Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of
GOODRICH & WELSH BICKNOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 4TH MAY 2017 at 19.00 hrs
at Goodrich Village Hall

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

Attending: 5 members of the public (including Ken Gort and Lawrie Lowe from the NDP steering group), Cllr. Paul Newman (County Councillor)

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

Welsh Bicknor Parish Residents were invited to speak directly to the council on matters within Welsh Bicknor parish, but no comments were made or issues raised.

Goodrich Parish Residents were invited to speak directly to the council on matters within Goodrich parish. A resident was angry at what had transpired at the previous parish council meeting, namely that the parish council comments had been completely disregarded by the planning department with reference to the 'Gas Works' planning application. He considered that this showed that the decision to give delegated powers to planning officers was a mistake. The suggestion that the planning committee could not override a planning officer after pre-application advice has been provided, because it could lead to being sued, was also considered 'laughable'.

A councillor wondered what a judicial review would actually cost, and the resident suggested that the planning department has little understanding of this village / parish.

The resident also asked why the telephone box was still missing.

NDP prize draw The Chairman drew the winner of the £50 prize for the NDP draw. The winner was announced as Mr Peter Lorenzelli and he will receive his cheque in due course.

NDP General Update Ken Gort (Chairman, NDP Steering Group) advised that the questionnaires are now with Data Orchard for analysis and once the results are received, the team will look at what the options show, and then produce draft policies. There will then be a further consultation event (possibly September 2017). Grant funding is applied for every 6 months and the grant application covering funding up to September has been approved and the money is expected shortly. September onwards will involve the writing up of the full plan to go to Herefordshire council before going to a referendum in the Spring of 2018.

The overall response rate was 90% of households, which is excellent. He offered thanks to the volunteers who delivered and collected the questionnaires, which he considered would have contributed to the high response rate.

Chairman's Annual Report The Chairman provided a summary of the primary matters dealt with during the year

- After the talk from Karla Johnson on NDP at the APM the previous year, it was decided with village support lead by our vice chairman, Adam Fletcher to proceed with a plan. He thanked all those who had given up valuable time on this project in the last twelve months and hoped it would continue over the next year, now under the chairmanship off Ken Gort.
- We now have three Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) available for use (Village Hall, Flanesford Priory and Royal Lodge Hotel) and search for a fourth site near Dean Swift Close continues. Thanks to Mark Jessup for his input.
- Greenspace. The council is continuing in its efforts to purchase the Moors Meadow from the county council, in order to protect it for the future.
- Telephone Box. We have being trying to trace the disappearance of this box as it is listed, even asking the police to investigate but as the company that were doing the refurbishment went bankrupt, it is proving difficult to resolve the issue
- Black Bridge Footpath. This remains closed and it doesn't look like there will a solution soon as the structure is unsafe and neither Gloucestershire nor Herefordshire is inclined to pay for it, we await further updates.

- Highway issues. Works on Coppett Hill landslip have been postponed several times but we are now assured it will be repaired during this financial year, which is more essential since the closure of the Black Bridge Footpath, as it is now the only access to the YHA Hostel.
- Regular reporting of potholes in the village seems to be having positive results with repairs being carried out in a reasonably timely manner.
- Fracking. Our County Councillor Paul Newman is keeping us regularly updated on any developments, and we thank him for his regular attendance at meetings and keeping us appraised of county council matters.
- Planning. We seem to be having a regular flow of applications which we comment on individually, but have been frustrated when our comments aren't always given full, or even any, consideration by the planning officers. This will continue to be a matter for the council's consideration in the coming year.

Finally the Chairman thanked all the councillors for their time and effort during the year, and thanked the Clerk for her support and many hours of administration.

Financial Report Annabelle Jones (Clerk) talked through the report, including the reason for differences between the current year's report and the previous year – A copy of the financial report is attached to these minutes.

County Councillor's Report County Councillor – it was noted that the county councillor was limited in what he could say within purdah and that he had checked the regulations before providing his report. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Newman for his diligent attendance of parish council meetings and his assistance with many issues during the year,

Police Crime Statistics As obtained by the Clerk – a copy of this information is attached to these minutes.

Written questions The Clerk confirmed that there were no written questions.

General Discussion The Chairman invited residents to make any further comments, either related to earlier items, or anything else. Mr Lowe stated that the Greenspace charity funds were not necessarily for use on 'the Greenspace' (otherwise known as Moors Meadow). The parish councillors did not necessarily agree with this statement but it was agreed that this was a matter for the Greenspace charity and it was noted that a meeting of the charity was due to take place in June.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and said that he looked forward to seeing them at future parish council meetings

The meeting closed at 19.56 hrs

Certified as an accurate record of the proceedings of the Annual Parish Meeting of Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council held on 4th May 2017.

Signed : **Date :**

Chairman.