Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of
GOODRICH & WELSH BICKNOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2019 at 19.30 hrs
at Goodrich Village Hall

Attendees: Cllrs. Nigel Roper, Ken Gort, Lance Harbord, Robin Hulse, Stephen Phillips, Martin Rowberry, Mrs Lorna Vaughan, Mrs Sian Watson

Present: **4** members of the public, Cllr. Mrs Yolande Watson (Ward councillor), Miss A Jones (Clerk)

1. MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr. Gort declared a personal interest in item 5(g), as Treasurer to the Church
Cllr. Hulse declared a personal interest in Item 4(a) as the employee of the applicant

2. APOLOGIES – None

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

A resident supported the idea of putting additional notice boards around the parish.

Cllr. Yolande Watson had provided a written summary of recent activities, including discussions with Balfour Beatty regarding weed issues, a resident who was unable to get free school transport since turning 16 and the exit from Main Oaks Farm. She had also spoken with Herefordshire Council regarding Moors Meadow and confirmed that HCC continued to deny that any agreement had been made with the parish council and they now were not willing to do an asset transfer as there was no financial incentive for them to do so. She advised that the parish council could still lobby Richard Ball, Director of Economy and Place, if they wanted to.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS OF 4TH JULY 2019.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 4th July were an accurate record of the meeting, and they were duly signed by the Chairman

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Applications Received

192795 Land adjacent A4137 and A40 junction to Burnthouse Green, Marstow
Proposed installation of ground mounted solar PV panels to include ancillary equipment, inverters, substation, cctv cameras, access track and associated landscaping.

The Chairman opened the meeting, to enable the applicant to speak.

The applicant advised that the project had been a year in preparation and that he considered the location to be ideal for a project that was not aesthetically pleasing, as it was surrounded by the flyover, the dual-carriageway and the trees on the boundary with Losito Stud. The solar installation will provide all the power for the business and cannot be seen from Coppett Hill, or, as far as he was aware, from any residential area of the village.

Q Does the site flood
A No, it is above the flood plain
Q Will it generate traffic noise
A There will be some additional noise while construction takes place, but once complete, vehicle movements will be much less
Q Is there any noise (e.g. humming) or vibration associated with the panels
A No
Q Does it have any impact on the footpath
A No, the line of the footpath will be maintained through the site

The applicant then left the meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting again

It was noted that although the applicant had said that the installation could not be seen from residential / viewing areas of the parish, within the application documentation it stated that there would be both short and long range "glimpsed" views as a result of "gappy" hedges and that there was a "middle distance view" from Dean Swift Close and "long distance view" from Coppett Hill.

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

(b) Applications – Decisions – All noted by council

192176 Land at The Knapp, Goodrich
Application for approval of details reserved by condition 13 attached to planning permission 162482
Approved

MINUTES

191492 Land at Bivia Meadow, Goodrich
Variation of condition 4 of P163251/O to allow new site layout plan that includes underground LPG tanks
Approved

191350 Riverside Nurseries, Whitchurch
Extension to an existing glasshouse to accommodate a biomass boiler, including flue. Retrospective.
Approved

191030 Goodrich Church of England School
Proposed log cabin and additional parking spaces
Approved

192027 The Forge, Newmills Hill, Goodrich
Proposed detached garage and domestic store building and extension of existing driveway.
Approved

(c) Applications Between Meetings
P192176/XA2 Land At The Knapp
Application for approval of details reserved by condition 13 attached to planning permission 162482
There was no comment made by the PC as the application was determined before the time for comments concluded.

5. NEW ITEMS

(a) Highways and footpaths

1 Council considered any urgent new matters for consideration and agree actions as follows;
   a. Obstacles in / over the public highway – specifically on Knapp Pitch, a overhanging tree. **It was resolved** that Cllr. Rowberry would speak to the adjacent resident to ascertain ownership.
   b. Speeding from Pencraig (A40) into the village. It was noted that speeding was one of the "most raised" issues when the NDP was produced and that further consideration to speed limits was recommended.

Resolution : That the parish council engage with Herefordshire Council to obtain advice on possible actions to help reduce speed through the village.
Proposed : Cllr. S Phillips **Seconded** : Cllr. M Rowberry
Voting : 6 in favour, 2 against

   c. Cllr. Phillips raised the possibility of engaging with Highways England again, with a view to expanding the 50mph limit beyond the slip road to Goodrich (at Pencraig). **It was resolved** that the Clerk would contact Highways England on this matter
   d. It was noted that the drains had been jetted earlier in the week
   e. The issue of road safety at the B4229 / C1258 junction where the Main Oaks / Rocklands access / exit joins the C1258, was considered. It was generally considered that a visibility mirror seemed the most appropriate way to resolve the problem, but it was noted that residents had attempted to get county highways to install one over a period of some 17 years, and that highways had consistently refused to do so. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would raise it formally on behalf of the parish council and report back on HCC response.

2 Council received two updates on matters already raised, and no further actions were necessary.
3 Council considered issues with footpaths, to be advised by Cllr. Gort (footpaths officer)
   a. Footpath from Bryants Court to Goodrich Cross – it was noted that the gates and stiles were all in excellent condition but that the path could not be used by those with pushchairs, in order to gain access to the school. It was notes that this was a historical matter, as the land owner has always refused to replace the stiles with gates. A finger post was now missing and **it was resolved** that the Chairman would arrange for a new post to be installed.
   b. Footpath adjacent to Cross Keys pub – overgrown with weeds. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would report this.
   c. It was noted that the Ordnance Survey maps were out of date with regard to the diverted footpath.

(b) Public Access Defibrillator(s) – Clerk advised that she had contacted the person that Mark Jessup had spoken with regarding the management of the defibrillator and that he had confirmed that he would take it over and order new pads and batteries but that she had not heard from him since them. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would forward the contact details to Cllr. Phillips so that he could ensure the new battery and pads were provided and fitted. Cllr. Phillips confirmed that the defib. was functioning and that the council should consider whether a second machine could be put in the kiosk at Dean Swift Close (see Item 5(h).

MINUTES

(c) Community Support – council considered a draft information leaflet as produced during the summer break. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would print the leaflet in colour, A5 double sided and hand to councillors at the next meeting to agree who will distribute where. **It was resolved** that there would also be a brief comment in the Border News, to advise that the leaflets will be delivered soon.

(d) Notice Boards – Council considered whether more notice boards are necessary in order to maximise communication with the various areas of the parish, specifically, a request for an additional notice board in the Dean Swift area of the parish.

Resolution : That the parish council purchase and install a second notice board to be sited in or close to the Dean Swift area, once a suitable location has been confirmed and approved.

Proposed : Cllr. S Phillips **Seconded** : Cllr. M Rowberry

Voting: 5 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention

It was noted that it may be possible to use the kiosk for notices, but the Clerk advised that there would still need to be a secure board, to ensure that notices that the council is legally obliged to display are not removed in favour of private notices, and that it would need to have a capacity at least equal to the existing board. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would investigate whether the verge could be used for a notice board.

(e) Goodrich Primary School – Council considered concerns raised by the school regarding the safety / stability of a large tree**. It was resolved** that, initially, the Clerk would attempt to confirm whether the tree is on county highways land, and if so, ask them to cut it down.

(f) Greenspace

1. Maintenance – council to receive update on proposed scope of works and possible contractors and agree any necessary actions to progress this matter.

CARRY FORWARD

2. Council considered the current situation with regard to HCC refusing to transfer the asset to the PC despite previously agreeing to do so. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would write to Richard Ball, to lobby him to instruct his staff to adhere to the agreement that they made.

(g) Churchyard Maintenance - Council considered a request for a donation towards the cost of maintenance and repairs in the churchyard. The Clerk had provided legal guidance, advising that parish councils are no longer able to support the property of the church. Council was keen to provide some form of support but it was unclear how this could legally be done. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would seek further guidance from HALC on what the parish council can legally provide financial assistance for.

It was noted that a churchyard "clear up" had been done in August and another one was planned for October.

(h) BT Kiosk at Dean Swift Close - Council considered the consultation by BT proposing to remove this payphone**. It was resolved** that the parish council would apply to adopt the kiosk.

(i) Castle Lane drainage / maintenance responsibilities – Cllr. Roper advised that an attempt had been made to register the land but that there was no further progress. He also advised that he had spoken to English Heritage and that these discussions were ongoing.

CARRY FORWARD.

(j) Hereford Bypass – Cllr. Hulse asked whether the Council should make representations regarding the recent decision to stop work on the bypass, which was critical for those wanting to access facilities in Hereford.

Resolution : That the parish council lobby Herefordshire Council explaining that businesses and residents need the bypass to access vital business links, facilities and services

Proposed : Cllr. Hulse **Seconded** : Cllr. Mrs Watkins

Voting : All in favour

Clerk to copy Cllr. Y Watson

It was noted that from an NDP perspective, the delivery of the county's housing supply is dependent on the opening up of land, as a result of the bypass. If HCC can't deliver on its housing quota, then small villages will be expected to build even more to make up the numbers. This represented a potentially significant negative impact on all parishes and meant there was a risk that NDPs would be overturned**. It was resolved** that these points be included in the Clerk's letter to HCC. **It was also resolved** that the parish council should lobby the Transport Minister and that Cllr. Mrs Y Watson be asked to lobby on behalf of the parish council.

(k) Fly Tipping on Private Land – council considered correspondence that has taken place over the summer break.

CARRY FORWARD – awaiting reply from David Hough

MINUTES

6. FINANCE

(a)	**Statement of Accounts (after paying July & August expenses & September wages)**			
	Treasurers Account	£	20,030.56	
	Petty Cash	£	12.19	
(b)	**Grant Applications under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972**			
	None			
(c)	**Un-cleared cheques as at 29/07/19 (excludes July cheques)**			
	Miss A Jones (Clerk's expenses)	£	10.40	
	Miss A Jones (Clerk's expenses)	£	8.62	
	Miss A Jones (Clerk's expenses)	£	91.65	
(d)	**Adverse variance to budget (2019/20) - none**			
(e)	**Cheques for Payment**			
	Herefordshire Council – peppercorn rent for Moors Meadow	£	10.00	704
(f)	**Other Payments -** Clerk's wages and office allowance (28th August and 28th September 2019 – s/o).	£	663.88	
(g)	**Income Received -** None			

7. CORRESPONDENCE – GENERAL – council noted – no actions necessary

(a) Herefordshire Council

(i) Advice of scheduled council meetings

(ii) Advice that all work on the southern link road and by-pass is being paused pending a review to determine next steps**.**

(iii) Advice that the annual canvass was to take place in July (council to note that everyone should now have completed their return)

(iv) Advice that on 5th July 2019, the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group neighbourhood Plan was made and now forms part of the Development Plan for Herefordshire Council

(v) Advice that the Precept requirement must be received by Herefordshire Council by 31st December.

(vi) Advice that there is a new Speed Indicator Devices Toolkit available on the HCC website

(b) Cllr. Mrs Yolande Watson – Written **r**eports for July and September

(c) HALC –

1. **information Corner, including:**
   - (i) Model Financial Regulations (with advice on adopting)
   - (ii) Opportunity to nominate a councillor to stand on the HALC executive committee
   - (iii) VE Day – 75th Anniversary
   - (iv) Guide to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
2. Training Programme

(d) Environment Agency – Information relating to changes in the law that apply to people who abstracting water

(e) Zurich Insurance – guide to risk management (shared with councillors by email)

8. CORRESPONDENCE – Reports and consultations – Council noted, no actions necessary

(a) Herefordshire Council

(i) Request that any armed forces veterans complete a survey available on the HCC website until 7th October 2019.

(ii) Notice of review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations. Consultation runs until 23rd September.

9. Meetings, Seminars and training

Friday 20th September – Wye Valley AONB – Annual partnership tour (attendance to be advised by 9th September). 9.30am – 4.00pm

MINUTES

Friday 20th September – Leader of Herefordshire Council – invitation to Parish Council Summit. At Shire Hall from 6.30pm

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

- The council were grateful of the volunteer work that had been carried out recently at the school
- It was noted that the parking sign at the tennis club had ben amended to read "Parking for tennis club"
- Cllr. Hulse advised that 11 dog fouling signs were now being displayed round the parish
- It was noted that the brick construction at Knapp Pitch had been exposed and looked very nice

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT / FUTURE MEETINGS

- Smartwater – Clerk update once it has been advertised on the notice board and website (October meeting)
- Model Financial Regulations – to be reviewed and amended as necessary

12. NEXT MEETING - Thursday 3rd October

Meeting ended at 21.10 hrs

Certified as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings of Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council held on 5th September 2019.

Signed : **Date :**

Chairman

MINUTES