

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

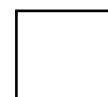
**Minutes of the Vowchurch Group Parish Council meeting held on
 Thursday 15th February 2018 at 7.30pm in Newton Church Room.**

PRESENT – Mr T Williams, Mr A Picton, Mr E Williams, Ms E May, Mr H Franklin and Mr R Lloyd.

IN ATTENDANCE – Mrs L Cowles (Clerk), Ward Councillor Peter Jinman, PCSO Pete Knight and one member of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman Mr T Williams took the Chair

- 1. ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Mr P Mason, Mr K Hortin and Mr S Cole.
- 2. RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**
 – There were no declarations of interests or written requests for dispensation.
- 3. ADOPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING** – 18th January 2018 – The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.
- 4. OPEN DISCUSSION** – No specific points were raised by the member of the public present.
- 5. REPORTS**
 - 5.1 Local Police** – PCSO Pete Knight reported that the local policing team have now moved to the fire station in Peterchurch and the local services from them would remain the same. Crime in the area has been relatively quiet although there have been two burglaries in Pontrilas and Much Birch over the last four days which may be linked. The properties targeted were unoccupied and the thieves had been looking for jewellery and cash. He emphasised the importance of not keeping a large amount of cash in the home and ensure the house looked occupied when out with timer switches etc. They are continuing to receive reports of rural theft with members of the public reporting suspicious vehicles. The ‘Stop that thief’ campaign is still operating through the NFU. Councillors asked what would happen to the old police building in Peterchurch; PCSO Knight thought that it would eventually be sold. He was also asked if there was an intercom system at the fire station so that officers could be contacted; Councillors were advised to contact the team through their mobile numbers which are displayed on the outside of the building as the three officers continue to operate a rolling work pattern.
 - 5.2 Ward Councillor** – Mr Jinman reported that he had raised the query regarding the legal order for a reduction in the speed limit on the B4348 near the Vowchurch turn and has been advised that it currently sits at number 37 out of 105 schemes waiting for the commencement of investigations. It is unlikely that this will commence in the next financial year but more than likely the following year from April 2019. He raised the issue of potholes at the recent Scrutiny Committee meeting and this seems to be gaining support from other council members although there seems to be a North/South divide within the county. Herefordshire has 4000kms of roads, the second highest in the country. 76% of the current budget goes on statutory requirements with 24% being left to do everything else. There is simply not enough in reserve to maintain the road network. Potholes are reappearing in the same places and the quality of the repairs are not good enough. The need for repair is graded on their size, depth and position on the road. Apparently Balfour Beatty will be adopting a slightly different method of repairing potholes. It is hoped that some of the £6million claimed back from Amey will go into the Lengthsman Scheme. Mr Jinman suggested that the Parish Council talked to the Landowners who are responsible for keeping the ditches on their property clear. The Parish Council’s main concerns are the continuing problems with potholes and in particular the bad state of the road surface on the C1206 at Slough Hill.
 - 5.3 Lengthsman report and any new road defects** – The Lengthsman was unable to attend the meeting. Mr E Williams had received a complaint from a local resident regarding the U75008 near Rhydunnog Farm, this has been reported via the Herefordshire Council website.



6. CLERKS UPDATE – The Clerk reminded Councillors about the Hereford Transport Package Consultation which runs until 20th March. There has not been a request for an election to fill the Newton Parish Councillor vacancy, therefore the Parish Council can now co-opt a member of their choice.

7. CONSIDER PLANNING

7.1 PLANNING CONSULTATION

Site: West View, Vowchurch Common Road, Herefordshire.
Description: Variation of condition numbers 2,6,7 and 10 (Ref 143789) revised design.
Application No. 180140 **Grid Ref:** 336495:237252

It was agreed that Mr Picton would draft a response after consulting with the Chairman. This would be emailed to Parish Councillors for approval before responding to Herefordshire Council.

7.2 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

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

8. FINANCE

8.1 Confirmation of bank balance - £14486.57 Statement Sheet No. 117 issued 17th January 2018.

8.2 Receipts – None.

8.3 Payment to Mrs Linda Cowles January 2018 Clerk's hours and £11.50 printer ink – **Payment agreed.**

8.4 Payment to Mr T Griffiths, invoice no. TGC0273 for December 2017 (1) roads account of £382.00 plus VAT and invoice no. TGC0274 for January 2018 (1) roads account of £382.00 plus VAT – **Payment agreed.**

9. PRE-ORDER CONSULTATIONS UNDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980, RE PROPOSED PUBLIC FOOTPATH CREATION/EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER CONCERNING FOOTPATH VO53 AND VO 57 (part) IN THE PARISH OF VOWCHURCH & TURNASTONE – Correspondence has been received from a local resident with a proposal to create/extinguish part of footpath VO53/57 in Vowchurch. Councillors have heard from some residents who use the footpath on a daily basis and they are not happy with the proposed changes and would like to suggest an alternative route. Councillor May did walk the footpath and tried to make contact with the homeowner who was unfortunately out at the time. Whilst the Parish Council are happy for there to be a change they are not happy with the current suggested route. It was agreed to investigate further to enable the Parish Council to respond within the requested timescale of 11th March 2018.

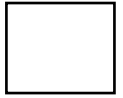
10. LENGTHSMAN PROVISION OF EXPECTED EXPENDITURE 2017-18 – The Clerk advised that there are still funds available in the Lengthsman budget to enable him to continue with two maintenance days covering January, February and March and specific tasks as requested on C1205 near Wernagavenny Farm, Michaelchurch Escley, Bridge End, Newton St Margarets and the U75015. This would still leave an underspend of approximately £600-£700.

11. LENGTHSMAN ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PLAN 2018-19 – It was agreed to submit the Annual Maintenance Plan for 2018 – 2019 with no changes from 2017 – 2018.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – The Clerk will be collecting the printed Neighbourhood Plans next week. The letter sent to the Hereford Times has been printed in the 1st February issue, unfortunately this has been printed in the Clerks' name instead of the Chairman's as requested.

13. WEBSITE UPDATE – Tony Usher has advised that all the content from the current site has been transferred to the new Wordpress site therefore the site is ready to go live which will then enable the Parish Council to update the site themselves. The Clerk has requested a short training session with Tony Usher and the Chair to run through updating the site through Wordpress.

14. FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER – Items for the March newsletters – Dore Community Transport, Bus Service, Parish Councillor vacancies and printed Neighbourhood Plans.



15. NOTE THE CORRESPONDENCE SHEET – There correspondence sheet was noted.

16. RAISE MATTERS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Thursday 15th March 2018 at 7.30pm in Vowchurch & Turnastone Memorial Hall – Lengthsman contract.

The Vice- Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2030

Signed.....

Dated.....