

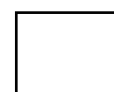
**VOWCHURCH GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Michaelchurch Escley, Newton, St Margarets, Turnastone, Vowchurch**

**Minutes of the Vowchurch Group Parish Council meeting held on  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm in Vowchurch & Turnastone Memorial Hall.**

**PRESENT** – Mr P Mason (Chairman), Mr H Franklin, Mr A Picton, Mr E Williams, Mr T Williams and Mr K Hortin.

**IN ATTENDANCE** – Mrs L Cowles (Clerk) and Ward Councillor Peter Jinman

- 1. ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Ms E May, Mr S Cole and Mr R Lloyd.
- 2. RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**  
– There were no declaration of interests or written requests for dispensation.
- 3. ADOPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING** – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.
- 4. OPEN DISCUSSION** – No members of the public attended the meeting therefore no specific points were raised.
- 5. REPORTS**
  - 5.1** Ward Councillor Peter Jinman – The Chairman welcomed Peter Jinman to his first meeting as Ward Councillor. Mr Jinman reported that he has been to one cabinet meeting since he has been in office, the latest cabinet debate will be on the proposed Hereford bypass with the Western route being favoured at present although there would be a period of consultations in the coming months. Some of the issues he will be focusing on will be the constitution and the hospital's capacity to deal with a growing population. Planning applications have increased by approximately 30% which has taken up a lot of his time. Councillors requested an update on the request for speed restrictions on the B4348 which was discussed with the previous Ward Councillor a few years previously and the poor state of the C1206 from Turnastone to Michaelchurch Escley which had been earmarked for re-surfacing. Mr Jinman would ask for an update on both issues.
  - 5.2** Local Police – PSCO Fiona Witcher confirmed that they had now moved to the fire station. There is still no landline but officers can be contacted via their mobiles. There has been another burglary at a property in Lower Maescoed, this is the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> time this particular property has been broken in to. It was confirmed that the old police station would shortly be up for sale.
  - 5.3** Lengthsman report and any new road defects – The Lengthsman was unable to attend the meeting. The condition of the U75015 is now extremely bad, this is on the school bus route with minibuses using it on a daily basis. The Clerk had reported it to the Locality Steward the previous week, but would contact him again to raise the issues. The Lengthsman report concerning the U75015 near the Kings Arms which was sent to Parish Councillors on 14<sup>th</sup> January was considered and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Locality Steward to ask whether it was Balfour Beattys responsibility to form a new ditch near the property. The Lengthsman has also inspected the hardcore in a ditch on the U74202 near Trefecca. The landowner has placed this in the ditch to stem the flow of water which runs too fast into the culvert and then over the road. Councillors agreed with the Lengthsmans suggestion to leave it for a while to enable the vegetation to grow back and revisit if needs be. The Clerk will contact the Lengthsman for an update on works already paid for and his work schedule for January, February and March.
- 6. CLERKS UPDATE** – A thank you letter has been received from Dore Community Transport for the Parish Councils recent donation. The external audit from 2017/18 will be PKF Little John LLP. Authorities with income or expenditure below £25,000 can now declare themselves exempt from an external audit, however all authorities will still need to complete and publish an annual return. The Clerk has received a letter from a local parishioner regarding footpath VO53 and VO57 (part). This would be included in the February agenda.



**7. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES** – There has been no request for an election for the Vowchurch Parish Councillor vacancy, the Parish Council can therefore co-opt a member. The Newton vacancy is currently being advertised.

## **8. CONSIDER PLANNING**

### **8.1 PLANNING CONSULTATION**

**Site:** Three Yew Trees, Newton St Margarets, Herefordshire. HR2 0QG

**Description:** Demolition of existing corrugated/timber shed used as farm equipment/machinery store, remove concrete base. Construction of new tractor and machinery secure garage and store with adjoining open sided building for hay, trailer, machinery, Landrover etc. (Retrospective).

**Application No:** 174072

**Grid Ref:** 333594:234104

**NO OBJECTION**

### **8.2 PLANNING CONSULTATION**

**Site:** Land at Old Weavers, Upper Maescoed, Newton St Margarets. HR2 0QF

**Description:** Proposed conversion of existing garage to provide annex accommodation to the house and artist's studio.

**Application No:** 174257

**Grid Ref:** 333325:234925

**NO OBJECTION**

### **8.3 PLANNING CONSULTATION**

**Site:** Caenewydd, Vowchurch, Herefordshire. HR2 ORL

**Description:** Conversion of double garage to ancillary annex.

**Application No:** 172011

**Grid Ref:** 336621:236786

**OBJECTION -THE PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS WERE NOTED.** A full report is available, on request from the Clerk or via the Herefordshire Council website.

### **8.4 PLANNING CONSULTATION**

**Site:** Land adjacent to The Old Chapel, Newton St Margarets, Herefordshire.

**Description:** Proposed works to (T1) Oak – 5 metre reduction on the overall crown. Let more light onto property. Tree crown getting large.

**Application No:** 174708

**Grid Ref:** 334433:233242

**COMMENT** - Whilst the Parish Council has no objection to this application, please note the following comment. As an oak with a TPO, we would suggest that any reduction should be less than 30% to minimise danger of vulnerability to disease.

### **8.5 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED**

**Site:** Meadow Cottage, Vowchurch, Herefordshire. HR2 0QB

**Description:** Replacement of 7 no. timber windows

**Application No:** 173947

**Grid Ref:** 338161:236744

### **8.6 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED**

**Site:** Land at Middle Common Piggery, Lower Maescoed, Herefordshire.

**Description:** Proposed demolition of existing agricultural buildings and replacement with six dwellings with associated work space. Conversion of existing workshop to form single dwelling and associated works.

**Application No:** 172704

**Grid Ref:** 334670:230851

## **9. FINANCE**

**9.1** Confirmation of bank balance - £14,576.57 Statement Sheet No. 116 issued 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**9.2** Receipts – None

**9.3** Payment to Mr T Griffiths, invoice no. TGC0235 for November (1) roads account of £382.00 plus VAT –  
**Payment agreed.**



- 9.4** Payment to Mrs Linda Cowles for December 2017 Clerk's hours – **Payment agreed.**
- 9.5** Payment to HMRC of £118.89 for PAYE October – December 2017 – **Payment agreed.**
- 9.6** Payment to Vowchurch & Turnastone Memorial Hall of £110.00 for meeting dates 2017 hall hire – **Payment agreed.**
- 9.7** Payment to HALC of £15.00 plus VAT for Dancing with Data training course – **Payment agreed.**
- 9.8** Finance Working Group Report- The quarterly report had been distributed to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. The spreadsheets had been checked at the quarterly meeting and were all in order.
- 10. MEETING DATES 2018/19** - It was agreed to continue to meet on the third Thursday on every month apart from December. The Parish Meeting will be held on the same evening as the Annual Meeting.
- 11. LENGTHSMAN 2018/19 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM** – It was agreed to complete the Expression of Interest 2018/19 form from Balfour Beatty. It was noted that the current Lengthsman contract comes to an end on 31st March and that interested parties would be invited to tender for the new contract starting on 1st April 2018.
- 12. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS** – The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The bill includes tougher rules on consent, rights to access, rights to move and rights to delete data. The Parish Council will need to employ a Data Protection Officer. Herefordshire Association of Local Councils are currently looking at employing a Data Protection Officer who members can opt into using. Parish Councils will need to have certain policies in place and these policies must be included in the minutes. This is ongoing and further information should be available in the coming months.
- 13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** – The Clerk has obtained three quotes for printing 100 copies of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed to accept the estimate from PIP printing of £222.75 plus VAT. The Council noted that Herefordshire Council's Planning Committee had recently agreed to give planning permission for the redevelopment of the Piggery in Lower Maes-coed. The Council also noted comments from Mr John Bothamley of Hereford Civic Society in the Hereford Times about the adverse impact this decision would have on the neighbourhood plans. It was agreed to write to the Hereford Times in support of the views expressed by Mr Bothamley and setting out the views of the Parish Council.
- 14. WEBSITE** – As agreed, Tony Usher has now arranged for the website to be hosted by a company in Ross on Wye and the outline site is now in place with new sections to be added. This includes a section which identifies current planning applications and provides a link to Herefordshire Councils own website.
- 15. NOTICEBOARDS** – A quote of approximate £600 has been received to refurbish the noticeboards at St Margarets, Upper Maescoed, Michaelchurch and Vowchurch. It was agreed to accept the quote.
- 16. FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER** – Lengthsman tenders 2018/19, noticeboards and Neighbourhood Plan printing
- 17. NOTE THE CORRESPONDENCE SHEET** – The correspondence sheet was noted.
- 18. RAISE MATTERS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7.30pm in Newton Church Room – None at present.

Signed.....

Dated.....