

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Woolhope Parish Council Held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 7.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall

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

In attendance: Nick Richmond-Clerk, Ward Cllr Barry Durkin, PCSO Kirsten Kysow and 18 members of the public.

1. **To receive apologies, declarations of interest and requests for dispensation.**
Apologies were received from Cllr Rolt. No written requests for dispensation were received. Cllr Hawkins declared an interest in agenda item 6 Planning as a close neighbour of the applicants of planning application 250561 The Firs Broadmoor Common.
3. **Open forum. To consider the views of local residents on parish matters.**
Cllr Slocombe asked Kim the Residents Liaison officer for the rally to make the first contribution. He advised that they had been in contact with Canwood Gallery and assured them that free access would be available to the gallery on the day. An operational proposal had been sent to the gallery but as yet they had not had a response. He advised that the communication with residents would in three stages, an initial letter to residents on the course, a second wider distribution to all residents on affected roads and a final letter again to those on the course. Barbara Fox asked if this was to be an annual event. Kim's colleague said it was not intended to be but they had been let down somewhere else. Anthony Rogers suggested that the Parish Council should have visited his farm to advise him of the event, and another suggestion was a letter to all parish residents from the Parish Council paid for by the sponsors. Adam Jones suggested that there should be signs put up along the route. Stewart Williams thanked the rally organisers for the donation received for the club from the car parking money generated. Nick Barron spoke objecting to the rally, but most of those attending, while critical of the information provided, were broadly in favour of the rally. Cllr Durkin asked that each Parish Council conduct a consultation with parishioners and from that process provide an object to or support recommendation. Parish Council decided that the website poll being an unreliable indication of parish feeling the clerk will remove the poll from the website, put up notices asking for parishioners to e-mail him with their vote giving their postal address to be checked against the electoral roll and change the website to carry the same message.
PCSO Kirsten Kysow gave a breakdown of reported crime in Woolhope over the previous six months which included burglary, 4 cases of domestic abuse (although they could be internet based abuse) and poaching. She will forward the details to the clerk. She stressed the importance of recording car numberplates of suspected poachers and highlighted some instances of car key theft where high end cars are targeted and owners houses burgled to

obtain the keys or in some cases key cloning if the keys are visible even without breaking in. Barbara Fox spoke to detail several village events including a VE Day Anniversary 'Living Flag' on 8th May, St George's weekend with music in the Church on Good Friday, 5mile walk on Saturday at 10am, Saturday evening quiz and ploughmans, Sunday plant sale and seed swap at the village hall and Easter Egg hunt on Easter Monday.

2. **Ward Councillors Report.**

The report had been circulated. No questions arose. Cllr Durkin reported that the new Chief Constable had been chosen – Richard Cooper.

4. **To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th February 2025.**

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

6. **Planning Matters**

250561 The Firs Broadmoor Common. Cllr Slocombe wondered how noisy the swimming pool heater might be. Cllr Hawkins said he had spoken to the owners who had agreed to re-site the heater to reduce noise. Cllr Crozier commented that the application was thin on details with no ecological report so no consideration of potential effects on wildlife particularly bats. Councillors voted to support the application but note the missing ecological report.

7. **Highways Matters**

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

No new issues were reported. Cllr Slocombe commented that recent road repairs including those at Lower Buckenhill had been of a better standard going right to the road edges and with some restoration of roadside ditches.

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

As discussed under item 3 open forum.

c) **Village signs.**

It was agreed that new official looking road signs could be purchased to replace the missing signs. Cllr May to provide the clerk with details of where they can be obtained.

8. **Financial Matters**

a) **The following payments were authorised:**

£ 540.13 Clerk salary March 2025

£ 135.00 Clerk tax March 2025.

£ 72.98 Clerk expenses March 2025

b) The council accounts up to 18th March 2025 were noted and Cllr Hawkins signed the bank reconciliation.

c) It was **AGREED** to appoint HALC as the internal auditor of the parish council 2024/25 accounts.

9. **Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

Council awaits the results of the Herefordshire Council consultation concluding on 31st March 2025.

10. **Broadmoor Common.**

The clerk outlined the issue regarding the positioning of the second deer fencing coupe claimed by Clive Boulton-Brooks to be on his land. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Slocombe would contact Clive to see if a compromise could be reached. A new meeting of the Broadmoor Common Steering Group will be arranged by the clerk. Cllr Slocombe mentioned the e-mail received from Paul and Liz Rogers containing a proposed letter to Herefordshire Council suggesting a reduced fee for an easement across land on Broadmoor Common to their farm buildings. Council supports their suggestion and agrees to write to Herefordshire Council in support.

11. **Lengthsman.**

The clerk advised that Terry Griffiths has been waiting for the road repairs at Lower Buckenhill to be completed and will then carry out the drainage grant work there and carry out the work in the Terrace Hall area at the same time. Cllr Slocombe advised that Will Edwards at Birds Farm advised him that the drainage pipe under the road at Lower Buckenhill is too small for the volume of water.

12. Footpaths.

Cllr Hawkins reported that the work on new gates replacing stiles is starting soon..

13. Correspondence.

All correspondence received concerned the car rally dealt with under agenda item 3.

14. 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.

The clerk has asked for a revised quotation which he will chase. The clerk will install the noticeboard at the Nurdens.

15. To consider further work on the wall at the Church.

Cllr Crozier will arrange the spraying of the ivy.

16. To consider the August Village Fete on Berryfield.

Cllr Scott has several ideas for the fete and is in discussion with Barbara Fox.

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th April 2025 7pm at Woolhope Village Hall.

Clerk - Nick Richmond

1st April 2025