

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of
GOODRICH & WELSH BICKNOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2019 at 19.30 hrs
at Goodrich Village Hall

Attendees: Cllrs. Nigel Roper, Ken Gort, Lance Harbord, Robin Hulse, Stephen Phillips, Martin Rowberry

Present: 1 member of the public, Cllr. Mrs Yolande Watson (Ward councillor), Miss A Jones (Clerk)

1. MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr. Ken Gort declared a personal interest in Item, 5(e) as Treasurer to the PCC and signed the declarations book accordingly.

2. APOLOGIES – Cllrs. Mrs Lorna Vaughan and Mrs Sian Watson

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL AT THIS TIME

A resident advised that at least half of the field that Lowthers were proposing to use for the solar farm could be viewed from Coppett Hill. He also considered that the issue with the tree adjacent to the school was of their own making, because they had removed other trees and located numerous structures underneath and very close to it.

Cllr. Yolande Watson advised that it had been a quiet month, but that she had attended the school to give a talk to the year 6 students and she confirmed that the possibility of using proceeds of crime funds to assist with the removal of fly tipping was being followed up by David Hough (HCC). She also stated that she was pleased to hear that the defibrillator had been used successfully in the village.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS OF 5TH SEPTEMBER 2019.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 5th September, subject to the declarations of interest for Cllrs. Gort and Hulse being added and Item 5(d) being amended to show that Cllr. Rowberry seconded the resolution, were an accurate record of the meeting, and they were duly signed by the Chairman

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Applications Received

193082 Pantry Cottage, Goodrich

Proposed alterations and extensions to create a stair well and bedroom and bathroom

The Chairman had been advised by the architect that the application had been withdrawn so it was not considered any further.

193188 Valley View, Steppe House, Farm, Pencraig

Proposed erection of double garage

Cllr. Harbord was concerned that the proposed garage was positioned away from the existing buildings and towards open countryside. **It was resolved** by majority decision, that the parish council had no objection.

(b) Applications – Decisions – None advised

5. NEW ITEMS

(a) Highways and footpaths

1. Council considered any urgent new matters. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would write to HCC to ask then the road outside the Bivia Meadow development would be resurfaced as it has been severely chewed up by the site traffic.
2. Council received updates on matters already raised
 - 2.1. The tree overhanging the road had been cut down since the last meeting. It was unclear whose land it had been on. No further action.
 - 2.2. The Clerk had formally requested a replacement for the rotted footpath sign. No further action.
 - 2.3. The Clerk advised that she had written to HCC regarding the bypass. **It was resolved** that, given the potential impact on the rural NDPs in Herefordshire, the Clerk would also lobby Robert Jenrick MP Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and The Rt. Hon. Theresa Villiers Secretary of State for Environment.
 - 2.4. Speed. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would request attendance by PC Simon Hall and county highways to carry out an accompanied walk in the parish to see the issues and areas of concern and offer recommendations on how best to resolve them.
3. Council consider update an update from the Clerk and Chairman regarding the school's concerns about a tree adjacent to their land. The tree was definitely on council land. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would ask HCC to survey the tree to check that it is safe and does not require any remedial work.

(b) Public Access Defibrillator(s) – Council receive an update from Cllrs. Phillips and Gort regarding recent usage of the defibrillator. A parishioner had a cardiac event while attending a group at the village hall and the defibrillator had been used successfully while the ambulance was awaited. It was noted that the ambulance took a considerable time to arrive and that the defibrillator therefore played an important part in the outcome for the resident. It was also noted that they had difficulties opening the cabinet but that the lock had been checked since and it was working properly. It appeared that the need to press the “tick” button had not been included in the instructions for the ambulance service and that had now been corrected. New pads had been provided (as is normal practice when a defibrillator is used) and the machine is now ready to go again. A resident had questioned whether the cabinet should be locked and it was agreed that on balance, the need to be certain that the machine is not tampered with outweighs the slight delay caused by having to enter a code to open the cabinet. It was resolved that the parish council would accept the offer of Hereford & Worcester Community First Responders to provide additional training sessions and that the Clerk would ask the village hall about room availability and whether they will provide the room free of charge. Cllr. Gort advised that free use of the room would not be an issue and that it would simply be necessary to agree dates and times.

Cllr. Phillips advised that H&WCFR had advised that the parish council could access “used” defibrillators on a loan basis and it was resolved that he would investigate this further and report back to the next meeting.

CARRY FORWARD

(c) Old School Development – S106 payment – council were due to consider and agree what action is now necessary but the Clerk had not received any reply from HCC.

CARRY FORWARD

(d) Greenspace

1. Maintenance – **it was resolved** that Cllrs. Hulse, Rowberry and Roper would meet on site and agree a scope of works and obtain quotes if possible for the next meeting. The Clerk advised that they must ensure that all contractors are provided with the same information for quoting purposes and that they are suitably qualified and insured, so that the council has a direct comparison for consideration. It was noted that part of the bridge was rotten and would need to be included in the remedial works.

CARRY FORWARD

2. Council were to consider any available update regarding HCC refusing to transfer the asset to the PC despite previously agreeing to do so, but the Clerk was still awaiting a reply from Richard Ball (HCC)

CARRY FORWARD

(e) Church support - Council considered an update from the Clerk regarding the legal position with Parish Council's not being permitted to support the land or property of the church. This meant that the historical practice of making a donation towards the cost of graveyard maintenance could not be continued. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would write to HALC again to try and ascertain exactly how the council could assist the church.

(f) Castle Lane drainage / maintenance responsibilities – Cllr. Roper advised that he had received a copy of a section of a lease agreement between Roland Trafford-Roberts and Historic England, which stated that HE was responsible for the maintenance and repair of the lane as part of their lease agreement. This document appeared to clearly show that the lane was owned by RT-R but that for the time being at least, any remedial action was the responsibility of HE. Cllr. Roper advised that he and RT-R were due to meet with HE to attempt to ensure the matter is sorted out.

CARRY FORWARD

(g) Fly Tipping on Private Land – As per the update from Cllr Yolande Watson. Council to await further update from David Hough

CARRY FORWARD

6. FINANCE

(a)	Statement of Accounts (after paying September expenses & October wages)		
	Treasurers Account	£	24,068.01
	Petty Cash	£	12.19
(b)	Grant Applications under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972		
	None		
(c)	Un-cleared cheques as at 29/08/19 (excludes September cheques)		
	Miss A Jones (Clerk's expenses)	£	10.40
	Miss A Jones (Clerk's expenses)	£	8.62

(d)	Adverse variance to budget (2019/20) - none		
(e)	Cheques for Payment		
	HWCFR Ross-on-Wye (defibrillator replacement parts)	£	111.49 705
	Miss A Jones (replacement for lost cheque)	£	10.40 706
	It was resolved that the above cheques be paid and they were duly signed.		
(f)	Other Payments - Clerk's wages and office allowance (28 th October 2019 – s/o).	£	331.94
(g)	Income Received – Precept – final 50%	£	4,489.50

(h) **Budget** – council consider the first draft including the Clerk's suggestion that the potential effect of ongoing NDP work be factored into future budgets. It was noted that the need to review the NDP every two years could produce an unfair burden of cost on parish councils as well as the volunteers who are relied upon to carry out the work. It was further noted that the NDP in its current form had taken 2 years to produce and that it had been assumed, and indeed implied, that it would be valid for 5-10 years with a possible review after 5 years. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would write to Kevin Bishop (Head of Planning) detailing the concerns of the council, in particular that the need to review NDPs is likely to be caused by HCC's failure to provide the necessary housing within the city. It was agreed that the budget would be discussed further at the November meeting

CARRY FORWARD

7. CORRESPONDENCE – GENERAL – council to note and agree any actions / responses

(a) **Herefordshire Council** - Confirmation that the parish council's intention to adopt the kiosk at Dean Swift Close has been registered and advised to BT

(b) **HALC** – Training Programme

(c) **SSAFA the Armed Forces charity** – advice on the DE Day 75 anniversary celebrations due to take place during 2020 and specifically over the weekend of 8th – 10th May. Communities are encouraged to arrange their own celebrations on Saturday 9th May.

8. CORRESPONDENCE – Reports and consultations – Council to note and agree any actions / responses

(a) Herefordshire Council – Corporate Plan 2020-2024 Consultation – closing date 21st October 2019.

9. Meetings, Seminars and training

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

- Cllr. Hulse advised that he had purchased some lighting for the war memorial and that he would set them up for the month of November
- Cllr. Hulse advised that the Ensign Flag had been flown for Merchant Navy Day and that it had now been taken down and he was storing it once again
- Cllr. Hulse advised that the "Tommy" had been refurbished and was now on display again, everyone agreed that the current location was very visible.
- Cllr. Gort advised that he would attend the Parish Summit on behalf of the council.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT / FUTURE MEETINGS

- Model Financial Regulations – to be reviewed and amended as necessary
- Notice board – new provision to be reviewed once land ownership and kiosk situation is clarified.

12. NEXT MEETING - Thursday 7th November 2019

Meeting ended at 21.11 hrs

Certified as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings of Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council held on 3rd October 2019.

Signed :

Date :

Chairman