

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of
GOODRICH & WELSH BICKNOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2017 at 19.30 hrs
at Goodrich Village Hall

Attendees: Cllrs. Nigel Roper, Robin Hulse, Mark Jessup, Martin Rowberry, Lorna Vaughan, Richard Barradale-Smith

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

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllrs. Lance Harbord, and Mrs Sian Watson.

2. **MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

None were declared at the outset of the meeting, but Cllr. Nigel Roper declared an interest in Item 5(a) Byway discussion when he realized it was necessary as one of the land owners affected by the route.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR WERE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL
There was no public comment

Cllr. Newman updated the council as follows:

- He had met the new Reverend for St Giles Church at the Afternoon Club on 19th September.
- He had responded to the Minerals and Waste plan consultation, continuing his opposition to any fracking under or alongside the Wye Valle AoNB
- He had received an update regarding the Welsh Bicknor landslip, that the ecology survey should have been completed recently and that they hoped to carry out the works this financial year (a slippage from the previous promise of this calendar year)
- Residents were not doubt aware of the £1m overspend on works at Blueschool Street and that following the independent audit, the chief executive had apologized for failings in the procedures, which included only obtaining one quote for the work.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON 7TH SEPTEMBER.**

It was resolved that the minutes from the meeting on 7th September were a true record of the meeting, subject to Cllr. Barradale-Smith's name being corrected, and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman.

4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(a) Applications Received

173339 The Thatch, Goodrich
(Retrospective) replacement garage

It was resolved that the council had no objection to the garage as detailed within the application, but it noted that there were various other new structures shown on the drawing that require separate formal planning applications / permissions and that this should be advised to the planning officer.

Cllr. Mrs Vaughan left the meeting for the following discussion

163251 Land at Bivia Court, Goodrich HR9 6JB

Erection of 9 no. one, two, three and four bedroom dwellings, parking, landscaping, drainage and other associated engineering works. Vehicular access to be provided from Springfield Road.

The council noted the following:

- The proposed number of homes was under the affordable housing threshold
- Much more in keeping with surrounding area as far as design is concerned, compared with original application
- The access drawing did not appear to match with the access as detailed on the main drawing, but this should be dealt with by the Highways department.

It was resolved that the council support the proposals in their reduced form, on the basis that the development will be completed as per the drawings provided in terms of layout and design, and that the apparent discrepancy regarding the access be addressed by the planning officer.

Cllr. Mrs Vaughan returned to the meeting

(b) Applications Decisions / Determinations

172718 Land adjacent Jollys, Goodrich, HR9 6HX

Erection of four bedroom detached dwelling with detached garage

Approved with conditions

5. NEW ITEMS

(a) Highways and footpaths

- Council consider any urgent new issues and they were reported as follows:
 - Cross Keys near PRoW
 - C1258 collapsing road between B4229 and the bridge
 - Potholes and breaking up surface on B4229 near New Mills Hill
 - Potholes on Coppett Hill (as already reported – further inspection has already been promised by Balfour Beatty)
- Clerk could not update on concerns raised regarding the blocked drains on Castle Lane, and whose responsibility it is to clear them.

CARRY FORWARD – Clerk awaiting reply

- Parking outside Doward Place – council considered a complaint received from a resident. The council sympathised with local road users but residents who choose to park outside their homes are not doing anything wrong if there are no road markings preventing them from doing so. It was agreed that no further action could be taken in this matter.

Cllr. Nigel Roper left the meeting for the following discussion and Cllr. Hulse took over as Chairman.

- Council to consider an application that has been made, for a modification to the Definitive Map, adding a byway open to all traffic. The Clerk had been unable to obtain a single modern map clearly showing the route but some councillors understood the proposed route, and were able to show it via electronic devices. It was noted that there may be little or nothing that can be done as the judgement will be made based on historical evidence, however **it was resolved** that the council object to the proposal on the following grounds:
 - There was no public interest in re-opening
 - The route is within the AONB and increasing use will undoubtedly have an adverse impact on the environment in terms of pollution / litter etc.
 - The route goes through the garden of a parish resident
 - It does not link to another road, so is effectively a dead-end with no parking, turning or passing areas.
 - It will potentially affect the ecology of the river

Cllr. Roper returned to the meeting.

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

- Ken Gort, on behalf of the NDP Steering Group provided an update on the Community Questionnaire and NDP Housing Needs Analysis (as provided to councillors by email).
 - There was general support for the target of an additional 24 houses, but not for any more.
 - Desire is for smaller private ownership homes and low cost homes for part ownership (possibly with a view to outright purchase).
 - It was unlikely that there would be an opportunity to provide social rented housing within the required “small” developments as they will not go over the threshold for social housing.
 - Possible development land has been viewed by the consultants and their feedback will be included in the consultation event on 3rd-5th November.
 - Each land owner will now receive a letter inviting them to comment.
 - A draft NDP will be produced by the end of the calendar year.

Cllr. Newman advised that there may be some flexibility for small parishes within the AONB where they are struggling to achieve their development targets, although Ken considered it likely that Goodrich would be able to accommodate the numbers they are targeted with.

(c) Dry Arch Bridge / Black Bridge

- Council to 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)

CARRY FORWARD – Clerk awaiting reply

- Council considered the update from Cllr. Newman, relating to Black Bridge.
 - There are complications with the funding bid being put together by the steering group as there is only a PRoW on one side of the bridge, while there is not one in place on the other side.
 - External funding is essential, for the repairs to take place, and the application by the Wye Valley AONB & HLF is progressing but is reliant on there being no PRoW (because if there is one, the county council become responsible for the costs of maintenance and repair).

(d) Public Access Defibrillator (PAD)

- Cllrs. Hulse and Jessup advised that there was new grant funding available through the county council that may assist with the provision of another cabinet site with a PV system for power supply.

CARRY FORWARD

(e) **Moors Meadow / Greenspace**

- Clerk / Chairman to update on the progress of the purchase

CARRY FORWARD – Clerk still awaiting reply from county council

- Play Area Inspection – Cllr. Hulse updated:
 - There are a number of matters raised in the report but all are relatively minor and the risk levels identified remain at either low or very low.
 - Slamming post has rotted off and needs to be replaced
 - Gat post needs to be replaced
 - Other minor matters to be looked at by Cllr. Hulse over the coming week or so

CARRY FORWARD – further update on repairs

ACTION - Cllr. Hulse to speak with Greenspace regarding possible donation for gate repairs

(f) **War Memorial**

- Council consider an update from the Clerk regarding funding options that might be available to help with remedial works to the surface in front of the memorial.
 - The War memorials Trust are still offering grants for repairs, and based on the information available, these costs could be funded.
 - The Trust does have a policy of not funding the same work twice, so the council would need to ensure that they did not obtain grant funding for a relatively minor repair which would then make them ineligible for a future grant for more major repairs.
 - The requirement for planning permission would need to be confirmed as the memorial is now a listed structure.

ACTION : Clerk and Cllr. Rowberry to complete the initial Pre-application Form to confirm whether a grant is potentially available.

ACTION : Clerk and Cllr. Rowberry to investigate actual costs of the work that needs to be done

ACTION : Clerk to confirm planning permission requirements.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

- Leader grants – open for applications / expressions of interest now. For businesses and communities in rural locations.

(b) **Dan Hurcomb – Deputy Chairman, North Herefordshire Conservative Association.**

- Suggesting an event at the end of October, allowing parish councillors to attend a coffee morning where they will get the chance to ask questions of a Herefordshire Council Cabinet Member. If successful, more event will be arranged. Councillor are asked to advise if they would be interested in such an event.

(c) **Welsh Water**

- Information regarding scheduled works to install a new section of large water pipe between their Bewdley Bank service reservoir and Hereford City

7. REPORTS / CONSULTATIONS

(a) **Boundary Commission**

- Boundary review consultation – until 11th December.

8. FINANCE

(a)	Statement of Accounts (after paying September expenses and October Clerk's wages)		
	Deposit Account	£	closed
	Treasurers Account	£	19,491.19
	Petty Cash	£	12.19
(b)	Grant Applications under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972		
	None		
(c)	Un-cleared cheques as at 28/8/17		
	Mr I Binns (internal audit)	£	40.00
	All cheques raised at September meeting		
(d)	Adverse variance to budget (2017/18)		
(e)	Cheques for Payment		
	Miss A Jones (additional hours for production of web site)	£	37.52

651

	Mrs F White (playground inspection)	£	58.60	652
	HMRC	£	5.80	653
	It was resolved that the above cheques be paid and they were signed by the Chairman.			
(f)	Other Payments - Clerk's wages and office allowance (28 th October 2017 – s/o)	£	620.72	
(g)	Income Received			
	Herefordshire Council (second half of Precept)	£	4,489.50	

(h) **2018/19 budget** – It was agreed that the first draft of the budget would be considered by councillors over the coming month and discussed more fully at the November meeting.

CARRY FORWARD

(i) **Bank account** – Council completed the paperwork to add Cllrs. Hulse and Jessup as signatories but the bank had not provided the correct paperwork for the removal of Mr Fletcher and Mr Woodward so that would be done the following month.

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

10. **TRAINING / MEETINGS AND SEMINARS**

Thursday 5th October – Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group – Drop in session to review and comment on the findings of recent public discussions. At The Larruperz Centre from 16.00 – 18.30 hrs

11. **ITEMS FOR NEXT / FUTURE MEETINGS**

Reform of the Data Protection Act legislation

12. **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 2nd November 2017.

Meeting ended at 21.03 hrs

Certified as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings of Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council held on 5th October 2017.

Signed :

Date :

Chairman