

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

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

Present: 5 members of the public including Mr Ken Gort of the NDP team, Miss A Jones (Clerk), Cllr Paul Newman (County Cllr.)

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr. Mrs S 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 resident questioned the parish council's acceptance of the proposed development alongside the church on the basis that these were small family homes, he did not consider them to be small homes, or affordable. It was noted that within developments of 9 or less houses, there was no requirement for affordable homes or Section 106 agreements.

Cllr. Newman provided his update as follows:

- The budget consultation is currently underway by the county council – everyone is encouraged to contribute
- Welsh Bicknor landslip repairs - timeframe as fallen back again – now due commence September / October.
- Coppett Hill Trust was awarded first place in the recent River Wye AONB Farming Awards
- Herefordshire Council is reviewing cladding on all of its properties.
- The footpath officer for Walford parish, Heather Evans was attending the meeting, with an interest in the Black Bridge closure.

A resident asked whether the council considered Dean Swift to be part of Goodrich Cross, as Herefordshire council planning department apparently consider it to be a satellite area. This was considered to be incorrect by all, who considered it to be part of the main village, Goodrich Cross area.

Ken Gort provided an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) as follows:

- The consultant's report had now been received, summarizing the responses provided by residents
- 76% of residents over the age of 16 had completed a questionnaire.
- The NDP website had been improved and the full report is available to view
- There will be an open meeting, to include a presentation from the consultants, on Wednesday 12th July.
- 47 Housing Needs surveys had also been completed and a report of these results has been provided.
- The consultant is now looking at potential development sites and will visit the parish on 17th July.
- The steering group will now start assembling all the data, to understand what policies should be put in place (the consultants will assist with this to ensure everything meets all legal requirements).
- The next public consultation event will take place in September / October 2017 and the final NDP will then be prepared

A resident asked how many of the targeted properties had already been approved in current / previous planning permissions. Ken advised that the original target was 35 new homes and 24 are still required, by 2031.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 4TH MAY 2017 AND THE ORDINARY MEETING ON 1ST JUNE.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the annual parish meeting on 4th May and ordinary meeting of 1st June were an accurate record of the meeting on 4th May 2017, and they were signed by the Chairman accordingly

The Chairman brought forward Item 5(e)

(e) Councillor vacancy – council considered the possible candidates for co-option to fill the casual vacancy. All councillors had been considering this matter for some time, and several residents had been approached, but only one had expressed an interest in taking on the role.

Resolution : That Mr Richard Barradale-Smith be co-opted to fill the vacancy on the parish council.

Proposed : Cllr. R Hulse

Seconded : Cllr. Cllr. N Roper

Voting : All in favour

Mr Barradale-Smith signed his acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Applications Received

171926 The Gatehouse, Pencraig, Ross-On-Wye, HR9 6HR
Proposed "slimline" double-glazed units to some selected windows (Listed Building Consent)

It was resolved that the council was content for the Conservation Officer to decide this matter.

P172264 Charlton Coppet Hill Goodrich Ross-On-Wye Herefordshire HR9 6JF
Proposed new triple garage with studio-store over in roof space to replace existing carport

It was resolved that the parish council had no objection to the proposals.

(b) Applications Decisions / Determinations

171474 High Acre, Goodrich, Ross-On-Wye, HR9 6JH
Proposed ground floor dining room extension, obscured side window new deck area and

Permission Granted

(c) Other Planning Matters

Council were to consider the response from HALC regarding concerns raised about the treatment of parish council representations by the county council planning department, but no response had yet been received.

CARRY FORWARD

5. NEW ITEMS

(a) Stowfield Bridge (AKA Black Bridge) closure and associated issues

- Council consider an update from Cllr. Newman, and additional information available and associated matters. Cllr. Newman advised the following:
 - It is a complex matter, as the main structure is sound but the walkway requires major repairs
 - Gloucestershire, as owners, are likely to make any decisions, but then Herefordshire council will be legally bound to pay 50% of the costs.
 - There is a public right of way on the Herefordshire side of the bridge, effectively ceasing at the centre of the bridge, but at present, there is no right of way on the Gloucestershire side, however there is an application being processed to correct this.
 - Only 5 residents from Herefordshire attended the recent public meeting, but the cost to Herefordshire council could be £600k.
 - The current HCC budget does not allow for any expenditure of this nature.
 - HCC Cabinet has been asked to take a lead role and meet with GCC urgently.
 - Although the possibility of grant funding had been investigated, it appeared unlikely as grants are not usually provided where there is already a legal obligation to complete the work.

Further discussion noted that the Wye Valley Walk from Ross on Wye was now temporarily re-routed, to bypass the bridge. It was considered that there was a lack of awareness of the effect of the closure with regard to the time required for circular walks. One resident considered that the county council was unsupportive of tourism in the county as they viewed it as a low wage economy. Advice had been received the cost to dismantle would be £250k, but parish councillors thought this cost would be higher. The footpath diversion application currently being processed by Gloucestershire could take two years to complete and it was considered unlikely that any decision on the bridge would be taken until that matter was resolved. It was therefore decided that no further action was necessary by the parish council at this time, but that they would continue to receive updates from Cllr. Newman and review the situation at the next meeting.

(b) Highways and footpaths

- Council agreed that there were no new urgent matters to be reported.

(c) Public Access Defibrillator (PAD)

- Cllrs. Jessup and Hulse are continuing to investigate whether it may be possible to site a machine without a mains electricity supply. Therefore a possible location for final machine and funding of cabinet / fundraising etc. will be progressed at a later date.

CARRY FORWARD – Cllrs. Jessup and Hulse to bring options to a future meeting

- Council considered issues with the current PAD cabinet lock, which was failing to work correctly – Cllr. Jessup advised that he had confirmed that it was within warranty and he was progressing a repair.

(d) Parish council website provision – The Clerk advised that she had done a lot of work on the new web site and advised the link to councillors so that they could view it prior to the meeting. She explained that she there would be a need to run both sites concurrently for the time-being, as the original web site address has been widely available for some time. Additionally, she was of the opinion that the new email address was possibly linked to the original web site, so that would need to be dealt with before ceasing the original web site. The Clerk advised that she wanted to bring all matters within her own control, as the system of relying on former councillor Fletcher was resulting in failures that could have legal ramifications in future. Such matters included but were not necessarily limited to, Office 365 subscription, anti-virus software, email provision, ongoing web site costs / renewal / maintenance.

(e) Councillor vacancy – already dealt with earlier in the meeting.

(f) Moors Meadow / Greenspace

- The Clerk advised that Herefordshire council were currently attempting to back out of the agreement to sell Moors Meadow to the parish council for £1. There has been a change of staff and it appears that all those involved in the original agreement are no longer working at the council. The Clerk further advised that she had written to HCC expressing the parish council's dissatisfaction with this situation and emphasising the fact that there was, and indeed remains, an agreement in place and the parish council wishes to proceed on that basis. Evidence of the communications to date have been provided to the current contact within HCC and a response is awaited.
- Play Area Inspection – Cllr. Hulse advised that this has still not taken place. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase this up again, and if necessary, she may need to investigate alternatives.
- Greenspace funds / payment towards cost of new fencing. It was noted that although the Greenspace committee had previously voted to pay the specific Greenspace funds to the parish council to be ring-fenced for maintenance / repairs / replacements necessary on Moors Meadow, this had never actually happened, and the current committee appeared to no longer want to do this. Cllr. Hulse advised that recently provided information for the Greenspace charity detailed the bank balance as £3,083 general funds and £637 ring-fenced funds for Pool Ellocks. This showed that funds were being accounted for separately. He also advised that the payment for the boundary fencing should have been received as it had been passed to the Chairman some time ago. A replacement cheque could be provided if necessary.

6. MEETINGS, TRAINING AND SEMINARS

Tuesday 4th July - Herefordshire Council budget 2018/19 priorities briefing for parish councils at the Town Hall in Hereford from 6:30pm.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

- Information on the county council's new Code of Conduct and asking whether the parish council intends to adopt it too.
- Advice that the Wye Valley NHS Trust will commence charging for parking at community hospitals with effect from 10th July.

(b) HALC

- **Information Corner** – including information relating to Members' conduct and registration of interests, Negligence, Contracts, Good Councillor Guide,

(c) Copy of an email from a resident to Herefordshire planning department, regarding the quality of new build development.

8. REPORTS / CONSULTATIONS

(a) HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

- Budget consultation available online until 30th September at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation
- Rural Areas Site Allocation Development Plan Document – Issues and Options consultation – until 28th July 2017.

9. FINANCE

(a)	Statement of Accounts (after paying June expenses and July wages)		
	Deposit Account (contingency fund as at 31 st March 2017)	£	2,645.38
	Treasurers Account	£	15,438.44

	Petty Cash	£	12.19	
(b)	Grant Applications under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972			
	None			
(c)	Un-cleared cheques as at 30/05/17			
	Miss A Jones (Clerk's expenses)	£	40.53	
	Churchyard Maintenance donation	£	300.00	
(d)	Adverse variance to budget (2017/18)			
(e)	Cheques for Payment			
	HMRC (Clerk's PAYE)	£	Nil	
	Miss A Jones (expenses – purchase of PC printer – inc. VAT)	£	216.00	642
	Zurich Insurance	£	353.07	643
	Mr I Binns (Independent Internal Audit service)	£	40.00	644
(f)	Other Payments - Clerk's wages and office allowance (28th July 2017 – s/o)	£	310.36	
(g)	Income Received			
	None			

(h) **Transparency Act grant funding** – council considered the second grant application for ongoing costs, as provided by the Clerk. **It was resolved** that the Clerk present the application to HALC for payment.

(i) **Santander account** – update item – council noted that the account had been closed and the Clerk has been advised that the funds have been transferred into the main bank account.

(j) **Office 365** – already dealt with under Item 5(d)

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

The Chairman encouraged as many people as possible to attend the NDP open meeting the following week.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT / FUTURE MEETINGS - None

12. NEXT MEETING

Thursday 7th September 2017.

Meeting ended at 21.13 hrs

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

Signed :

Date :

Chairman