

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of
GOODRICH & WELSH BICKNOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2018 at 19.30 hrs
at Goodrich Village Hall

Attendees: Cllrs. Nigel Roper (Chairman), Richard Barradale-Smith, Robin Hulse, Martin Rowberry, Mrs Lorna Vaughan

Present: 3 members of the public, Ken Gort (NDP Steering Group Chairman), Miss A Jones (Clerk), Cllr Paul Newman (County Councillor)

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

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

The following comments were made regarding the Biddlestone planning:

- Other local parish councils have objected to the Biddlestone planning application and there was hope that this council would do the same.
- There was no benefit to local people or parishes as the development is designed to be self-contained with their own shop, bus service, café, accommodation etc. It will only provide employment for foreign workers who send they money back to their home countries.

Cllr. Newman provided the following update:

- Site set up was due to commence at the Welsh Bicknor land-slip, ready for repair works, and members of the PC can attend if they wish
- He had only recently been made aware that the shop as well as the post office was closing, but there had been no application for change of use.
- Leader of the council has resigned.
- 2.9% council tax increase plus 2% increase for adult social care (4.9% total), with a £144m net budget.
- He continued to be the only attendee from Herefordshire at the Black Bridge meetings.
- He had objected to the planning application at The Orchard, in support of the parish council view.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON 11TH JANUARY.**

Council noted comments from resident regarding minutes of the November meeting, he stated that he did not request a visibility mirror. Councillors agreed that they were happy with the accuracy of the minutes.

It was resolved that the minutes from the meeting on 11th January were a true record of the meeting, subject to being amended to reflect that it was an extra-ordinary meeting, and they were signed accordingly by the Chairman.

4. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(a) Applications Received

P173774/F Biddlestone Farm, Llangarron, HR9 6NT

Erection of up to 32 hectares of fixed (non-rotated) 'Spanish' polytunnels over arable (soft fruit) crops grown on 'table tops'.

Councillors made the following comments / observations:

- Local roads are not good, and the A4137 is notably one of the most dangerous roads in the county. This will only get worse with the increased traffic, in particular HGVs and buses.*
- There is no local infrastructure, including but not limited to GP capacity, nursery places, community hospital (no emergency cover out of hours etc.)*
- There is no benefit or gain to the local community or local businesses as all money earned will be spent on site or sent home. In addition, the significant number of employees will become an additional draw on already struggling services, which will adversely impact on existing local residents.*
- Landscape harm – the proposal will have a huge detrimental impact on the visual amenity and will fundamentally change and fail to either respect or complement the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside in this area*
- Flooding issues with the road that are likely to be exacerbated.*

It was also noted that farms needed to diversify and that changes were inevitable, but most considered that the scale of this was unacceptable.

Resolution : That the council object to the application on the above grounds marked *

Proposed : Cllr. Roper

Seconded : Cllr. Rowberry

Voting : 3 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

(b) Applications Decisions / Determinations

P174447 Land at The Orchard, Coppet Hill, Goodrich

Proposed erection of a new 4 bed detached house with provision for parking, manoeuvring, access and egress.

Application Withdrawn

(c) Applications dealt with between meeting

P163251 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. Revised documents.

The parish council made no further comment over and above those already made.

It was noted that this application had now been approved.

5. NEW ITEMS

(a) Highways

- **Council resolved to** report the following potholes and surface issues again:
 - Goodrich Cross - continuing to deteriorate
 - B4229 just along from Lowthers – road subsiding and potholes
 - A4137 dual-carriageway overpass – potholes and surface deterioration
- Council considered the FOI response regarding Dry Arch Bridge. **It was resolved** that the council would request a copy of the next report – due in July 2018 along with details of remedial works carried out in response to the previous report. **It was also resolved** that the Clerk would provide a copy of the FOI reply to all councillors and to an interested resident.

(b) Moors Meadow / Greenspace

- Clerk advised that there continued to be no progress on the purchase and that HCC had been advised of future PC meeting dates in the hope that they would agree to progress the sale shortly.
- Cllr. Hulse advised that he was still awaiting a quote for the play area repairs highlighted in the safety inspection.

CARRY FORWARD

(c) 2018 Litter Pick event – 2nd – 4th March

It was resolved that the parish council would take part in this event, with Cllr. Hulse to lead and Mr Ken Gort to provide details of those likely to be interested in volunteering. **It was further resolved** that the parish council would request 3 litter picking packs and ask whether the filled sacks can be taken to the local tip rather than awaiting collection by Balfour Beatty.

- (d) Telephone kiosk (missing)** – Council considered ongoing concerns raised by residents regarding the failure to return / replace the kiosk. The Clerk advised that there had been no further update from the owner. Council noted that the county council had decided not to progress any requirement to replace (the listed asset) and that the parish council had no power to compel the owner to do so. **It was resolved** that the Chairman would speak with the owner to see whether he remembers who he dealt with when the kiosk went off for refurbishment.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

- Opportunity to complete an expression of interest for the Lengthsman scheme for 2018/19
- Herefordshire Community Champions – how to nominate – closing date 16th February 2018.

- (b) POST OFFICE** – notification that the post office at Jolly's will close on 9th February (NB initially advised as a temporary closure)

It was noted (via advice from the current PO manager) that the term “temporary closure” was standard wording of the Post Office notification but that the post office would not reopen unless an alternative site can be found.

(c) **Willyweather** - Information on a no cost weather service that can be added to web sites and focused on local weather alerts.

7. MEETINGS, TRAINING AND SEMINARS

Friday 16th March – Herefordshire Council – Data Protection Training event at Plough Lane Offices, Hereford from 10.00am – 13.00pm – free of charge

8. FINANCE

(a)	Statement of Accounts (after paying January expenses and February Clerk's wages)		
	Treasurers Account	£	18,984.53
	Petty Cash	£	12.19
(b)	Grant Applications under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972		
	None		
(c)	Un-cleared cheques as at 28/12/17		
	Grant Thornton (External Audit services)	£	120.00
	Data Orchard (NDP consultancy fees)	£	2,385.60
(d)	Adverse variance to budget (2017/18)		
	Clerk's computer provision (new printer – NB this purchase is covered by a grant)	£	113.00
	Stationery and printing (NB this includes cartridges for the new printer)	£	79.33
(e)	Cheques for Payment -		
	A Jones (expenses)	£	21.96
	Mr L Lowe (NDP expenditure)	£	104.42
	It was unanimously resolved that the above cheques be paid and they were duly signed.		
(f)	Other Payments - Clerk's wages and office allowance (28th January 2018 and 28th February 2018 – s/o)	£	620.72
(g)	Income Received		
	Groundwork (NDP grant)	£	4,015.00

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

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT / FUTURE MEETINGS

- Data Protection – new legislation update (after attending course being held by HCC)

11. NEXT MEETING

Thursday 1st March 2018.

Meeting ended at 20.45 hrs

Certified as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings of Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council held on 1st February 2018.

Signed :

Date :

Chairman