

Unapproved MINUTES
of
YARKHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday September 16th 2014 in the Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm

Those present: Chairman: Ian Carr and Councillors: Chrissy Dobson, Sarah Daw and Roy Cox. Parish Clerk: Hazel Walter
Parishioners present: Bob Aspey, Roger Harris and Peter O'Neill
Invitee: Terry Griffiths-our new Lengthsman
The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone especially Cllr Cox who has been away through illness for some time and our new Lengthsman. He was introduced to those present.

1) Apologies for Absence: Cllr Misselbrook, Ward Councillor Patricia Morgan, Peter Ball, Hazel Misselbrook, Hazel Brooke (Asst Tree Warden) Ann and John Elliot (Footpaths around Newtown) Martin Ennis and Katie Bott.

2) Declaration of interests: personal or prejudicial or notice of dispensation: none declared

OPEN SESSION

3) Minutes of the previous meeting held on July 8th 2014: Minutes of the above meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman Ian Carr.

4) New Clerk

The new Clerk who had accepted the post appears to have withdrawn from the post. The reasons why are being explored. There appears to have been a failure in communication. Neither referee had responded to a request for a reference either. The Clerk will explore this further with the candidate and with Lynda Wilcox from HALC and continue in post while the matter is resolved. (One referee has since re-written a glowing reference)

5) To welcome and receive the report of the new Lengthsman, Terry

Griffiths: Mr Griffiths described his role when there were cutbacks at Hereford Council and thus with Balfour Beatty's budget too. He will not concentrate on verge cutting but on keeping the roads clear of water and as such has done two full days covering drainage assessment issues on Watery lane, part of Stokebridge road, the Village Hall cul de sac and down Monkhide. He found three sites of blockage, Two in Watery lane and one in Monkhide: one of which has been reported to Welsh Water. He asked if we would like him to work on the site by telegraph pole 6 in Watery Lane. This was agreed. The other blockage in Monkhide is close to where work is being done at the Hollies in Monkhide. The Clerk will speak to the owner about this and when Mr Griffiths comes to do this site will hopefully introduce him to the owner of the Hollies to try to sort out what has happened.

Mr Griffiths and his co-worker will trim hedges and clear verges where there is obstruction to vision at junctions. There is sufficient money from Balfour Beatty for 4 full working days a year. Two days have been paid for - to date. The Clerk has received money in the Bank for 3 days (£924.00).

Discussion began about the broken culvert at Covender Farm owned by Mr Ken Cox. The Clerk has talked to Mr Harrison at the Lugg Drainage Board who said it was the landowner's responsibility. Clerk to deal with this, with the help of Cllr Cox. Mr Harris mentioned the break in the verge west of Little Yarkhill Court. The Clerk had already reported this to the Locality Steward, Cathy Berkeley for Balfour Beatty. The Clerk will ask the Steward to do a Parish Walk at some point.

Cllr Dobson revealed that Peter Ball with the help of Tom Clay have bored under the road at Monkhide and placed a larger pipe to feed excess water in the area when it rains into the canal. This has avoided asking Balfour Beatty to re-surface the road and also fulfils the need to provide extra drainage from the enlargement of his barns.

6)The Footpaths and Pond Officer's report: Ian Carr explained that Easy Lawn had not done anything about the gates /stile issues on their land for the footpath YK 6 running from the Moat towards Tarrington. He would endeavour to see the Hawkins again.

Cllr Dobson mentioned the obstruction to the start of YK 15 on the A4103. The Clerk will report this to the Locality Steward as this is too difficult for the Working Parties to tackle.

There was a complaint about the lack of yellow discs on the meandering route of YK7. This would be dealt with by the working parties (IC and HW to sort).

A hole was reported outside Linda Turnbull's house (The Conifers) as being where a disused water valve was. Welsh water had dug it up to explore, claimed it no longer was used but haven't been back to fill in the hole. It presents a risk This could easily be filled in by a working party or someone with spare soil and the right equipment. Clerk to ask Peter Ball (done).

Ann Elliott's report: The Bridleway from Monkhide to Newtown YK 18 is rather overgrown. Clerk to ask PB about this (done). Also on the east side of Dark Orchard Cottage there is a rotten stile (YK5). The land is used for grazing and belongs to Mr Aspey. Will Steels, the Council Footpaths Officer at BB has already notified the locality Steward about this-18/09/2014.

Request for improvement of vision on the A4103 for people pulling out of driveways was asked for around the Village Hall and Castles area. Peter O'Neill had already cut some foliage down near him as the Highways team have not got round to it. The Locality Steward to be contacted by the Clerk.

7)Tree Warden's Report: Peter O'Neill had little new to say new. He offered to cut the growing but large fallen branch close to Peter Clews' farm entrance as it was Highways land and Mr Clews had not organised anything and neither had Highways.

8) Co-option of a Councillor: This item was left off the minutes.

9) Highways: 9.1 Watery Lane and part of Stokebridge road had had potholes filled and a top dressing.

9.2 No other comment from the floor save the water valve hole mentioned above.

9.3 It was decided to report to the Locality Steward be advised of the Lengthman's activities.

10) Planning Update

10.1 N 122066 Newtown Public House. A law enforcement notice has been served. The Chairman and another parishioner, a pub enthusiast, visited the owners. They understood that the Willmotts felt let down by the Council Planning Dept about being led on. They disclosed that they had no more funds to fight their case anymore. The outcome will take several months to become clear. Mark Haslam from CAMRA of Herefordshire had sent a long letter to the Law enforcement Officer in July. Mr Haslam is keen to find out what the continuing interest in the Parish is and would be happy to come to an Open Meeting about the Pub. No decision taken about this.

10.2 The unlawful encampment site; It was agreed that the Hereford Council Footpaths Officer be given the name of the keyholder to the gate and trailer and that the owner should keep the keys. The Footpath Officer is to be given Mr Parker's details and contacts (This has been done with a copy of the

details to the Travellers Support Unit)

10.3 **P141715** Newtown House Lower Eggleton HR8 2UQ planning permission granted

10.4 **P141867** New Bungalow Yarkhill (The Castles Area) Planning permission application has been withdrawn. Reason not known.

11) Activities in the Parish: 11.1 Martin Ennis and David Madgen had met with the grant assessor for the **Parish Plan**, who had decided to withdraw most of the £600 expected in the second tranche, as it appeared that the Parish had not spent all the money as first requested. After some discussion about printing costs subsumed by the Parish, £429.29 has been awarded.

11.2 It was agreed that the rest of the grant if not needed for parish costs could be used towards achieving part of the actions arising from the Parish Plan. However it became apparent that the money would be needed by the Parish for routine costs.

11.3 The money raised from the **Field to Fork Festival** would be discussed by Cllr Misselbrook at the November 11th meeting when an attempt to start implementing the parish Plan would be agreed.

11.4 **Village Hall:** Katie Bott sent a report on the Village Hall Committee's achievements.

11.4.1 **The School House** had been renovated with some considerable participation by the incoming family and is now rented out at market rates. Costs of the renovation were around £7000 but this should soon be covered by the incoming rental. Welcome to Hamish and his family.

11.4.2 **The Monthly Coffee Mornings** now held on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 10-12 midday at the Village Hall, seem to be continuing happily with roughly the same 5-9 people coming. There is a book swap operating as well as refreshments.

11.4.3 **The Summer BBQ** to celebrate the Village Plan and raise money for the Hall went well until the gas ran out so another BBQ was sent for to save the day!! Many people helped, brought salads and helped clear up. A relative provided entertainment from his small bagpipes while the children were happy with the Bouncy Castle inside the Hall. This and other lettings for Birthday Parties, music lessons, a DEFRA meeting, and PC meeting held by Weston Beggard plus a **Charity Coffee Morning to be held on 26th Sept** help the coffers to be filled.

11.4.4 Wendy Nash the **new Caretaker** has been working hard to keep the Hall looking clean and better. Alun, her husband, has already painted the car park railings a smart shiny black (the previous Caretaker did not manage this in 3 years.) Notices on the boards have been tidied up.

11.4.5 The monies collected plus the eagerly awaited results of **grant** applications will be used on insulation, the walls and roofing in the future.

12) Regular Working Parties

12.1. A working party of 3 cleared foliage and cleaned signs, and turned a signpost round. They covered part of Stokebridge road, Watery Lane, west part of Yarkhill entrance on the A4103, part of the east entrance of the A4103 and the southern part of the A417 on August 23rd from 10-midday. There is more to do around Newtown Cross and rest of A4103. The next date for a working party morning is **Saturday October 25th**. Offer of refreshments afterwards at Yarkhill Court Barns offered.

12.2 No other date or task was fixed at the meeting but it became clear that there was more to be done re: hedge clearance and sign post cleaning and hole-filling as well as litter-picking in the future. The ancient milestones (2) on the western border of Yarkhill and along the A4103 eastwards look champion

now they are painted and easy to see. Well done “white and red rose” people.

13) Items for the New Agenda: Precept decision from calculation of amount need due to Hereford Council by 30th December, Parish Plan Action, Liaising with Weston Beggard and Stoke Edith.

CLOSE OPEN SESSION

14) Cheque signing

Before the signing, the Clerk provided the External Auditor’s signing off and the display notice already on the Parish Boards to allow people to access the account records held by the Clerk. She provided the last three Bank statements. The monies IN this last quarter were the VAT Claim, newsletter adverts, the September Precept, The Parish Plan grant and the Lengthsman money for ¾ of the years work. Spending on printing has been high and a new printer has been purchased. To cut costs to pay a qualified Clerk more money we could state in the next Newsletter that with the new Parish website about to appear that only hard copies of the newsletter would be printed in the future for those without internet. Copies could be left with the distributors and in the Church, at the Village Hall and possibly the Shop. This was agreed. Cheques for payment to the Clerk: July £167.22, August £126.39 plus £12.72 for stamps, HMRC: July £23.20 August £11.20, It was agreed to pay by BACS to KT Gooch £ £321.71-a forgotten printing bill from March, Churchyard Maintenance £250.00, and for the domain website £57.46 to Cheryl Evans for her business Alpha Designs.

15) New Clerks Contact: No action

16) To discuss and decide on new financial regulations: 16.1 The effects of the demise of the Audit Commission means we will have to pay the next External Financial Auditors –to be calculated when applying for the precept. 16.2 The financial qualifications of the internal auditor have to be recognised. To be discussed with the present auditor by Clerk.

16.3 The new financial regulations will need to be adopted by the Parish Council. It seems there are no written regulations in the Parish files. The new Clerk is to be asked to assist in this when he/she takes over.

16.3 Uptake of training by Councillors needs to be considered in order to protect themselves from difficulties with tax and pensions relating to their staff and other responsibilities such as fraud, bribery and media coverage. (Lynda Wilcox to speak to this? No decision taken.)

17) The date of the next meeting was agreed as NOVEMBER 11th at 7.30 pm The meeting was closed at 9.45 pm. No informal meeting was set up
Parish Meetings are usually on the 2nd Tuesday in the month: For 2015: Jan 13th, Mar 10th, May 12th, July 14th, Sept 8th and Nove 10 unless otherwise agreed.