

MINUTES OF YARKHILL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 15th November 2022

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

There were ten members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence received from Councillor Steve Kirby, Ann Dex and Geoffrey Phillips.
2. There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation
3. The minutes from the meeting on 13th September 2022 were approved and signed.
4. 4.1 Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester was unable to stay for the duration of the meeting and explained that he was keen to comment on planning matters. He therefore agreed to submit his report for inclusion in the next newsletter.

4.2 **Chairman's Update.**

4.2.1 With regard to Whitwick Manor application number 222728, Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester explained that as there was a significant public interest in the application and the proposed development affected several parishes it was inevitable that it would be referred to Planning Committee. With regard to time scales, it is possible it may be discussed in March 2023 but in light of the elections in May and the ensuing formalities, a decision is unlikely to be forthcoming until at least the middle of 2023. We will be kept updated.

4.2.2 A new application (ref: 223128) has been submitted by LTF properties for 4 x 4 bedroom dwellings on land adjacent to Monksbury Court barns. There was much concern expressed about the impact of this development especially in relation to flooding while a number of comments were made on the unattractive nature of the houses and their poor fit with the existing barns development. In addition, the application itself was considered lacking in critical information while containing a number of faults. The state of the access track and its junction with the A417 continues to be a source of unease which it was felt must be addressed before any additional construction is allowed. Councillor Tom Misselbrook raised the point that it was disappointing the proposal contained no reference to sustainable heating which is an important factor in this current climate. The PC agreed unanimously not to support the application as currently submitted.

4.2.3 A previously declined application for 3 detached houses on land on the A4103 immediately opposite the closed Newtown Inn following the lapse of planning permission has been resubmitted without change under reference 223212. The PC objected to the original application and upheld this decision at the meeting on the basis that the development would be outside the designated Newtown settlement boundary and constitutes linear development into open countryside to the east which is contrary to Yarkhill's NDP. It was also noted that the mobile home/s are still on the land despite an enforcement order being issued.

- 4.3 Footpaths and Ponds. The F&P Officer informed the meeting that she has received an email from a parishioner explaining that the Bridle Way behind

Monksbury Court and over the bridge by the old water mill was exceedingly slippery. It was also noted that this section of the PROW was very overgrown. Two other Parishioners offered to cut back the undergrowth and the Clerk agreed to obtain permission from the Landowner. The F&P Officer put her Parish Clerk hat on and informed the meeting that she has asked the Lengthsman to re-dig the drainage channels on the road past the canal and ex-council houses. Drainage works so far have used £3,600 of the grant, leaving £1339 to be used to deep clean remaining drainage network on Monkhide Road. We will also be asking Terry (the Lengthsman) to do the verges and hedges during the coming year. This cost will be borne by the Parish as there is no longer a Lengthsman scheme grant. It was also agreed to ask the Lengthsman to look at the drainage outside Showle Court where it appears a lorry has caused a partial collapse of the drain. It was suggested that the Bridle Way between Yarkhill and the A4103 at Garford Farm is very overgrown and wet to the point of being impassable even on a horse. The clerk will mention this to the landowner.

- 4.4 The Tree Warden advised that there was a tree down on the main road which has now been cleared. There are some poplar trees on the A4103 which should be checked by the Locality Steward and the Parish Clerk will arrange that. Councillor Ian Carr agreed to confirm the ownership of the land on which the poplars stand. The Tree Warden reminded parishioners not to attempt to clear overgrown branches from power lines but to call the relevant power supplier to deal with it.
5. Councillor Jeff Hughes updated the meeting on the Herefordshire Local Plan. Herefordshire Council has been holding a series of workshops for parish councils to discuss options for future housing development in the County before the first draft plan is issued early next year. While there are a number of options on the table, it is clear that Parish Councils feel strongly that development should only be permitted where the necessary infrastructure is available to support it rather than in more isolated rural locations often without mains gas, sewage or services. On this basis, housing would be focused on existing larger settlements rather than disbursed across the entire county as is the case currently. While final decisions have yet to be made before any formal public consultation is undertaken, this appears to be the most supported option at the present time.
6. With regard to Litter Picking it has become apparent that the same core of people are carrying out the litter picking throughout the Parish and it is unfair that it should fall on the shoulders of the same few people every time. It is therefore suggested that, following the cancellation of the October litter pick, we should no longer attempt to organise larger village litter picks well in advance of the chosen date. People can often not make it at the last minute and the weather is always an unknown quantity so from next year, we are planning to concentrate on local picks as it seems most residents are more than willing to tidy up the areas closer to their own properties. These would be of a more ad hoc nature and can be arranged easily and at shorter notice so we will be looking for a few individuals to take responsibility for each area such as Yarkhill by the church, Newtown Cross and Monkhide. Caroline Borley offered to liaise with householders local to her as and when a litter pick was deemed necessary. Anyone wanting to contact Caroline should do so via the Parish Clerk in the first instance. We would also appreciate volunteers to liaise with householders in their immediate areas and again, first contact should be via the Parish Clerk.

7. After viewing the budget, discussion and asking for the views of the audience, it was agreed that we will hold next year's increase at the same level as 2022 being 1.9%. While Herefordshire Council is looking for parish councils to fund more services themselves, we are highly conscious of the financial pressures that households are currently under and felt it inappropriate to seek a larger rise. At the same time, we will continue to seek grant funding wherever possible to support essential activities such as culvert maintenance. It was also suggested that those living within the Parish might like to suggest ways in which the Precept can be used to benefit the Parish as a whole. We are looking to address speeding and road safety on the A4103 and on our lanes and the Precept could be used to purchase signs and gates for our lanes and roads. Other ideas are welcomed. The Clerk confirmed that the Precept portion of the Council Tax Bill is the same for all bands of houses.
8. Payments were made as follows:
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| Terry Griffiths Contracts | £3,600.00 |
| Parish Hall Rent to date | £ 96.00 |
- 9 Date of the next meeting 10th January 2023. Items for the next agenda to be received by the Parish Clerk no later than **24th December 2022**