

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of
GOODRICH & WELSH BICKNOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2017 at 19.30 hrs
at Goodrich Village Hall

Attendees: Cllrs. Nigel Roper (Chairman), Lance Harbord, Robin Hulse, Mark Jessup, Martin Rowberry, Mrs Sian Watson

Present: 1 member of the public, Miss A Jones (Clerk), Cllr Paul Newman (County Cllr.)

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllrs. Adam Fletcher and Mrs Lorna Vaughan
2. **MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA** – None declared

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR WERE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Cllr. Paul Newman updated the council as follows:

- Attended afternoon club and Coppett Hill Trust meetings in January
- Has been involved in correspondence regarding gritting (or lack of) at Symonds Yat East, the caravans at Nutshell, the landslip at Welsh Bicknor and the Black Bridge closure
- There will be a full council meeting the following day, where the budget will be considered including the proposed 3.9% increase in council tax.
- After a year of lobbying on his part regarding fracking, all parties passed a motion to ask Government not to approve licences for fracking within or under Herefordshire's valuable AONBs. He invited anyone with strong views on this subject to write to him directly.

There was no public comment at this time

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS OF 1ST DECEMBER 2016.**
It was resolved that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting on 6th October 2016, subject to Item 2 being amended to read "...AGM on 30/11/16" and they were signed by the Chairman accordingly.

4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(a) **Applications Received**

170132 Goodrich Pre School, Goodrich, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 6HU
Demolition of former childcare facility. Proposed new dwelling and detached double garage

After a lengthy discussion, **it was resolved** that the parish council object to the application on the following grounds:

- The additional height will have an adverse effect on the skyline and be overly visible from the surrounding area and the castle
- The increased scale of the buildings in both size and number will have an adverse impact on the adjacent listed structures
- Given the scale of change, this development is closer to 'new build' than 'conversion'
- The proposal will represent linear development, which should be avoided if at all possible in this rural location
- The Village Design Statement showed a clear need for small homes, and a 2 bedroom conversion within the existing footprint without the need for a separate garage would be more appropriate.

(b) **Applications Decisions**

163051 The Pippins, Goodrich - Site for proposed new bungalow - Approved with conditions

P163598/F Wyeside Cottage, Coppett Hill, Goodrich, HR9 6JH
Proposed replacement dwelling (retrospective) Approved with conditions

162947 Land Adjoining Bryants Court Cottage
Application for approval of reserved matters Approved with conditions

163183 Huntsham Court Farm, Huntsham Road, Goodrich
Proposed manure storage building Approved with conditions

(c) **Applications Dealt with Between Meetings**

163775 Wye Valley Youth Hostel, Welsh Bicknor, HR9 6JJ
Proposed removal of a defective septic tank and replacement with a packaged sewerage treatment tank including a replacement drainage soak away system

The parish council raised no objection

5. NEW ITEMS

(a) **Neighbourhood Development Plan Update** – In Cllr. Fletcher's absence, the Clerk read out a brief update. The grant funds had been received, and the Community Launch Event had taken place, with a turnout of around 25% of the population. The team are now preparing the Parish Questionnaire Document, which, must be completed and circulated before the end of March in order to use the budget this year and avoid ongoing delays.

(b) Highways

- Council considered any urgent new matters and **it was resolved** that the following would be reported:
 - Flooding by junction to Huntsham Bridge
 - Pothole between Rocklands Farm and flooded area
 - Potholes at Goodrich Cross (to be reported again)
 - Loss of verge on B4229 at junction with C1258
- The Clerk had shared a response regarding liability if anyone is injured on Black Bridge, confirming that there would be no parish council liability.
- Huntsham Bridge – waste bin – The Chairman advised that he had spoken with the new owner of the adjacent property, who considered that litter in the area was relatively minimal and he was happy to collect it periodically (as the former owner had done) and that the previous accumulation of litter around the bin was best avoided. **It was therefore resolved** that the bin not be returned at this time.
- Clerk advised that she was still awaiting a reply from Highways regarding the legal status of the 'turning area' on Cutters Lane.

(c) **Public Access Defibrillator (PAD)** – Cllr. Mrs Watson had spoken to a resident on Dean Swift Close who was happy to have the machine located on their property. Cllr. Mrs Watson had also contacted Western Power to enquire whether they would be prepared to provide a separate dedicated supply.

CARRY FORWARD

(d) Moors Meadow

- Clerk advised that she had still not received an update from Herefordshire council regarding the sale of Moors Meadow to the parish council.
- Cllr. Hulse advised that grass cutting would commence once the grass is dry enough, the litter rota had been confirmed and Matthew Constance had advised that a meeting was due to take place to discuss the possible transfer of remaining Greenspace funds to the parish council. He also advised that the bridge was looking a bit 'sad' and he would seek advice from Dave Owens.

(e) **Missing 'Phone Kiosk** – The Clerk had provided an update from the former owner of the kiosk. It was resolved that the Police should be contacted again so that a crime reference number can be obtained and an insurance claim made. Specific reference was made to the legal terminology and this would be advised to the former owner.

ACTION: Clerk to write to former owner

CARRY FORWARD

6. CORRESPONDENCE (GENERAL)

(a) HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL / CLLR. NEWMAN

- Herefordshire Community Champions – request for nominees – closing date Wednesday 22nd February 2017 (noon)
- Herefordshire Archive and Record Centre - newsletter and guide to courses. Request for details of people who worked at the Rotherwas Royal Ordnance Factory during the world wars.

(b) **HALC** – Information Corner

(c) **BRITISH RED CROSS** – Information leaflet relating to Support at Home Service - Herefordshire

7. CORRESPONDENCE (REPORTS AND CONSULTATIONS)

(a) **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL** – Waste Charges Consultation, via Herefordshire Council website, available until 3rd March 2017.

8. MEETINGS / TRAINING AND SEMINARS

Tuesday 7th February Environment Agency – Briefing on Hitachi-GE's UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactor – at Turnberrie's Community Centre, Thornbury from 10am – 12 noon or 7pm – 9pm

9. FINANCE

(a)	Statement of Accounts (after paying January expenses and February wages)		
	Deposit Account (contingency fund as at 31 st March 2016)	£	2,638.88
	Treasurers Account	£	12,113.35
	Petty Cash	£	12.19
(b)	Grant Applications under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972		
	PCC – contribution towards churchyard maintenance costs (2016/17)	£	300.00
(c)	Un-cleared cheques as at 28/12/16		
	Goodrich Village Hall (room hire)	£	150.00
(d)	Adverse variance to budget (2016/17)		
	Greenspace maintenance (new fencing not budgeted for)	£	230.00
(e)	Cheques for Payment		
	Data Orchard (NDP consultant costs)	£	370.56
	Hoople Ltd (time to prepare parish addresses list for NDP)	£	27.60
	Cheques raised between meetings relating to NDP grant funding expenditure, approved via the NDP purchasing / payment procedure		
	Adam Fletcher (reimbursement for NDP expenditure)	£	207.39
	Lawrie Lowe (reimbursement for printing, ink and paper)	£	77.38
	Hoople Ltd (time to prepare and send ECW files)	£	110.40
	It was resolved that the above payments be approved and two cheques were signed accordingly		
(f)	Other Payments - Clerk's wages and office allowance (28th March 2017 – s/o)	£	609.46
(g)	Income Received		
	NDP Grant funds	£	4,413.00

(h) **Review of Asset Register** - The Clerk advised that the asset register was almost complete but that she still needed to ascertain a 'replacement cost' for the war memorial. It was suggested that she contact Nigel Cave for assistance

(i) **Review of Pension scheme requirements** - The Clerk advised the council that she was experiencing lots of problems with the NEST pension system (via another parish council) and that she had received advice from an accountant that if there is only one employee and that employee does not want to be part of a pension scheme, then there is no need to have a pension scheme in place in order to complete the declaration of compliance, providing all the correct procedure has been completed. A brief discussion followed regarding what the legal requirements were and whether the council had to have a scheme in place if nobody wanted the provision. The staging date for Goodrich PC is 1st May 2017 so it was resolved that the matter be reviewed later.

The bank reconciliation was checked and signed.

10. INFORMATION SHARE – NOT REQUIRING FORMAL DISCUSSION / DECISIONS / SPEND – Coppett Hill Trust are considering a request to site a memorial bench on the hill.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT / FUTURE MEETINGS – Gritting of roads, Broadband, Caravans at Nutshell

12. NEXT MEETING - Thursday 2nd March 2017.

Meeting ended at 20.51 hrs

Certified as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings of Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council held on 2nd February 2017.

Signed :

Date :

Chairman