

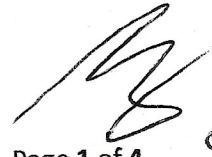
Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Woolhope Parish Council Held on Tuesday 28th January 2025 7.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall

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

In attendance: Nick Richmond-Clerk, Ward Cllr Barry Durkin and Parish Lengthsman Terry Griffiths.

1. **To receive apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.**
Apologies were received from Cllr Rolt. No written requests for dispensation were received and no declarations of interest made.
2. **To consider co-option of a parishioner to Parish Council.**
Cameron Scott introduced himself as a resident of the parish living at The Old Forge who is keen to take an active role in parish matters and therefore wished to take the vacant seat on the council. Cllr Slocombe proposed that Cameron be co-opted to the council. This was seconded by Cllr Crozier and all voted in favour. Cameron signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place on the council.
3. **Ward Councillors Report.**
The report had been circulated. Cllr Durkin outlined the issues surrounding the Government initiative on devolved government and the possibility of Herefordshire becoming part of a larger three county unitary authority. He said that Herefordshire were in dialogue with central government, and their stance is that, Herefordshire being solvent unlike the counties around it which are in financial difficulties, wishes to remain independent. The governments housing plan may see Herefordshire required to build 27,500 new homes rather than the existing target of 16,000, and Herefordshire Council would push for the infrastructure necessary to support that level of house building, including the by-pass.
4. **Open forum. To consider the views of local residents on parish matters.**
Cllr Windham introduced a discussion about Glowson Wood Road where a section of the road edge has eroded into the field below leading to a lorry and several cars falling dangerously off the road. The meeting felt that the road edge should be supported and better marked, and rather than an advisory weight limit there should be a compulsory weight limit given the danger. Ward Councillor Durkin suggested that parish council write to him formally to ask him to investigate what measures were possible. The condition of the road to Sollers Hope was also discussed and it was agreed that the clerk would contact Sollers Hope council to see if a joint approach might be developed. Cllr Windham advised that the Young Farmers have asked if they can have a marquee on Berryfields in the summer, but that they have limited funds to be able to afford the normal £250 charge made. It was agreed in the circumstances that approval was granted on the basis that they make a donation the amount being at their discretion.
5. **Meetings:**

 25.2.25

To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th November 2024.

The minutes having been circulated they were accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Parish Lengthsman Terry Griffiths being present agenda item 12 was taken now.

12. Lengthsman.

To consider new parish lengthsman work and consider the report received concerning flooding at Terrace Hall.

Terry Griffiths outlined the work carried out recently particularly the drains jetting in the village. The section from the Old Forge to the junction had only been partially successful due to a substance that has congealed in the pipe. He is having this analysed and will report back to the clerk so that the matter may be reported to Herefordshire Council. The final maintenance day of the current financial year will be in March and parish council should notify him in advance of any particular areas requiring attention. The deadline for works under the Herefordshire Council drainage grant (Woolhope Parish Council has works at Lower Buckenhill and Beans Butts to be carried out) has been extended from March to June given the delay in announcing the scheme, and it is hoped that the 2025-26 scheme will come out much earlier. Terry having been asked to investigate the issues at Terrace Hall his report, recommendations and quotation was discussed. The report seeming to have two different quotation figures the clerk asked Terry to confirm which figure was correct. Terry advised that the correct figure was £1,200 and on that basis it was agreed that Terry was authorised by council to proceed with the work.

6. Planning Matters

a) To consider new applications received since the last meeting now due for consideration:

P242839 Ag land at Little Canwood – Change of use ag building to equestrian enterprise.

P242950 Land at Little Canwood – Temporary siting of equestrian workers caravan within existing barn.

The councillors discussed the potential increase in traffic caused by the development and that the original plan was for a private stud rather than an enterprise. Cllr Slocombe said that as a rural parish new businesses suitable for a rural setting should be encouraged, and he proposed that council support both applications. This was seconded by Cllr Mair and a vote taken with 6 in favour and 1 against.

b) To note any planning decisions made:

P202258 Sapness Farm – Retrospective two pairs of stables & turnout paddocks – Approved with conditions.

P241893 The Old Vicarage – Conversion of cellar – Approved with conditions.

P242470 Woodland Cottage Putley – two storey side extension – Approved with conditions.

These were noted.

7. Highways Matters

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

Dealt with elsewhere.

b) To consider a new motor rally proposal for Sunday 14th September 2025.

Cllr Mair pointed out that the date of the proposed rally was the final day of Herefordshire Art Week, Canwood Gallery were concerned about the effect of road closures on their visitor numbers. It was agreed that the clerk would go back to the organisers about the date and the consultation process. It was also agreed that Parish Council would consult residents as best it could (as it did last year) before making its position clear.

c) Salt bins and their management.

Cllr May introduced this item as she said there were too few salt bins in the parish and those that were there often had no salt. The clerk explained that Herefordshire Council had an assets register of their own bins which they filled around November time each year. They will not fill any bins not listed as their asset and will only occasionally refill them during the course of the winter. Cllr Slocombe reported that one empty bin stood close to a private driveway that appeared to be covered in a considerable amount of salt. Council agreed that three new salt bins should be purchased for new locations that had been identified. The clerk advised that on that basis the council budget would need to include an amount to fill them each year.

d) Village gates.

The attractiveness and effectivity of village gates was highlighted by Cllr May, who would like to see a gate near her house. Cllr Crozier pointed out that village gates would not be effective where there was then no houses to make drivers feel they had entered a village. Cllr Slocombe said that there were few verges that were both not part of the highway but sufficiently broad to accommodate a gate. He suggested one location that might be possible with the agreement of the property owner.

8. Financial Matters

a) The following payments were authorised:

- £ 540.13 Clerk salary December 2024
- £ 135.00 Clerk tax December 2024
- £ 540.13 Clerk salary January 2025
- £ 59.99 Clerk expenses renewal of Microsoft 365
- £ 1,480.00 Dave Smith winter tree work Broadmoor Common.
- £ 680.00 Cricket Club mower & strimmer
- £ 575.00 Cricket Club maintenance of Berryfield 2024
- £ 100.00 Eyelid Productions website support.
- £ 252.00 PKF Littlejohn External audit (already paid)
- £ 559.20 Terry Griffiths Contracts lengthsman maintenance day.

b) To receive and note the council accounts up to 31st January 2025 and sign the bank reconciliation.

The accounts were noted

9. Neighbourhood Development Plan.

To consider the e-mail received from Herefordshire Council regarding the Local Plan and suspension of progress on the Woolhope NDP.

The suspension having been lifted the clerk will submit the November signed minutes with all the agreed documents.

10. Broadmoor Common

The dragons teeth posts were installed around the car park and Clive Boulton-Brooks having agreed that the deer fencing coupe was not positioned on his land the clerk will ask Dave Smith to install the deer fencing so that he can obtain reimbursement under the FiPL grant.

11. Defibrillators.

a) To approve expenditure of £ 575 (cost £ 825 less grant obtained £ 250) for an iPad SP1 Fully Automatic Defibrillator to be installed in the phone box.

b) To approve expenditure of £ 134.71 for new chest pads for the village hall defibrillator.

Council approved both expenditures. Cllr Hawkins advised that the defibrillator at the Village Hall was not registered with the ambulance service, and both defibrillators required a guardian and a deputy. Cllr Hawkins offered to be guardian for both and Cllr Crozier offered to be deputy for both.

12. Lengthsman.

See above.

13. Footpaths.

25.2.25

To consider any footpaths issues.

Cllr Hawkins has surveyed 38 of the 50 footpaths in the parish. The programme of gates replacing stiles is moving ahead without any cost to parish council. Terry Griffiths wanted it known that his team are installing them but again at no cost to parish council.

14. Correspondence.

To discuss correspondence received.

Dealt with under discussion of the car rally.

15. To consider a quotation from Topline Services for installation of the noticeboard at the Nurdens, replacing rail fence at the back of the village hall, replacement of the barrier at the front of the village hall and work on the broken fence at the Church.

Cllr Slocombe asked for more details of how the new noticeboard was being installed. Cllr Hawkins has a quotation for a metal barrier that is preferable to a wooden gate included in this quotation so the clerk will ask for a fresh quotation just for installation of the barrier.

16. Replacement noticeboard Terrace Hall.

It was agreed that once the noticeboard at the Nurdens is installed the clerk will order the same sized noticeboard for the Terrace Hall area at a new less dangerous location.

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

It was agreed to hold a work party morning to remove ivy and other foliage from the wall surface.

18. To consider an accessible swing for the playground.

The clerk has registered an account with the National Lottery under which a grant of £20k can be applied for to cover both the play area improvements and to provide funds for part of the wall rebuilding. The clerk will submit the application to the March meeting of parish council for approval. The grant process requires a first person point of contact who will be the clerk and then another person from the applicant organisation who will be legally responsible for the grant. Cllr Slocombe as Chairman agreed to be the legally responsible person.

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

a) Barrier to Berryfield.

See agenda item 15.

b) Update on the lease with the Tennis Club.

Cllr Hawkins and Cllr May have agreed an easement allowing tennis club members to access the courts.

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th February 2025 7pm at Woolhope Village Hall.

Clerk - Nick Richmond

30th January 2025

Ag.
25.2.25

Woolhope Parish Council

Bank Reconciliation

As at 5.2.2025

Bank balance 31/3/2024	£	16,464.87
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	£	16,464.87
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Opening Balance:	£	16,464.87
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Add:

Receipts	£	33,892.33
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Less:

Expenditure	£	32,014.12
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Balance:	£	18,343.08
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Balance per statement dated 5.2.2025	£	18,343.08
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TOTAL	£	18,343.08
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TOTAL	£	-
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Balance:	£	18,343.08
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P. HAWKINS
V. Chair
25/2/2025