

MINUTES
YARKHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
11TH NOVEMBER 2014

1. Present: Cllr. Ian Carr (Chair), Cllr Tom Misselbrook (Vice), Cllr Sarah Daw, Cllr Chrissie Dobson and R Plant (Clerk).

Six members of the public were present: Peter O Neill (tree warden), Terry Griffiths (lengthsman), Katie Bott (village hall), Cathy Beverley (Locality Steward Balfour Beattie), Terry Griffith, R Aspey

Apologies: Cllr Roy Cox, Ward Cllr Patricia Morgan.

2. Declarations of interest, personal, prejudicial or request dispensation - None declared. **Resolved**
3. Minutes of the meeting held 16th September 2014 were agreed, approved, adopted and signed as a true record. **Resolved**
4. The new clerk was welcomed - R Plant.
5. Cathy Beverley, the Locality Steward for Balfour Beattie was welcomed to the meeting. Cathy is currently on call 8 hours per day and due to a backlog of problems personal attention is difficult at the present time.

If there should be an urgent problem requiring attention, category 1 problems, then please inform Cathy **via the Parish Clerk**.

If there is a run of the mill problem (not urgent) then please log on to the Hereford Council website to report.

Cllr Misselbrook informed Cathy that a meeting had taken place, arranged by Cllr. Nick Nenoditch, for himself and Hereford Councillors to meet with Jill (traffic/highways) regarding a problem by the church. This is a longstanding problem regarding possible cracked pipes and flooding.

Road signs. Obscured road signs must be reported. There is a current problem at Monkhide with signs showing Business Park. A current business would be happy to have Business Park blacked out from the sign (they have put up signs of their own). Balfour Beattie do not have sufficient funds to replace signs. A decision was taken to black out the Business Park. **Resolved**

Cathy was asked if she would tour the village in the Spring, with a member of the Parish Council, to point out any problems. This was agreed. Cathy asked for a telephone call in March to arrange a diary date for April 2015.

6. The Lengthsman report: Follow the C1149, location BT pole 6 culvert - this is a major flooding problem, the connecting pipe was blocked, he was able to jet the pipe but discovered the pipe was broken on the opposite side of the road. A camera from the pit and culvert to the river was clear.

The riparian landowner is responsible for land/ditches. Cathy will look at this problem. Balfour Beattie may be able to help with materials but not funding for the work. Clearance of ditches and removing soil is the largest expense.

The lengthsman will speak to the landowner, if this is not successful then Cathy is happy to speak to him or to send a letter, although Balfour Beattie do not have a standard letter to send out to landowners.

Some landowners do not wish to be involved with water (eg rainfall) which drains naturally from fields onto roads.

The Lengthsman has identified which ditches are highways responsibility and which are joint responsibility with the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk is able to assist with identifying landowners if required.

Work carried out by the Lengthsman so far - drainage and culverts have been cleared and jetted. The first part of the winter should be fine barring silting up, caused by vehicles pushing soil into ditches during bad weather.

At Monkhide, there is a possible blockage by The Hollies. The pits were cleared out. Hereford Council put in these drains, they run parallel to the road and into the pit. The PC will report back to the lengthsman if the drain is blocked.

The Lengthsman asked Cllrs if they had considered using the enhanced scheme for next year, if so this would need to be scheduled into his diary.

Councillors all agreed that as this was the first year for the scheme then they would not use the enhanced scheme for next year. **Resolved**

Payment for 2 days work will be paid this evening. The remaining 1.5 days, for which funding has been allowed, Cllrs agreed to use this time after Christmas. **Resolved**

7. Footpath and Pond Officer reports. Nothing to report on ponds.
Footpaths: Shucknall opposite Castle Farm. To be worked on by the working party in the spring.
Church to join Tarrington Road - no improvement.
Unable to get over the stile at YK6, the stile has collapsed and is overgrown. The landowner was offered a gate by the Hereford Council but nothing has happened.
A stile at the middle fence in the first field after the river was placed in the wrong position, removal requested, and resited.
Hereford Council will no longer replace a stile if it is next to a gate. In these instances the landowner must ensure a gate is available. Landowners must ensure footpaths remain open. The Ramblers Association may be able help with any problems, however, all Cllrs decided to pass this problem to Balfour Beattie due to no progress being achieved during the last three years. Neither Cllrs or the villagers wished to have any bad feeling with the landowner. Cathy will speak to the landowner. Mr Aspey has a spare stile if required. Cathy stated that Balfour Beattie only employs 2 people for the whole county to replace/repair structures, bridges and styles etc. so are very busy. They will only replace or repair like for like.

Many of the stiles throughout the village need to be replaced.

8. The tree warden reported that a number of trees are crossing lines from Watery Lane to the Monkhide turn off and also the road from the hall to the main road. Western Power Distribution are responsible for trimming the trees. The tree warden will obtain grid references for the clerk to forward to Western Power.
9. Precept. Last year the precept was £4,500. HALC's recommendation is to increase the precept for this year. There will be election costs, Parish Councils' now have to be audited by outside auditors and also lengthsman costs.

One member of the public stated that he was reluctant for the precept to be increased, Hereford Council are cutting back and the public are now being charged twice.

Another question from the public was: is it possible to obtain cheaper insurance and what does it cover? Hazel will check other quotes.

The Chairman feels that as a Parish Council we have to move forward and cash is required to do this. All Cllrs. agreed to increase the precept to £5,500. This is an increase of £7.00 per year per household. **Resolved**

10. Cllr. Misslebrook attended the HALC AGM. Funding has been reduced. Hereford Police Commissioner (Sue Thomas) stated the police made cuts of £30 million last year and next will have to make cuts of £29 million. Hereford police will be combined with Warwickshire, sharing vehicles etc. They aim for intelligence led policing. Please report anything suspicious using telephone number 101.
11. Parish Action Plan. Patricia Morgan to look at traffic situation. Stokebridge road is a concern. Information on a bus shelter to be looked at.
There is an increase in families close to the Church.
The Field Fork Festival will be held 06/06/2015. 50% of the profit is for the village and will be open for bids. The Church have requested some funding for painting.
Local employment opportunities advertisement is now on the website.
No land is currently available for a BMX track.
12. Planning - no new items.
Update on the Newtown Public House. A law enforcement order has been issued to put this back into the public domain. The old porch has been removed. The clerk will write to the enforcement officer for full details.
The original soakaway from the Newtown (original public house) runs underneath the plot which has been sold to the travellers.
Need to move forward before July 2015.
13. Parish Activities update. The village hall house has now been rented.
Sandbags - a pallet load has been requested. Wendy to inform Cllr Misslebrook when these arrive.
Thanks to Wendy who is caretaking the village hall and doing a good job.
14. Working party activities. The signs on the 417 which were missed have now been cleaned.
The milestone by Mitchells cottages requires cleaning.
The next working party in February will be for litter picking.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 13th January 2015.

Signature:

Designation:

Date: