

Llanwarne & District Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in Llanwarne Village Hall on
Thursday 19th May 2022

Present: Councillors: Jason Pacey (Chairman), Rosey Price , Rowena Williams, Rick Guest, Paula Snow, Harry Holt and Brian Goodwin.

Ward Councillor Toni Fagan and Mark Hearne (Parish Clerk) were also present.

1. **To receive apologies for absence** –Councillors James Roberts and Pat Roberts.
2. **To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation** – None.
3. **Election of Chairman** – Councillor Pacey was proposed by Councillor Holt and seconded by Councillor Guest. No other nominations were received so Councillor Pacey was elected Chairman and duly signed the acceptance of office form.
4. **Election of Vice Chairman** - Councillor Price was proposed by Councillor Holt and seconded by Councillor Snow. No other nominations were received so Councillor Price was elected Vice Chairman.
5. **To consider the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th March 2022** - It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record, and these were signed by the Chairman.
6. **To note the status of Resolutions passed at the meeting of the 17th March 2022**
 - 6.1. The Clerk reported that all resolutions passed at the previous meeting have been discharged apart from the Lengthsman’s contract which remains unsigned despite several reminders from the Clerk.
 - 6.2. Councillor Guest agreed to draft a letter to be sent to Mrs Williams as decided at the last meeting.
 - 6.3. There was a brief discussion on the decision to place plants outside the village hall to mark the Platinum Jubilee and whilst the venue serves the whole parish it was agreed that, should a similar opportunity arise in the future, it is important to guard against anything that could be construed as Llanwarne centric.
 - 6.4. Councillor Guest expressed disappointment over the decision to refuse the Parish Council’s request to apply a single cut to the verge from the village sign to the B4348. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk challenges this decision and seek an explanation for the safety concerns which were cited as the reason for the original decision.
7. **Open Session** - To receive views from residents on parish matters. The following issues were raised:
 - 7.1. Ward Councillor Fagan reported that a resident has raised concerns over speeding HGVs adjacent to her property at Broomy Court and had recently had her fence taken down. There

are also visibility problems when emerging from her property. Ward Councillor Fagan added that Herefordshire Council are intending to arrange a site visit to assess the stretch of road being assessed is the B4348 between the A49 and Locks Garage. It was noted that, once opened the new rail link at Pontrilas, will reduce the number of HGVs on the local road network.

- 7.2. The requirement for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) reducing the speed limit to 20 mph was raised. Ward Councillor Fagan confirmed that responsibility for TROs have transferred back into Herefordshire Council from Balfour Beatty and alluded to previous plans to reduce all speed limits which pass through settlements to 20 mph but will investigate this further. The Chairman mentioned that a case has been made to Balfour Beatty for funding for a 20 mph TRO through the Village Safety Initiative and if any monies are forthcoming the Parish Council could consider allocating some reserves to the project subject to support from the local community.
- 7.3. The grass cutting regime in the village was raised as a concern. It was reported that parts of the grassy areas in the village have been decimated which impacts on the local biodiversity. Much of the land belongs to the church and it is suggested that the issue is raised with the PPC.
- 7.4. The Chairman reported that a resident has asked about the timings of verge cutting in the parish. It was noted that all verges will be subject to two cuts during the growing season unless agreement is reached with Balfour Beatty that a single cut is appropriate for nominated verges.

8. Reports and Updates

- 8.1. Safer Neighbourhood Team – No one was present from the Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- 8.2. Ward Councillor Fagan raised the following issues:
 - 8.2.1. Reports of activity in the village car park on Wednesday evenings (after 20.00hrs) with the suggestion that “county-lines” are using it as a meeting place, and it was suggested that the Parish Council brings this to the attention of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.
 - 8.2.2. Referenced the recent issue of the Leader’s newsletter which provides an update on all current issues.
 - 8.2.3. The Panorama programme was raised, and Herefordshire Council have begun to address the serious problems exposed in the broadcast with the appointment of a new Chief Executive and Director of Children’s Services.
- 8.3. Locality Steward - No defects which need to be reported to the Locality Steward were identified.

9. Lengthsman

- 9.1. Lengthsman Report – The Lengthsman was not present at the meeting and no report had been submitted. Councillor Price identified work required on the road close to the ruined church where there is evidence of some deterioration, but it was considered that this is an issue for the Locality Steward, and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk brings this matter to his attention.
- 9.2. Drainage Grant – The Chairman confirmed that the drainage grant of £4339 for 2022/23 is much lower than the bid submitted to Herefordshire Council. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk invites the Lengthsman to offer his views on which projects should be prioritised within the available funding.
- 9.3. Lengthsman Contract –It was RESOLVED that the Clerk continues to hasten the Lengthsman for a signed copy of the document.

10. Footpaths Officer Report – The Footpaths Officer was not present at the meeting and had not submitted a report. Councillor Guest reported a damaged stile close the cherry trees and the Chairman agreed to provide the exact location to the Clerk to allow this to be reported to the Footpaths Officer. **Post meeting note – The Chairman confirmed the location as what3words pass.blend.derailed.**

11. Environment

- 11.1. **Flooding** – The Chairman reported that he met Nigel Moore (Llangarron Parish Council) to review a submission provided by JCA Consulting which proposed a full catchment study of the Gamber and Garron. This proposal has been referred to the Rod Haunt who is a hydrologist who provided some feedback which has been passed to JCA Consulting for their consideration. The joint environmental group is now awaiting a proposed cost for undertaking this work.
- 11.2. **Great Collaboration/Green Network** - Following discussion, it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council joins the Great Collaboration/Hereford Green Network at a cost of £50 per annum.

12. Planning

- 12.1. Councillors noted the appeal Under Section 78- Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against the refusal of planning permission for Planning Applications 173776, 173777, 173778, 173779 & 173780 – Biddlestone Orchards, Llangarron. Councillors commented on a previous appeal against the refusal of planning permission for a proposed development at Tump Lane, Wormelow and suggested that comments had been submitted by the Parish Council in response to the original application. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk checks the Planning Portal and the previous minutes to confirm the situation.

13. Finance

- 13.1. The current bank balance is £16,704.18
- 13.2. Councillors approved the following payments:
- 13.2.1. Lengthsman (Invoices TGC1830 (Drainage Grant Fund) £1900.00 (ex VAT).
 - 13.2.2. Clerk's salary for April and May 2022.
 - 13.2.3. Postage - £8.16
 - 13.2.4. Stationery - £21.62
 - 13.2.5. PAYE – April and May 2022 - £194.20
 - 13.2.6. Clerk's travel costs - £9.90
 - 13.2.7. Platinum Jubilee - £200.00
- 13.3. **Financial Monitoring 2021/22** – The Clerk reported that at the end of 2021/22 the Parish Council have reserves of £11,704 and considered there are no current financial risks.
- 13.4. **Reserves Policy 2022/23** – Following discussion, Councillors approved the Reserves Policy for 2022/23 and it was RESOLVED that it should be published on the Parish Council website.
- 13.5. **Renewal of Insurance** – Councillors noted that a 3-year Long Term Agreement would accrue some modest savings in the cost of insurance, and it was RESOLVED to proceed on this basis at an annual cost of £143.04.

14. Parish Council Vacancy – The Chairman explained that HALC advised that disqualification from the Parish Council follows automatically when a Councillor fails to attend a Parish Council meeting in any six-month period adding that there is no discretion in the legislation unless there are compelling or extenuating circumstances. The vacancy which resulted in the disqualification of Mr Anthony Snell has been advertised by Herefordshire Council and as no request for an election was forthcoming the Parish Council is now able to co-opt someone to fill the vacancy. The Chairman added that there is no reason why Mr Snell could not apply to re-join the Parish Council. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council develops some Terms of Reference which sets out the responsibilities and commitments expected of Parish Councillors. In parallel, the Clerk will maintain a record of Councillors' attendance and will notify any Councillor at risk of disqualification. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk publishes an advert for the Parish Council vacancy seeking expression of interest with a closing date of the 30th June 2022. It was further agreed that all applicants will be invited to submit a written statement of no more than 100 words in support of their application.

15. Smartwater – Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to arrange for a representative from Smartwater to offer a presentation to the next Parish Council meeting. The Chairman suggested that given the cost (circa £3k) it would be prudent to publicise the scheme and the planned Smartwater presentation across the parish to allow residents the opportunity to come along to the next meeting to learn more about the initiative. It was RESOLVED to create a Parish Council Facebook to be used to communicate key Parish Council messages which will be used alongside the Parish Council website. Councillor Williams agreed to lead on this work.

16. Items for the Next Meeting

- 16.1 Change of Name of the Parish Council
- 16.2 Forward Plan for the Parish Council and establish specific working groups.

17. Date of the Next Meeting – The next meeting will take place on Thursday 21st July 2022 in Llanwarne village hall beginning at 19.30hrs. It was also noted that it will be necessary to arrange an extraordinary meeting on 23rd June 2022 to sign off the audit submission.

Meeting closed at 20.50.

Signed

Date