late in the day was met with surprise as council had discussed the event at every meeting since January, had put information on its website, and the organisers had delivered literature to every household on the route and held public meetings in Fownhope and Ledbury. Residents had largely enjoyed the event some describing it as exciting and brilliant.

8. Financial Matters

a) The following payments were authorised :

£ 466.27 Clerk salary Aug 2024

£ 116.40 Clerk tax Aug 2024

£ 466.27 Clerk salary September 2024.

£ 116.40 Clerk tax September 2024

£ 375.00 EEK Design final payment

£ 287.30 Signs & Labels

£ 559.20 Terry Griffiths Maintenance day.

The clerk reported that the bank balance is currently £ 16,747 and a remittance advice has been received from Herefordshire Council for the £8,424 grant for the Ryetec cut and collect machine which will take the balance to £ 25,171.

9. Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Cllr Rolt reported on an exchange of e-mails with Herefordshire Council which includes a checklist for the Regulation 15 submission. He has advised Herefordshire Council that the clerk will complete the checklist and supply all the documents required.

10. Broadmoor Common

a) To report on the grant application recovery of funds.

See agenda item 8 Financial matters.

b) To consider a contribution toward a bench as a memorial to Mark July and approve the scattering of his ashes on the common.

The clerk has made a rustic bench and Cllr Hawkins will see if the existing bench can be cleared and brought back to use. The clerk will follow up regarding the Woolhope Dome Environmental Trust bench and enquire when the scattering of the ashes of Mark July will happen.

11. Lengthsman.

A maintenance day has been completed and a sweep of the village is scheduled for later this week followed by a jetting of village drains. The lengthsman has provided quotations from which the clerk will submit an application for the Local Drainage Grant to Herefordshire Council which has to be submitted by 27th September.

12. Footpaths.

Cllr Hawkins reported that the wooden kissing gate at the back of the church has some broken parts and might be replaced. Cllr Slocombe wondered if it might be repaired as it would be a shame to lose the unusual design. The clerk said he might add this to a list of jobs including the installation of the noticeboard at The Nurdens and the posts at the village hall and ask the person who installed the steps on the footpath recently who said he would quote for any work we had. Cllr Hawkins advised that he had consulted residents at The Nurdens who were largely in favour of installing the noticeboard on the triangle of land next to the car park.

13. Correspondence.

Covered under agenda item 7b.

14. To consider quotations for rebuilding the wall at the Church.

The clerk suggested that although the quotations received were not like for like, council could decide that, as a prestige project for the village it would use local builder Joe Price and ask him to undertake work to a maximum of £8k this year to make a start. Cllr Slocombe said that the spraying of the ivy to reveal the wall still needed to be carried out, and he would contact Joe Price to set up a meeting.

15. To consider an accessible swing for the playground.

Awaiting fresh quotations.

16. To consider missing village signage.

The clerk will chase up the missing 'Woolhope' signs at Wessington and on Broadmoor Common.

17. To consider new Issues raised by the Village Hall committee.

Nothing new.

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

The next meeting will be Tuesday 22nd October 7pm preceded by The Broadmoor Common Steering Group meeting at 6pm.

Clerk - Nick Richmond
29th September 2024



Nice Chair

22nd October 2024

Woolhope Parish Council

Bank Reconciliation

As at 17.10.2024

Bank balance 31/3/2024	£	16,464.87
	£	16,464.87
Opening Balance:	£	16,464.87
Add:		
Receipts	£	28,365.75
Less:		
Expenditure	£	20,880.54
Balance:	£	23,950.08

Balance per statement dated 17.10.2024	£	23,950.08
TOTAL	£	23,950.08

TOTAL	£	-
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Balance:	£	23,950.08
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22/10/24
Vice Chair