

MINUTES OF
YARKHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 13th November 2018

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

6 members of the public were present.

1. Apologies received from Councillor Nick Nenadich and 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 11 September were adopted and signed.

4. **Open Session**

4.1 Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester informed the meeting that the last full Herefordshire Council Meeting was on the 12th October. The Youth Justice Plan for West Mercia which has to be agreed by all the Councils in the West Mercia area and this plan deals with how children are handled in the Youth Justice System. To give some idea of the number of children in the system; there were 86 offenders in 2016, for 2017 the figure was 72 children. Offences range from police cautions to more serious offences. Bearing in mind there are circa 16,000 children in the relevant age range these figures are encouraging. There was only one custodial sentence in the whole year. Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester also gives his report at the HC meetings and he focused on the care in the community situation and elaborated on the new HC website (Care Heroes) which is basically a recruitment tool to get more carers to look after vulnerable people. HC's Early Years Education provision is performing extremely well. The first Parish Council summit took place and 77 Parish Councillors attended – with cabinet members as well there were about 100 persons present. Feedback has been excellent and the next summit is arranged for 24th January 2019. HC is also considering the budget for 2019/2020. Back in 2011 the revenue support grant from central Government was over £60,125,000 – next year the figure is £625,000 and the following year there will be no grant at all. This fact explains why HC has had to make considerable cuts in expenditure. Because HC has made tough decisions over the past few years HC is in a far healthier position than many other County Councils. Council Tax increase is proposed to be 4.9% which includes the 2% set aside for adult care.

4.2 **Footpath and Pond Officer.** As yet there have been no volunteers for this post. The Parish Clerk will include a further advert in the Newsletter to encourage someone to take on this role. The Parish Clerk advised that the incorrectly placed footpath sign in Monkhide had been replaced with the appropriate Bridle Way sign. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Lengthsman had replaced the 4 way finger post at Monksbury Court. On the roads the Lengthsman has cleared grids and road gullies, jetted connecting pipes where necessary, checked inspection pits, cleared ditch headwalls, cleared minor obstructions from ditches and drains, cleaned road signs, removed storm debris from roads, strimmed around grit bins and road signs and strimmed verges and areas regularly used by pedestrians.

4.3 **Tree Warden.** The tree warden had no issues. Councillor Tom Misselbrook mentioned the concerns with the condition of Watery Lane and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk arrange a meeting with the Locality Steward to assess the situation.

4.4 **Chairmans Update.** Councillor Jeff Hughes told the meeting that he, Councillor Tom Misselbrook and Councillor Ian Carr attended the Parish Council Summit and they found it to be a very valuable meeting, discussing ways in which other parishes operate and face various challenges. Remembrance Day was a success. The Parish Clerk had arranged for the local vicar to hold the service at the church; it was an excellent service and was very well attended. Councillor Jeff Hughes informed the meeting of the sad event concerning a ewe being killed by a dog in Yarkhill. Although it is not thought to be a local dog it serves as a stark reminder that dogs should be kept on leads where there is livestock. He also suggested that if any local person notices a gate left open that they shut it; it seems that there have been a few cases recently where tourists and walkers have left gates open or inadequately secured.

5. **Planning Matters.** Councillor Jeff Hughes pointed out that there are currently two planning matters. With regard to the planning application for Northcroft, the original application was for 5 houses but this has been reduced to 3 houses. We have submitted our comments and reiterated our concerns particularly regarding the stagnant stream running behind Northcroft and we have also suggested that instead of having a further entrance/exit onto the A4103, that the existing gateway be utilised to serve as the entrance to the new houses. The other development is at Ivy Cottage which is on the Worcester side of Newtown Cross. The owners have submitted an application to amend the original application with regard to the detached garage which has been erected in the wrong position and has two storeys as opposed to the original one storey applied for. The Parish Council will carry out a site visit over the coming days and comment as applicable. They will also look at the bridle way which runs alongside the property as there is some concern about access. Councillor Jeff Hughes also mentioned Monksbury Court Barns whose owners are in the process of trying to rent out two of the units.

6. **Appointment of Roads Officer.** It has been suggested that there should be someone on the Parish Council to whom comments and or complaints about the parish roads could be directed. The Parish Clerk volunteered to take this position and forward comments and complaints to the appropriate body at HC. This covers all roads in or through the parish.

7. **Village Hall Update.** There was no update from the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed to remove this item from future Agenda but if an update was forthcoming at a future meeting it would of course be minuted.

8. **Newsletter Distribution.** The Parish Clerk pointed out recent problems with Newsletter distribution following the loss of one volunteer. She will ask for another volunteer in the next newsletter but in the meantime Councillor Chrissie Dobson offered to deliver the newsletters to the affected area.

9. **Forthcoming Litter Pick.** It was agreed to post notices about the litter pick and to include a very visible notice in the newsletter. It was also suggested that offering volunteers a cup of tea and a cake at the village hall at the end of the litter pick might encourage more volunteers. We need 4 traffic cones and it was agreed that we should buy these if none were donated by the next meeting. Councillor Ian Carr thinks he has one and Councillor Chrissie Dobson believes she has some.

10. **New Septic Tank Legislation.** Councillor Tom Misselbrook reminded us that back in 2015 legislation was introduced in relation to septic tanks, particularly those which drain into a water course. Councillor Tom Misselbrook agreed to put together an item on this subject for inclusion in the next newsletter thus making everyone aware of the situation. He did point out that people should be aware of companies offering to “update” existing septic tanks and that householders should check in the first instance if indeed they need to do anything by visiting the website of HC Environment Department or the Environment Agency.

11. **Open Garden Scheme.** Councillor Ian Carr suggested the possibility of a Yarkhill Parish Open Garden Scheme. It was agreed to mention this in the spring newsletter to ascertain interest.

12. **Hereford Walking Festival.** Councillor Ian Carr told the meeting that the walk was a success and his view is that it is good for the village and tourism. It needs someone to offer to arrange and run the walks and again this should be discussed at the spring meeting.

13. **Precept.** After discussion it was agreed to limit the increase the precept by 1.9% which is the same rise as last year. This is below the rate of inflation but will be sufficient to enable the PC to meet its expected financial obligations and maintain its float for unforeseen expenditure

14. **Bank Mandate.** No news from the bank yet but the Parish Clerk hoped that this would be resolved by the next meeting.

15. Questions from the floor. There were no questions from the floor.

Close Open Session

16. Payments were approved as follows:

16.1	Groundwork Grant Refund	£330.00
16.2	Autela Group	£ 46.80
16.3	The Poppy Shop	£ 22.98
16.4	Parish Clerk	£316.16

17. Items for the next agenda, other than standard items to be submitted to the Parish Clerk (with a copy to the Chairman) together with a description of why this item should be included.

Date of next meeting to be advised.