

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of
GOODRICH & WELSH BICKNOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2017 at 19.30 hrs
at Goodrich Village Hall

Attendees: Cllrs. Robin Hulse (Chairman), Lance Harbord, Mark Jessup, Martin Rowberry, Mrs Sian Watson

Present: 2 members of the public, Ken Gort (NDP Steering Group Chairman), Cllr Paul Newman (County Cllr.) Miss A Jones (Clerk).

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllrs. Nigel Roper and Mrs Lorna Vaughan.

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 raised concerns about planning permission not being required for communication towers / masts given that they can be unsightly, and cause frequency interference. He thought such applications / installations should be more stringently looked at. The parish council noted that such installations were given special dispensation within planning law providing they are below 20m in height.

Cllr. Newman reported a very busy month and provided the following update:

- It's budget time in the county council, having already made £87m of savings since 2010, we need to save another £17.5m up to 2020.
- In the current year we are facing a £3m overspend on the revenue budget, largely in Childrens' wellbeing, and a £340K overspend on the capital budget, including on blueschool house. Locally, I visited the neighbourhood plan exhibition here at the hall on 4th November and among other things was able to discuss the community feedback against fracking in this parish. I look forward to the full NDP agenda item later.
- Heather Irvine (Balfour Beatty project manager) in being chased for an update on the landslip at Welsh Bicknor
- He had attended 2 meetings of the Black Bridge Steering Group (report later in meeting).
- He had attended a RCS event on 8th November, featuring Goodrich castle, an excellent talk on adders, put on by Coppett Hill Trust, and also volunteered for habitat preservation work at the lime kilns on the hill on 15th November along with many other fantastic volunteers from the local community. On 28th November he attended a consultation meeting of the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership in Ross and argued strongly for the relaunching of the old "Wye Tour", including visits to Goodrich Castle and Symonds Yat. This followed on from an engagement with the new Herefordshire Rural Destination Plan where he argued for the highest possible profile and promotion of our tourist assets in this parish and local area. Finally, he brought a new group called the "Walford Old Boys" to join the Christmas lunch meeting of the Goodrich Afternoon Club here in Goodrich Village Hall, and he considered this a good way of positively supporting the community of older citizens in this parish and local area.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON 2ND NOVEMBER.**

It was resolved that the minutes from the meeting on 2nd November were a true record of the meeting, subject to the correction of a typing error on page 645, and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman.

4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(a) Applications Received

173795 The Old Mill, Goodrich HR9 6JD

Proposed refurbishment and reuse of cottage as workshop and home office.

The parish council raised no objection.

(b) Applications Decisions / Determinations

173767 Land at Courtfield Farm, Welsh Bicknor, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire

Proposed 20m High Swann Column A painted brown on new concrete base and associated works.

Prior Approval not required.

173339 The Thatch, Goodrich, HR9 6JF

(Retrospective) replacement garage

Approved with conditions

The Clerk advised that she had been unable to access the decision notice to determine whether any conditions relating to the parish council's comments had been included.

5. NEW ITEMS

(a) Highways and footpaths

- It was resolved that the following issues be reported:
 - Pavement leading from the priory to the dry arch bridge – barely usable due to overgrown grass.
 - Cross Keys – yellow double yellow lines have not been placed where the PC requested.
 - Japanese Knotweed on highway at Dean Swift Close
 - Coppett Hill – pot holes x 35 from Dry Arch bridge to junction with U70407

A member of the public said he was concerned about the parking at the school. Councillors explained that they had already raised this issue and that highways had responded that the parking served to slow down traffic flows and that the introduction of double yellow lines would not help and there was nobody to enforce them.

It was resolved that the Clerk would ask for attendance at the school by a Police Community Support Officer and would also write to the school.

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

- Ken Gort, of the NDP Steering Group provided an update to the council:
 - Very pleased with attendance rate at the consultation event
 - Residents were generally happy with the proposed priority list for development areas
 - Top 3 sites provided for 30 new homes – more than the target requirement
 - The land-owner of the second priority site (15 homes) was keen to progress promptly, so it was considered unlikely that land-banking / failure to build the required number, would be an issue
 - Earliest date for completion of the NDP and a referendum – June 2018.

It was noted that Japanese knotweed continued to be a problem at the second priority site and resolved that the Clerk would report it and ask that it be properly and fully dealt with prior to the removal of any soil etc. from site if / when development commences.

(c) Dry Arch Bridge / Black Bridge

- Cllr. Newman provided an update of the closure of Black Bridge:
 - HCC have allowed £100k in the budget to satisfy H&S obligations to make the bridge safe (falling objects) for users of the river below.
 - Cost of actual repair to facilitate re-opening likely to be £1.5m
 - A Heritage Lottery application is being progressed, to be completed by end of February 2018, with a decision due in July 2018.

(d) War Memorial

- The Clerk advised that the planning department had been provided with photos of the area of concrete to be replaced and had confirmed that planning permission would not be necessary providing the depth was kept to less than 300mm. **It was resolved** that this matter would be discussed with Cllr Roper to determine when the repairs might take place.

(e) Reform of the Data Protection Act

- Clerk advised the impact of the new legislation on parish council's was currently unclear as some of the requirements of the legislation were impossible to adhere to if there is only one employee. Fines could be applied to organizations who fail to adhere to the legislation. Further updates are expected in the New Year as central government is considering how parish councils will be treated. The new legislation is due to come into effect in May 2018.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

- Details of three road closures in December 2017
- Information on how to apply for grants from the Community Housing Fund

7. REPORTS / CONSULTATIONS

Herefordshire Council – Travellers' Sites DPD consultation – responses by 18th December. **It was resolved** that no comment was necessary.

8. FINANCE

(a)	Statement of Accounts (after paying October expenses and November Clerk's wages)		
	Treasurers Account	£	15,716.63
	Petty Cash	£	12.19

(b)	Grant Applications under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972		
	None		
(c)	Un-cleared cheques as at 30/10/17		
	Goodrich Village Hall (NDP)	£	60.00
	Lawrie Lowe (NDP)	£	9.90
	Groundwork UK (NDP repayment of unused grant funds)	£	580.75
	A Jones (expenses)	£	77.59
	RBL (remembrance wreath)	£	40.00
(d)	Adverse variance to budget (2017/18) - None		
(e)	Cheques for Payment - None		
(f)	Other Payments - Clerk's wages and office allowance (28 th December 2017 – s/o)	£	620.72
(g)	Income Received – none		

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

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT / FUTURE MEETINGS

Moors Meadow / Greenspace - Clerk / Chairman to update on the progress of the purchase
Play area repairs
Dry Arch Bridge Council to consider results of FOI request
Telephone kiosk (missing)

11. NEXT MEETING

Thursday 1st February 2018. Note: There is no Ordinary meeting of the parish council in January.

Meeting ended at 20.47 hrs

Certified as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings of Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council held on 7th December 2017.

Signed :

Date :

Chairman