

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of
GOODRICH & WELSH BICKNOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 6TH APRIL 2017 at 19.30 hrs
at Goodrich Village Hall

Attendees: Cllrs. Nigel Roper (Chairman), Adam Fletcher (arrived late), Lance Harbord, Robin Hulse, Mark Jessup, Martin Rowberry, Mrs Lorna Vaughan

Present: 7 members of the public including Lawrie Lowe and Ken Gort from the NDP steering group, Miss A Jones (Clerk), Cllr Paul Newman (County Cllr.)

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr. Mrs Sian Watson

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

A member of the public was unhappy that the county council were not taking responsibility for the turning area on Cutters Lane and was of the opinion that they had repaired the area in the past. It was noted that the county council had advised that the area was in private ownership (as confirmed by Land Registry search). The Chairman considered that the parish council had done all that it could.

Cllr. Paul Newman updated the council as follows:

- A full council meeting took place in March, agreeing the final budget (increase 3.9%)
- Various parties continue to attempt to work towards a solution to the Black Bridge closure but there are questions over ownership which may add to the existing budgetary issues.
- Welsh Bicknor and Symonds Yat landslip works continue to be included on the 'at risk' list for county highways and the Welsh Bicknor repairs are currently scheduled to take place in July 2017.
- On 7th March council consider the need for a nutrient management plan to address elevated levels of phosphate pollution in the river wye, though not a significant issue locally.
- It is possible that the old road routes leading to the former Goodrich ferry at Kerne Bridge may be considered to be an ancient route, which may mean the route either side of the river having to be maintained.
- Budgetary restrictions continue to be challenging, with 2/3 of the county budget being spent on just 2% of the population (primarily child and adult social care)

Cllr. Fletcher arrived at 19.49 hrs

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS OF 2ND MARCH 2017.**

It was resolved that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting on 2nd March 2017, subject to the third bullet point of Cllr. Newman's report being amended to read "... road markers, and he had.....", and they were signed by the Chairman accordingly

4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(a) **Applications Received - None**

(b) **Applications Decisions**

170132 Goodrich Pre-school

Demolition of former childcare facility. Proposed new dwelling and detached double garage

Approved with conditions

P170758/PA7 Huntsham Court Farm Goodrich Ross-On-Wye HR9 6JN

Two proposed hardstanding areas

Prior Approval Not Required

(c) **Other Planning Matters**

Council considered whether too much emphasis is placed on pre-application advice versus formal responses to planning applications. The Chairman opened the meeting to allow the public to make comments. Cllr. Phil Cutter (Herefordshire council, Chair of Planning Committee) was also present as a member of the public and was happy to try and clarify the position. Cllr. Newman read out the request that he had put forward to the planning officer, justifying his request to have the application considered by committee, but it was ultimately decided that it would be decided by delegated powers (planning officer). A lengthy discussion took place, raising the following points:

- There seems little point in the PC providing responses, if they are ignored if not backed up by individuals
- An application should not be approved simply because the applicant refuses to negotiate / compromise
- It appeared that no weight had been given to the AONB, the impact on the skyline, the impact on the view from the listed Castle etc.
- The perception of both councillors and residents is that the application was effectively approved before the PC was even consulted.

Cllr. Phil Cutter provided the following information:

- 'Redirection' of an application (i.e. when it goes to full committee for consideration) only takes place when requested by the ward councillor.
- When such a request is made, the application is considered by the planning sub committee who decide whether it should go to the full committee based on certain criteria.
- The three criteria are:
 - If there are a significant number of objections from members of the public
 - If there are significant planning issues
 - If there has been a significant change in planning legislation / rules
- He advised that it had been determined that the Former Goodrich Pre-school application did not meet any of the three criteria.

Members of the public and councillors could not understand how the impact on the AONB, Castle, skyline etc. did not represent 'significant planning issues'. It was noted that when asked, neighbours were unaware of the application (as the county council no longer send out 'near neighbour' notifications). It was also noted that the general consensus was that the only way to get concerns dealt with was by ensuring the as many separate representations were sent to the planning department, and that a response from the parish council alone, even though it is on behalf of the entire parish, holds little weight.

5. NEW ITEMS

(a) **Neighbourhood Development Plan Update** – Cllr. Fletcher confirmed that the initial consultation had been completed and that he had resigned his position as Chairman of the NDP steering group, he then handed over the Ken Gort (new Chairman of the steering group). A financial report was provided, confirming the expenditure to date and the projected spend to the end of the development of the plan. It was noted that there is an estimated shortfall in funding of £1,800 and that the steering group intended to apply for additional lottery grant funding to cover this (there had been a high success rate by other councils in doing this). He also provided a project plan showing what activity would be done over the coming 6 months. **It was resolved** that the steering group apply for the next tranche of funding through DCLG and progress the necessary secondary grant application for lottery funding. **It was resolved** that Cllr. Hulse become the new Vice Chairman of the steering group, to provide a formal link between the steering group and the parish council.

(b) Highways and footpaths

- Council did not report any urgent new matters for consideration. It was noted that the surface issues at the Cross Keys continued to deteriorate.
- Clerk advised that she had received no reply regarding the footpath/steps from Church Pitch to the Church
- Clerk advised that she had been unable to deal with the gritting route issues as she had not received a reply from any of the councillors. It was generally agreed that it was not possible to site grit bins at many locations in the parish due to narrow / vertical verges / banks. The C1260 was currently being gritted (and there is actually travelled in both directions) so it should be easy enough to add the C1259-U70402 bus route to the gritting schedule.

ACTION : Clerk to chase up reply regarding the steps by the church, the road surface issues at Cross Keys and attempt to get agreement to add the bus route to the gritting schedule.

(c) **Public Access Defibrillator (PAD)** – No location for third machine had yet been found so there was no need to consider funding at this time. **It was resolved** that the Clerk should order 4 additional directional signs similar to those provided for the AED at the village hall.

(d) Moors Meadow -

- Clerk advised that she was still awaiting movement from the county council regarding the sale of Moors Meadow to the parish council. The delay appeared to have been a combination of changes of staff and also differing information on the correct procedure.

CARRY FORWARD

- Cllr. Hulse advised that the grass cutting had commenced the previous week and would continue that weekend, weather permitting.

(e) **Annual Parish Meeting – It was resolved** that the APM would take place on the same night as the ordinary May meeting, to commence at 7.00pm, with the ordinary meeting following, at 8.00pm. **It was further resolved** that the NDP questionnaire prize draw be included on the agenda.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL / CLLR. NEWMAN

- Code of Conduct Consultation – draft Members' code of conduct, responses by 25th April 2017
- Hereford Area Plan (HAP) & Hereford Transport Package (HTP) consultation exhibitions (see Item 7). Consultation also available online.
- Confirmation of when Precept payments will be made

(b) **Warwickshire and West Mercia Probation Service** – Information relating to the Community Payback scheme and a request for new projects

7. MEETINGS, TRAINING ETC.

Monday 3rd April – preview event relating to the HAP and HTP consultation, at the Courtyard Centre for the Arts from 11.00am – 1.00pm – for attendance by parish councillors

Tuesday 4th – Thursday 6th April – Herefordshire Council public consultation exhibition for the Hereford Area Plan and Hereford Transport Package at the Courtyard Centre for the Arts from 11.00am – 7.00pm

Friday 5th May – Herefordshire Council Neighbourhood Planning Team – neighbourhood Plan submission and examination workshop at Herefordshire Archives Centre, Fir Tree Lane, Rotherwas from 10.00am – 12.00pm

8. FINANCE

(a) Statement of Accounts (after paying March expenses and April wages)			
Deposit Account (contingency fund as at 31 st February 2017)	£	2,645.18	
Treasurers Account	£	6,382.06	
Petty Cash	£	12.19	
(b) Grant Applications under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972			
Goodrich PCC – contribution towards churchyard maintenance for 2017/18 It was resolved that a cheque be raised at the next meeting.	£	300.00	
(c) Un-cleared cheques as at 30/02/17 – only those issued between meetings			
(d) Adverse variance to budget (2017/18) - none			
(e) Cheques for Payment			
Information Commissioners Office (Data Protection subscription renewal)	£	35.00	639
Cheques raised between meetings			
Miss A Jones – Pay rise paid as a lumpsum for the full year effect	£	35.57	631
Cheques raised between meetings relating to NDP grant funding expenditure, approved via the NDP purchasing / payment procedure			
Chris Hulbert (reimbursement for purchase of refreshments)	£	22.11	632
Lawrie Lowe (reimbursement for various items of expenditure)	£	739.28	633
Data Orchard (consultancy services)	£	1,464.72	634
Goodrich Village Hall (Room Hire)	£	45.00	635
Ken Gort (reimbursement for purchase of grip-seal bags for questionnaires)	£	54.50	636
Groundwork UK (repayment of unspent grant funds for 2016/17)	£	1,472.66	637
(f) Other Payments - Clerk's wages and office allowance (28th April 2017 – s/o)			
(g) Income Received			
None			

(h) **Review of Asset Register** – It was noted that the Clerk had still not received a correct estimate for the replacement of the war memorial. She advised that she would try to obtain this information in time for the year end accounts.

(i) **Clerk's pay** – council approved the new standing order for 2017/18 and it was duly signed.

(j) **Annual Return** – Council noted each of the statements within the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of Annual Return), and **it was resolved** that it be approved and signed accordingly.

(k) **Santander** – The Clerk and Chairman advised that they had managed to obtain the account number and sort code (which had not been made available to the Clerk due to it being an old Alliance and Leicester account) and that the Chairman had received advice via telephone. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would prepare a letter to Santander advising that the account was no longer required and that the parish council wants to close the account and transfer the balance to the Lloyds bank account.

(l) **Pension** – The Clerk advised that she had investigated the pension requirements further and read out advice from the Pensions regulator website (Q&As). **It was resolved** that if the Clerk did not request that a pension provision be made for her, then there was no requirement to have a pension scheme in place. The Clerk would still have to complete the necessary declaration(s) as required by legislation.

9. INFORMATION SHARE – NOT REQUIRING FORMAL DISCUSSION / DECISIONS / SPEND

It was noted that Sue Bishop, along with a group of residents had carried out a litter pick around the parish during February, and she had asked that the parish council formally support the next one in 2018 by contacting Balfour Beatty for an information pack around December 2017.

Cllr. Fletcher advised that his changing personal circumstances would likely lead to his resignation from the council in the near future, but that he was happy to continue in the role of Vice Chairman in the meantime, unless anyone else wanted to take over from the May annual meeting of the parish council.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT / FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Goodrich Primary School Gardening Club** - Cllr. Hulse to update regarding request for a wild flower patch
- **Missing Telephone Kiosk** – Clerk to provide update following the theft being reported to the Police

11. NEXT MEETING

Thursday 4th May 2017.

Meeting ended at 21.44 hrs

Certified as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings of Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council held on 6th April 2017.

Signed :

Date :

Chairman