

MINUTES OF
YARKHILL PARISH MEETING
Held 13th March 2018 at Yarkhill Village Hall

Present: Councillor Tom Misselbrook, Councillor Chrissie Dobson, Councillor Sarah Daw, Councillor Jeff Hughes, Councillor Ian Carr, Councillor Nick Nenadich and clerk Sallyanne Batchelor.

6 members of the public were present.

1. All Councillors were present – no apologies for absence
2. There were no declarations of interest or written requests for dispensation
3. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 9th January 2018 were approved and signed. The Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Meeting of 8th February were approved and signed

4. **Open Session**

4.1 Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester was unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Tom Misselbrook informed the meeting that Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester is now the leader of Herefordshire Council.

4.2 Footpaths & Ponds. The Clerk read a brief report from Ann Elliott as follows: YK3 Monksbury Court to canal bridge is fine. YK18 has been thoroughly cleared but it was noted that the new fingerpost stated “footpath” and should be changed to “Bridleway”. Councillor Ian Carr will attend to this. YK3 and 5 ok. The bridge with a loose plank has been stabilised with chicken wire. The stile at the end of the path near Skew Bridge will require attention before long. Ann also explained that she would be unable to make further reports and Councillor Tom Misselbrook offered thanks for her hard work over the years. Councillor Ian Carr asked that anyone walking the paths should report any issues to either himself or the Parish Clerk. Councillor Ian Carr advised that Terry Griffiths will be assisting him with the repair and replacement of rights of way signs and ensuring excess scrub is cut back. Discussions are still ongoing with regard to help from the probationary services. Harvey Clay informed the meeting that the very heavy gate on the bridleway on their land off Watery Lane is to be replaced with a lighter dual gate.

4.3 Tree Warden. Peter informed the meeting that there were no problems to report at this time. It appears no trees were damaged by the recent snow.

4.4 The Lengthsman was not at the meeting

4.5 Councillor Tom Misselbrook made the Chairman’s update. He commented on the recent plague of fly-tipping, including mattresses and black bags. He asked that anyone seeing evidence of fly-tipping should contact either himself or the Parish Clerk, ideally with registration numbers of vehicles involved. Councillor Tom Misselbrook advised that the precept for 2018/2019 had been approved and suggested the Parish Council put together a document for distribution with a future Newsletter, showing where and how the precept is used for parishioners’ information. Councillor Tom Misselbrook updated the meeting on the Extraordinary Meeting of 8th February, which was called to discuss planning applications 180237 on land adjacent to Northcroft, Lower Eggleton and 172447 on land adjacent to The Cottage, Newtown.

The meeting was attended by several local people and useful comments were forthcoming, as a result of which the Parish Council submitted a recommendation to the Planning Department highlighting both issues raised at the meeting and those that came to light as a result of the site meeting by Parish Councillors. At this stage there has been no decision from the Planning Department. It was noted that the turnout for the extraordinary meeting was far lower than the turnout for the meeting regarding the Monkhide planning application. A decision is expected on the Monkhide application shortly. With regard to the Northcroft application Mr Aspey reinforced the need for the matter of waste water to be thoroughly investigated and it was agreed that whatever the outcome of the planning application the stagnant ditch running along the boundary of the property needs to be addressed as it is very unpleasant.

4.6 Councillor Tom Misselbrook updated the meeting on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. It has now been effectively handed over to Herefordshire County Council and no comments have come back following the consultation period. He explained that we are now awaiting contact from HC recommending examiners and Councillor Tom Misselbrook expressed his concern that he had not as yet heard from them. The Clerk interjected and informed him that the relevant email had been received late this afternoon and she had forwarded this to him. The NDP Steering Group will consult Kirkwells who will advise the best examiner to use. Once the NDP has been examined (this can take anything from 6 weeks to 3 months) it is returned to HC and Yarkhill Parish for the referendum. This is expected to take place in May this year. We can rest assured now that HC have to consider the NDP when making planning decisions.

5. Planning matters.

5.1 174555 – Monkhide. This was discussed in item 4.5 and as yet no planning decision has been made. The land owners agent has made further representations and Councillor Jeff Hughes has responded accordingly.

5.2 180237 – Northcroft. This was discussed in item 4.5. The Parish Clerk added that she had investigated the question of the enforcement notice to return the orchard to its original state. The notice was taken out in 2015 and the case was closed when the landowner agreed to stop using the land as a motorcycle track.

5.3 The Parish Clerk had investigated the occupation of mobile homes on land belonging to Mr & Mrs Mannion and an enforcement notice has been issued but with an extended effective date of February 2019 thus enabling occupation of the mobile homes whilst the landowners new house is built on the land.

6. The Parish Clerk advised that Network Rail have responded to her letter regarding improving safety on Stokebridge Road. They advise they are in communication with HC in an attempt to improve safety. It is also noted that HC is currently increasing signage to improve safety.

7. The Parish Clerk attended the recent Village Hall Committee meeting and advised that all is running smoothly with the Hall. Decorations are ongoing and the Hall is greatly improved. There is an ongoing relationship between the Church and the Hall which will be beneficial to both parties. There is to be an Easter event which will be advertised in the forthcoming newsletter.

8. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the P3 application for 2018/2019 has been submitted to HC for the upkeep of Footpaths and Public Rights of Way. The Grant amounts to £750 with a £225 contribution from the Parish. We still have a significant amount of the 2017/2018 grant available and the Lengthsman will be carrying out work before the end of March to make use of this grant. As mentioned in item 4.2 Councillor Ian Carr is in communication with the Lengthsman to this effect.

9. Councillor Jeff Hughes updated the meeting with regard to Broadband. The approach in Yarkhill is confusing reflecting the different providers and the various phases that have been involved. The area around the Church has BT provided fibre broadband as does the lower part of Monkhide whilst Newtown is supplied by Gigaclear. HR1 and parts of HR8 are still awaiting access and EU funding for this phase has now been approved. The formal procurement process commenced on 5th March and a decision as to which supplier/contractor will be selected should be made by the end of May 2018. Councillor Jeff Hughes will prepare a full update on the Broadband situation for inclusion in the forthcoming newsletter.

10. All Notice Boards are now in place and have cost considerably less than originally expected.

11. Councillor Ian Carr asked that a reminder about the forthcoming litter pick on 24th March be posted in the Newsletter once the Clerk has confirmed litter picking kits are available from HC. It was suggested that the Parish Council investigate the cost of purchasing our own litter kits and the Clerk to look into this.

12. Herefordshire Walking Festival to be discussed at the next Parish Meeting. Some apprehension was expressed about the £5.50 fee payable for taking part on the walk was to be for the sole benefit of HC and not the Parishes taking part. At the next meeting Councillor Ian Carr will advise if the Parish are able to utilise 50p from each fee paid to cover the cost of tea and coffee at the Village Hall. The Parish will need to confirm their support for the Yarkhill walk or it will need to be cancelled.

13. Questions from the Floor. The Clerk informed the meeting of the forthcoming roadworks at Stretton Grandison between 15th and 16th March. The road to be closed from 9am until 5pm on both days. Councillor Ian Carr pointed out that the sign to Monkhide needed the business park wording covering and the Clerk agreed to contact HC with regard to this matter. Councillor Tom Misselbrook reminded the meeting that the next Meeting would be the Annual Meeting and as such a new Chairman would need to be appointed.

Close Open Session

14. Payments approved as follows:

14.1	HALC Renewal	£345.10
14.2	Parish Clerk	£316.16

15. Items for the next meeting to include Planning items, NDP update, Hereford Walking Festival. Other items to be sent to the Parish Clerk no later than 27th April.

Date of the next meeting (Annual Parish Meeting) Tuesday 8th May 2018 at 7.30pm

