

# *Llanwarne & District Group Parish Council*

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

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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

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

1. **To receive apologies for absence** –Councillor Pat and James Roberts.
2. **To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation** – Councillor Price declared a non-DPI against Agenda item 10.1 (Planning Consultation 223402).
3. **To consider the minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022** - It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record and these were duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **To note the status of Resolutions passed at the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**  
The Clerk provided an update on resolutions passed at the last meeting and specifically commented on the following issues:
  - 4.1. Lengthsman Contract – The Clerk reported no progress in acquiring a signed contract from the Lengthsman.
  - 4.2. Councillor Snell reported that white lines at Pencoyd crossroads have been refreshed.
  - 4.3. The Clerk application for electronic banking has been thwarted due to him not being a signatory. Further work will be taken to progress this issue, but the Chairman reported that HALC have suggested Unity Trust Bank as a possible alternative.
  - 4.4. The Smartwater presentation has been deferred until the January 2023 meeting.
5. **Open Session** - To receive views from residents on parish matters. The following issues were raised.
  - 5.1. Reports of mud on the road on Gibraltar Lane which is a safety hazard. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk reports the issue to the Locality Steward.
  - 5.2. A grip on the road near the church in Michaelchurch needs digging out and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk reports the issue via the Herefordshire Council website.
  - 5.3. Reports of blocked drains at Aldermead. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk reports the issue via the Herefordshire Council website.
6. **Reports and Updates**
  - 6.1. Ward Councillor Fagan raised the following issues:
    - 6.1.1. Ian Connolly (West Mercia Police) recently completed a speed check on the A49 at Harewood End which recorded an average speed of 41 mph which does not warrant any

further measures. Details of the Community Speed Watch scheme have been forwarded to local residents.

- 6.1.2. A meeting has taken place with a local ecologist who is very keen to protect the rich source of biodiversity on the verge at Sandyway junction and requested that this is considered when the frequency of verge cutting is discussed for 2023.
- 6.1.3. Communication together with an accompanying photograph of the dog litter bin has been forwarded to Balfour Beatty
- 6.1.4. Herefordshire Council are facing a £20m shortfall in its revenue budget for 2023/24. Grants for capital spending will continue to be sought from Central Government.

- 6.2. Locality Steward – It was noted that the road from Locke's garage to the A49 is in poor condition and Ward Councillor Fagan has raised the issue with John Harrington and will do so again.

## **7. Lengthsman**

- 7.1. Lengthsman Report – No report has been submitted for consideration for this meeting.

## **8. Footpaths Officer Report**

- 8.1. The Footpaths Officer provided a visual aid to show where there are current problems on the PROW network. Following discussion, the following was agreed that:
  - 8.1.1. The landowners should be invited to clear the route on PC8. The Clerk confirmed that he has already written to the two individuals concerned but no response from either has been received. It was RESOLVED that the Lengthsman and Environability are invited to quote for installing two stiles on PC8.
  - 8.1.2. The Footpaths Officer will work with the landowner (Councillor Snell) to clear the route on PC6.
  - 8.1.3. Councillors to remain aware that work is required to clear the footpath which runs behind the Mediation Centre but this will be complicated by the presence of badger setts. It was agreed that the first stage will involve identifying the landowners.
  - 8.1.4. Steps on PC3 are eroded and rotted and require reinstatement and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk seeks a quotation from the Lengthsman.

## **9. Environment**

- 9.1. The Chairman commented that there is nothing further to report since the previous meeting.

## **10. Planning – To consider the following planning consultations to be determined by Herefordshire Council.**

- 10.1. Planning Consultation 223402- Hillgates Farm, Hillgates. Proposed demolition of Hillgates Farmhouse and replacement with a modern sustainable dwelling. Councillors acknowledged that the existing dwelling is in a poor condition and welcomed the proposed sustainable design of the new home. On this basis, Councillors agreed to support the planning application and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk informs the LPA accordingly.
- 10.2. Planning Consultation 223730 – Woodlands Farm, Harewood End. To note the application to determine if prior approval is required for change of use of agricultural building into a flexible use falling within use class E (g). Councillors commented that there is little detail to show the future plans for the site but noted that the applicant is currently seeking to determine if prior approval is required. Councillors were content that the access to the site is

adequate and, on this basis, Councillors registered no substantive objections. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk notifies the LPA accordingly.

- 10.3. Planning Consultation - 223540 - Land adjacent to Homelands, Orcop Hill, Herefordshire, HR2 8SD. Proposed new dwelling. Councillors were generally supportive of the application but expressed some concerns over the width of the access road. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to the LPA accordingly.

## **11. Finance**

- 11.1. The bank balance at the end of August 2022 was £17,468.61
- 11.2. Councillors approved the following payments:
- 11.2.1. Clerk's Salary for October and November 2022
  - 11.2.2. PAYE – October and November 2022 - £390.40
  - 11.2.3. Clerk's travel costs - £19.80
  - 11.2.4. Clerk's storage costs (October and November 2022) - £30.00
  - 11.2.5. Clerk's annual contractual expenses - £100.00
  - 11.2.6. Stationery - £12.37 (ex VAT)
  - 11.2.7. Lengthsman (TGC2057) - £400.00 (ex VAT)
  - 11.2.8. Poppy Appeal - £26.00
- 11.3. Financial Monitoring and Bank Reconciliation 2022/23 – The Clerk had circulated a spreadsheet which suggested that at year end the reserves will be in the region of £9k.
- 11.4. Draft Budget and Precept 2023/24 – The Clerk reported that the elections are due to take place in 2023 which could, if contested, incur costs in the order of £6,500 and this may influence the precept for next year. The Clerk also drew attention to the Parish Council's possible interest in Smartwater which, if it went ahead, could cost in the region of £3k. To limit the increase to the precept to £1k it was agreed that no money will be committed to Smartwater until there is clarity on the cost of the election in 2023. On this basis, it was RESOLVED to set the precept at £11k for 2023/24.
- 11.5. Clerk's salary – Councillors noted and approved an increase in the Clerk's salary following the recent announcement of the LGA pay award for 2022/23.

- 12. Llanwarne Village Hall** – The Parish Council has received a request from the Village Hall Committee for support in the future maintenance of the building. The Chairman commented that the Parish Council is not in a position to support the village hall financially but would be content to consider other means of assistance. The priority for the Village Hall Committee is to remedy problems with the roof and replacement of upstairs windows. Following discussion, it was noted there would be significant benefit if grants could be sought by the Parish Council as this would allow the VAT to be recovered. There was a clear consensus amongst Councillors that they would like to support the Village Hall Committee and becoming a member of a working group to consider possible grant funding streams to facilitate work on the roof is an option. The Chairman invited Councillors to consider how they may wish to support the Village Hall Committee and contact Ward Councillor Fagan if interested. Councillors were also encouraged to elicit support from the local community to support the village hall.

- 13. Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & Risk Management Plan 2022/23** – Following discussion Councillors voted to adopt the aforementioned documents and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk publishes the material on the Parish Council website.

**14. Training** – Councillors reviewed the training delivered by Lynda Wilcox (HALC) on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and agreed that it was a useful event. The Clerk was asked to seek a further five packs from HALC for those Councillors who were unable to attend. It was further RESOLVED that the Clerk extends the thanks of the Parish Council to Lynda Wilcox for providing the training.

**15. Smartwater Presentation** – It was noted that the Smartwater presentation is now expected to take place during the meeting in January 2023.

**16. Items for the Next Meeting**

- 16.1. Smartwater Presentation
- 16.2. Change of Name
- 16.3. NDP
- 16.4. Working Group – Village Hall.

**17. Date of the Next Meeting** – The next meeting will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in Llanwarne village hall beginning at 19.30hrs.

Meeting closed at 21.05.

Signed

Date