

**MINUTES OF**  
**YARKHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Present: Councillor Jeff Hughes, Councillor Chrissie Dobson, Councillor Ian Carr, Councillor Tom Misselbrook, Councillor Nick Nenadich, Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester and clerk Sallyanne Batchelor.

2 members of the public were present.

1. Apologies received from Councillor Sarah Daw
2. There were no declarations of interest or written requests for dispensations
3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May and the Extraordinary Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were adopted and signed.

4. **Open Session**

4.1 Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester started by thanking Councillor Jeff Hughes and Councillor Tom Misselbrook for attending the recent HC budget consultation. Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester would like to reach out to all Parish Councils with a view to working more closely together to benefit the community as a whole. With this in mind there are plans for a Parish Council “summit meeting” in the autumn. At the last Cabinet Meeting various matters were discussed including the possibility of out-sourcing the running of the library service in such a way that allows improvement and expansion of the service. Contrary to rumours, HC are currently expanding the HC library with an additional floor and extra facilities. The Hereford By-Pass was a major point and the preferred route has now been agreed. It is estimated that half a million trucks pass through Hereford a year, all using the one river bridge and the new by- pass would alleviate this weight of traffic thus improving not only air quality but city quality in general. Another key factor would be that this would also release land on which to build 6,000 homes, provide approx 6,000 jobs and thus encourage more young people to stay within the County which in turn benefits the Herefordshire economy. There are still lengthy processes to be worked through but all information on the subject and indeed on HC generally can be found on the HC website and these key meetings are open to members of the public. It was Democracy week last week and HC invited two sets of children from two schools to meet the Leader of the Council in the Council Chamber. Ages ranged from 11 to 15 years of age. Question time lasted for an hour and a half and some interesting and tricky questions were asked – and answered.

4.2 There was nothing to report on footpaths and ponds and the Parish Clerk agreed to contact a member of the Parish who had expressed an interest in becoming the Footpath & Pond Officer. Councillor Ian Carr reported on the recent Hereford Walking Festival which was a success and suggested we take part again next year to continue showcasing our beautiful countryside.

4.3 The Tree Warden has nothing to report but did point out that the effect of the dry weather could manifest itself when the weather changes to wet and windy and people should be aware of likely problems with their trees, particularly those hanging over roads. Councillor Tom Misselbrook expressed his concern about a fallen tree over the Frome in Watery Lane which could cause problems in the event of heavy rain and flooding; also the structure of the bank itself. The Parish Clerk agreed to contact the Locality Steward to look into this problem.

4.4 The Chairman updated the meeting as follows: Disappointing news about faster broadband for HR1 areas in that only three potential contractors came forward to bid for the contract and HC and Fastershire weren't happy with that level of response so they have gone back out to do a re-tender and we will await the results of that – the closing date being today 10<sup>th</sup> July. Councillor Jeff Hughes also thanked Councillor Tom Misselbrook for leading the Yarkhill NDP process over the last couple of years. It was a huge task to take on and the commitment and hard work of the NDP Steering Group has been amazing.

4.5 Neighbourhood Plan update as follows: (to include 4.5.1) Anyone on the electoral register would have received a polling card and also a leaflet from the NDP about the forthcoming Referendum on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Anyone away at that time can apply for a postal vote up to the 18<sup>th</sup> July. There were very few queries from the Examiner and of the few amendments asked for most were minor spelling changes. The Examiner was very complimentary about the Neighbourhood Plan. The Report is available to view both on the HC website and the NDP website. Councillor Tom Misselbrook emphasised the importance of turning out to vote because, as has already been shown, the NDP does have an impact on planning matters and does allow local opinion to be taken into account. Councillor Tom Misselbrook thanked Councillor Jeff Hughes for managing the financial side of the NDP so efficiently.

5. With regard to planning matters Councillor Jeff Hughes confirmed that several planning applications have been considered since the last Parish Meeting and the NDP has added significant weight to the decisions taken. The first significant decision was in relation to the application for planning permission by Mrs Brookes for the development in Monkhide which was refused on several grounds; there were apparently a large number of representations made by local residents and the NDP played a large part in the decision. The second application was for the development of 16 houses at Newtown Crossroads by Mr Fry. Again local representation and the NDP were material in the refusal of this application. Reports on both these developments were very thorough and although both parties have the right to appeal against the decisions, the case against the developments is very strong and an appeal is unlikely to be successful given the newness of the NDP. The application at Northcroft is temporarily on hold whilst the Agent reworks the plans. Mr & Mrs Kelly's application for outline planning permission on their land beside Squirrels Nest at Newtown has been submitted but there is still an ongoing problem with access which appears to be no nearer to being resolved. The other application, which is a resubmission after the original application was withdrawn, is for a new house at Little Woodmanton and although the Parish Council did not have any objections when the application was first suggested last year, the property now falls outside the settlement boundary and therefore contrary to the NDP such that the PC is unable to support this resubmission.

6. Cllr T Misselbrook gave an update on HC 2019/2020 Budget. He pointed out that there is a Budget Consultation on the HC website which is open to the public to complete. The Council Tax increase for 2019/2020 will be 4.9% of which 2.9% is set aside for adult and children's social care. The remaining 2% is the precept. The Revenue budget for next year is £383million and the capital budget is £147million. Yarkill Parish Council will need to decide by the next Parish Meeting in September what our precept should be. We don't have any commitment to look after children or adults in our Parish. Since 2010 HC has had to make £77million worth of savings, in 2018/2019 they made a further £12.9 million saving and in 2019/2020 £4.8 million. The Government's contribution is no more than just over £600,000 where as it used to be in the millions. After 2020 HC will no longer receive any contribution from Government. This is part of the reason for HC wishing to build more

homes in order to bring people into the County and maintain their revenue. It was pointed out that several County Councils have already gone into bankruptcy although Herefordshire

Council appears to be safe at this time and is planning for its future stability. They plan to build in the region of 16,500 new homes across the County. The good news is that Yarkhill Parish Council does appear to be in a relatively healthy financial state. Any increase in the Yarkhill precept will be debated at the Parish Council meetings in September and November.

7. There was one from the Village Hall Committee and so the update will be made at the next meeting.

8. The Parish Clerk gave the Councillors new Bank Mandates for signature and also the new Declarations of Interest forms for completion.

9. There were no questions from the floor.

**Close Open Session**

10. Finance –payments were made as follows:

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|------|--------------|---------|
| 10.1 | Kirkwells    | £600.00 |
| 10.2 | Andy Lees    | £ 25.00 |
| 10.3 | Autela Group | £ 46.80 |
| 10.4 | Parish Clerk | £316.16 |
| 10.5 | K T Gooch    | £225.48 |

11. The Clerk asked that items for the next agenda be sent to her by 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018