

# *Llanwarne & District Group Parish Council*

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in Llanwarne Village Hall on

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Present: Councillors: Jason Pacey (Chairman). Rosey Price, Rowena Williams, Harry Holt<sup>1</sup>, Rick Guest, Paula Snow, James Roberts and Pat Roberts.

Ward Councillor Fagan, Elizabeth Malcolm (Footpaths Officer) and Mark Hearne (Parish Clerk).

1. **To receive apologies for absence** –Councillors Anthony Snell and Brian Goodwin.
2. **To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation** – None.
3. **To consider the minutes of the meetings held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021** - It was RESOLVED to adopt both sets of minutes as a true record, and these were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Open Session** - To receive views from residents on parish matters. No members of the public were present.
5. **Presentation on Citizens Science** – Due to the unavailability of the guest speaker it was RESOLVED to reschedule the presentation to the meeting in January 2022.
6. **Reports and Updates**
  - 6.1. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting there have been developments in two planning applications. The LPA has refused planning permission against 190542 ( Land at Harewood End Inn) and approved, with conditions, planning application 212636 (Lower Hill Cottage).
  - 6.2. Ward Councillor Fagan covered the following issues in her report:
    - 6.2.1. Permission is required from National Highways before the proposed road signs for Llandinabo can be installed.
    - 6.2.2. Concerns over the brightness of the security lights at Llanwarne Court.
    - 6.2.3. The plans for Herefordshire Council to bring responsibility for PROW back “in house”.
    - 6.2.4. The recent announcement that Gigaclear will not be able to fulfil its plans to implement faster broadband across all parts of the county. Herefordshire Council are working to strip out these elements of the contract with a view to making alternative arrangements.
    - 6.2.5. Testing for phosphates has taken place in the Garron and Gamber and will provide further updates as necessary.
    - 6.2.6. Arrangements will be made to meet with Ben Nott (WyeUsk Foundation) to discuss

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<sup>1</sup> Councillor Holt left the meeting at 20.00hrs

matters of note.

- 6.3. **Footpaths Officer Report** – The Footpaths Officer reported on several PROWs which need attention commenting specifically on PC7, PC8 and TM3 and others were identified requiring remedial work as detailed in the papers circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors acknowledged that much work is needed on the PROW network, but the timing of this work is key. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards the details provided to the Lengthsman (Terry Griffiths) asking for a quote to make the required repairs.
- 6.4. **Report from the Lengthsman** – The Lengthsman was not present at the meeting and no report had been submitted
- 6.5. **Locality Steward** – No defects which need to be reported to the Locality Steward were identified.
- 6.6. **Village Hall Refurbishment** – Ward Councillor Fagan reported that an application for grant funding has been submitted and, if successful, will be used to purchase curtains/stage curtains. With the availability of free wi-fi it is hoped that the hall will be used more widely which could include the live streaming of events. It is also hoped that the space upstairs could be made available for therapy sessions. The IT infrastructure available in the hall would also enable the Parish Council to screen detailed papers such as planning applications during future meetings.

## 7. Flooding

- 7.1. **Update on Meeting with Llangarron Parish Council** – The Chairman reported that the Garron and Gamber group last met on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 which was followed by a site meeting involving representatives from Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021. During the second meeting several issues were discussed including:
  - Cover crops and the funding/equipment that might be available.
  - Natural Flood management.
  - Cutting of grips on the road from Llanwarne Court to the village car park.
  - The culvert under the Old Rectory including a suggested earth bund across the car park to hold the water above the village.
  - To explore funding options from the Environment Agency and/or Herefordshire Council to cover the cost of engineering design work for flood culverts and earth bund. Ward Councillors Fagan and Swinglehurst are exploring all the available funding options.
  - Recognition that the weir and sluice downstream of the village is likely to be a contributory factor to the flooding issues.

The Chairman also reported Councillor Nigel Moore (Llangarron Parish Council) has agreed to obtain a quote from a local hydrologist for a full catchment survey.

- 7.2. **Riparian Rights** – Following a brief discussion it was RESOLVED that the Clerk circulates a copy of the recent protocol published by Herefordshire Council and noted that this may be an issue for the next meeting.
- 7.3. **Flood Plans** – Councillors noted that the deadline for responding to the Environment Agency's survey is the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and would be discussed at the meeting on the preceding day.

- 8. Proposal to Change the Name of the Parish Council** – To reduce the financial liability on the Parish Council in the event of an election it was agreed, in principle, to change its name and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk reports back on the steps necessary to implement this change.
- 9. Road Signs on the A49 at Llandinabo** – This issue was considered during the report provided by Ward Councillor Fagan and no further discussion took place.
- 10. Light Pollution in Llanwarne** – Councillors discussed a complaint over light pollution emanating from Llanwarne Court. It was noted that the cause of the “problem” was security lights which is understood gives some reassurance to the resident concerned. It was considered that advice from someone knowledgeable about home security issues might help resolve the issue and it was RESOLVED that Councillor Guest approach the resident to broach the subject in the first instance.
- 11. Planning** – No planning applications have been received for consideration.

## **12. Finance**

- 12.1. The current bank balance is £7,812.69
- 12.2. Councillors noted the payment made to the former Clerk for October 2021.
- 12.3. Councillors approved the following payments:
- 12.3.1. Lengthsman (Invoices TGC1643 & TGC1644 - £2000.00 (ex VAT)<sup>2</sup>
  - 12.3.2. HALC Recruitment Services (Invoice H1368) - £200.00 (ex VAT)
  - 12.3.3. Kate Hughes (Reimbursed for cost of a poppy wreath - £20.00)
- 12.4. **Draft Precept and Budget 2022/23** – Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to leave the precept unchanged at £10k for 2022/23. It was further RESOLVED to approve the draft budget for next year.
- 12.5. **Additional Signatory to the Parish Council Bank Account** – Following discussion it was decided to defer any action to add another signatory to the Parish Council bank account.

- 13. Councillor Training** – Councillor Price reported that HALC will provide a bespoke training course for the Parish Council at a cost of £200 (ex VAT). It was RESOLVED that the Clerk circulates a copy of the latest training schedule published by HALC to identify which specific issues would be of interest. In terms of timing, it is aimed to hold a training event in the early part of 2022 but avoiding the period between mid- February 2022 to mid- March 2022.

- 14. Clerk’s Information Sheet** – The Clerk reviewed the information sheet and specifically sought advice from Ward Councillor Fagan on the closing date for registering footpaths. Ward Councillor Fagan advised that the closing date is 2026 and agreed to source and circulate a copy of the footpaths map.

## **15. Items for the Next Meeting**

- 15.1. Defibrillator Training

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<sup>2</sup> Invoices submitted as part of the Drainage Grant and costs will be reimbursed by Herefordshire Council.

- 15.2. Footpaths
- 15.3. Great Collaboration/Green Network

**16. Date of the Next Meeting** – The next meeting will take place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in Llanwarne village hall beginning at 19.30hrs.

Meeting closed at 21.15.

Signed

Date