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

Attendees: Cllrs. Nigel Roper, Lance Harbord, Robin Hulse, Mark Jessup, Martin Rowberry, Richard Barradale-Smith, Mrs Sian Watson

Present: 3 members of the public, Ken Gort (NDP Steering Group Chairman), Cllr Paul Newman (County Cllr.)

1. APOLOGIES – Cllr. Mrs Lorna Vaughan.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA
Cllr. Nigel Roper declared an interest in Item 5(a) Byway / PRoW addition.
Cllr. Richard Barradale-Smith declared an interest in Item 5(a) footpath diversion.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR WERE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL
A member of the public stated that there were no up to date minutes on the council's website. The Clerk and councillors considered this to be incorrect and queried whether he was accessing the correct (new) website and he was adamant that he was. The Clerk asked him to email her so that she could provide a link to the correct page.

Cllr. Newman updated the council as follows:

- He had attended a recent meeting of Coppett Hill Trust and encouraged all to attend the scheduled talk on adders due to take place soon
- He had provided a letter of support for the H15 Cluster to receive funding as part of the Fastershire project
- He continued to chase up activity on the Welsh Bicknor landslip – the project had now gone to tender with responses due later this month, there were no protected species identified in the ecology report and a reply from Welsh Water was still awaited

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON 5TH OCTOBER.
It was resolved that the minutes from the meeting on 5th October were a true record of the meeting, and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Applications Received

173647 Endeen, Shop Lane, Goodrich
Approval of reserved matters for planning permission 172511 relating to bat boxes, bird boxes and insect habitats. The parish council raised no objection

173791 Huntsham Court Farm, Goodrich
Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 4 & 5 attached to planning permission 163183 The parish council had no comment.

173844/XA2 Land adjacent to Gas Works Herefordshire
Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3, 4, 5, 7,8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 20, 21 & attached to planning permission 170132.

The parish council resolved to object to the proposals as the landscaping plan does not appear to mitigate the negative effect on the visual amenity from the castle and that there should be some trees within the hedge-line between the development and the castle, to break up the outline of the new structure, which should remain in perpetuity.

(b) Applications Decisions / Determinations

171562 Land adjacent to St Giles Church, Goodrich
Erection of 3 detached cottages and associated garaging, parking for St Giles Church and open space. **Permission Refused**

5. NEW ITEMS

(a) Highways and footpaths

- Council reported the following urgent new issues:
  - Marstow Lane (U71204)
  - Pothole at Huntsham Court Farm

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- Clerk updated on concerns raised regarding the blocked drains on Castle Lane, County Highways had advised that the road was not adopted and was in private ownership. Councillors believed the road was owned by Me Trafford-Roberts and it was resolved that Cllr. Rowberry would provide contact details to the Clerk so that she could write to him.
- Council considered concerns raised by a resident, regarding the blind turning from Knapp Pitch towards the Hostelry, he had suggested that a visibility mirror be provided. It was generally considered that speed was not an issue in the area as the road made speeding impossible, and that there was no obvious suitable location for a mirror that would not risk causing other issues. After discussion **it was resolved** that the council would ask for the give way lines to be re-painted to make the junction clearer.

Cllr. Roper left the meeting for the following item, and Cllr. Hulse took over as Chair.

- Council considered additional information provided by PRoW regarding the application to add a byway to the definitive map. It was agreed that there was no chance of a ford being constructed, or a new ferry being put in place and that the route had only been used by pedestrians in living memory. **It was resolved** that the parish council remove its formal objection in order to avoid the necessity of referral to the Secretary of State, but that it should be made clear that, within living memory, this route has only ever been used by pedestrians and that it should continue to be limited to that usage.

Cllr. Roper returned to the meeting and took over as Chair.

Cllr. Barradale-Smith left the meeting

- Council considered information provided by Richard Barradale-Smith regarding a formal request to divert the footpath at his property. It was noted that there was currently a permissive route that was used by most people and that the actual PRoW went through the garden of the property. It was also noted that a formal diversion had been requested previously but had not been allowed. **It was resolved** that the council write to support the proposal, as a common sense approach.

Cllr. Barradale-Smith returned to the meeting

(b) Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Parish Council Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

- Ken Gort, Chair of the NDP Steering Group provided a brief presentation to the council, sharing the information that was due to be part of the consultation that weekend:
  - Settlement criteria had been used to assess all the sites offered up by land-owners
  - 30 sites offered in total, of which 15 were rejected for NDP purposes as they were either single houses or multi houses in open countryside or 'windfall sites'
  - 12 multi-house development sites in or adjacent to the existing settlements were fully assessed and offer well in excess of the housing target set by Herefordshire Council.
  - These 12 sites have been ranked and the consultation will now seek the views of local residents on whether the rankings need to be reviewed, or are acceptable as they are.

(c) Remembrance Day

- Council confirmed that the Chairman and Cllr. Hulse would attend the service and Cllr. Rowberry would ensure the memorial was tidy. **It was resolved** that a contribution of £40.00 be paid for the wreath.

(d) Dry Arch Bridge / Black Bridge

- Council consider concerns raised by a resident regarding the increase in traffic using Dry Arch Bridge (in part as a result of the closure of Black Bridge) and the lack of a reply from Balfour Beatty with regard to inspections. It was resolved that the Clerk would make a Freedom of Information request for details of the inspections schedule, when the bridge was last inspected, what the report concluded and whether any additional inspection has taken place since the traffic levels have increased with the closure of Black Bridge.

Cllr. Mrs Watson had to leave the meeting at this time – 21.00 hrs

- Council considered a further update from Cllr. Newman, relating to Black Bridge, as follows:
  - Herefordshire Council continues to be in support of the re-opening, subject to external funding
  - Wye Valley AoNB have requested grant funding via the lottery fund and has been advised that the project application is 'worth progressing' and the AoNB are doing so.
  - The next meeting will be held at the Jolly Colliers on 17th December and representatives from Gloucestershire Highways will be present.

(e) Moors Meadow / Greenspace

- Clerk advised that there was still no update regarding the purchase or Moors Meadow from HCC but the parish council continued to chase the matter.
- Play Area Inspection – Cllr. Hulse advised that the grass had been cut recently by the chairman but that a further cut would likely be necessary. The main issue from the safety inspection was the gate post and he has asked for a quote to repair and would approach the Greenspace charity to see whether they would be interested in donating funds to cover the cost.

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(f) War Memorial

- Clerk advised that grants were available from the War Memorials Trust and that they would cover the cost of repairs to the area surrounding a memorial as well as the memorial itself. She suggested that as the Trust will not provide grant funding for the same things more than once it would not be appropriate to apply for these repairs. She had contacted planning regarding listed building consent and they were happy to advise if the PC provided more specific details of the nature of the repairs. A brief discussion revealed that the repairs should be minimal as the concrete was very thin and simply needed to be dug up and replaced. **It was resolved** that Cllr. Rowberry would provide photos and the Clerk would ask for confirmation from the planning department that no permission is necessary as the council will be replacing like-for-like

(g) Wye Valley Challenge

- It was resolved that the Clerk would provide contact details for Pete Rowlinson (who had given permission to do so to Cllr. Barradale-Smith) and Cllr. Roper, as these two areas of land had been viewed by the WVC and they had expressed an interest in them for use in August 2018.

(h) Fastershire

- Council considered the correspondence regarding the Viable Clusters Broadband Project Bid. It was noted that the Clerk's reply had confirmed full support from the parish council but also made it clear that they were unhappy about the lack of activity for other residents in the parish. No further action at this time.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

- Broadband – correspondence relating to the first round of applications for funding for 'viable clusters' to receive upgraded broadband provision.

7. REPORTS / CONSULTATIONS

Friday 3rd November – Sunday 5th November – Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Neighbourhood Development Plan Housing Proposals - consultation

8. FINANCE

(a)	**Statement of Accounts (after paying October expenses and November Clerk's wages)**			
	Treasurers Account	£	19,103.24	
	Petty Cash	£	12.19	
(b)	**Grant Applications under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972**			
	None			
(c)	**Un-cleared cheques as at 28/9/17**			
	Mr I Binns (internal audit)	£	40.00	
	All cheques raised at September and October meetings			
(d)	**Adverse variance to budget (2017/18)**			
(e)	**Cheques for Payment**			
	Miss A Jones (expenses – ink cartridges)	£	77.59	658
	Royal British Legion (poppy appeal)	£	40.00	659
	Cheques raised between meetings requiring retrospective approval			
	Data Orchard CIC (NDP Consultant fees)	£	2,385.60	654
	Goodrich Village Hall (NDP Room Hire costs)	£	60.00	655
	Lawrie Lowe (reimbursement for NDP printing costs)	£	9.90	656
	Groundwork UK (repayment of unused NDP grant funds)	£	580.75	657
(f)	**Other Payments -** Clerk's wages and office allowance (28th November 2017 – s/o)	£	620.72	
(g)	**Income Received –** none			

(h) 2018/19 budget – the council considered the first draft and whether to ring-fence funds for war memorial / play area repairs. **It was unanimously resolved** that the budget (first draft) as considered at the

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October meeting be approved**. It was unanimously resolved** that the Precept remain unchanged at £8,979.00 for 2018/19. The benefits of formally ring-fencing funds were discussed, and it was noted that it avoids issues with audits as it is clear why funds are being accumulated, and it also could aid future grant applications as it shows due diligence on the part of the council in preparing for future costs as well as clearly showing that match-funding is available. It was also noted that the deposit account had previously contained the ring-fenced funds but that nothing had been transferred across for years because of the issues with the Santander account and council had previously decided there was not need to ring-fence. **It was resolved** that the funds that would have been transferred into the deposit account now be totalled up and formally ring-fenced for use to cover the costs of repair or replacement of the play area and / or war memorial.

Post Meeting Note. The Clerk has calculated the ring-fenced sum to be £6,800.00 (plus historical interest from the Santander account) as at end of 2017/18.

9. INFORMATION SHARE – NOT REQUIRING FORMAL DISCUSSION / DECISIONS / SPEND - None

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT / FUTURE MEETINGS

Reform of the Data Protection Act legislation

11. NEXT MEETING

Thursday 7th December 2017.

Meeting ended at 21.30 hrs

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

Signed : **Date :**

Chairman

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