

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

**Minutes of the Vowchurch Group Parish Council meeting held on
 Thursday 20th September 2018 at 7.30pm in Vowchurch & Turnastone Memorial Hall**

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

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

1. **ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Mr S Cole, Ms E May and Mr T Griffiths (Lengthsman).
2. **RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION** – There were no declarations of interest or written requests for dispensation.
3. **ADOPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING** – 16th August 2018 – 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 Local Police – The local police were unable to attend the meeting.

5.2 Ward Councillor – Ward Councillor Jinman commented that whilst Mrs Sue White at Herefordshire Council has been very helpful with the ongoing footpath consultation for the VO53 & VO57, the consultation process is a little unclear.

Parties have worked hard to sort out the issue of road signage on the Vowchurch Common road but any additional signage must comply with Balfour Beatty policies.

There has clearly been a lot of activity with road improvements in the parish but more still need to be done as we head into the winter. There has already been some action taken against landowners in the County to maintain ditches under the Riparian Ownership. This area is very lucky to have a good Locality Steward but defects should continue to be reported to Herefordshire Council.

The Hereford bypass, red route will now be taken forward for further development and consultation. Hereford's University development is on-going and could possibly be open next year.

5.3 Lengthsman report – Mr T Griffiths was unable to attend the meeting. His September report had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting via email. He has advised that several defects reported to Balfour Beatty are still awaiting repair. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow this up with the Locality Steward. Mr Hortin reported that some ditches near his house had been cleared on the recent visit but others were left. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Mr Griffiths to explain why. Guidance notes for the Lengthsman Scheme have recently been emailed to the Clerk from Balfour Beatty. It was agreed to forward these to Councillors.

The road sign on the B4348 at Vowchurch has still not been replaced since an accident some months ago along with the bus stop sign. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Locality Steward for an update and Stagecoach to enquire about the bus stop sign.

6. CLERKS UPDATE – The website address has now been changed to www.vowchurchgpc.org.uk. Traffic to the old site will automatically be redirected.

Parish Councillors have previously been sent an invitation to a Parish Council Summit hosted by Herefordshire Council on 17th October. Mr Paul Mason agreed to attend.

The Herefordshire Walking Festival takes place in June 2019. The organisers are looking for people to put together or lead walks around the local area. It was agreed that there would be nobody available.

7. CONSIDER PLANNING

7.1 PLANNING - ALL OTHERS – PRIOR APPROVAL – THIS APPLICATION WAS REFUSED ON 17/09/18

Site: Middle House Farm, Michaelchurch Escley, Herefordshire. HR2 OPT

Description: Application for prior notification of an agricultural building.

Application No: 183157 **Grid Ref:** 330161:235901

7.2 AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY BUILDINGS & OPERATIONS – PRIOR APPROVAL IS NOT REQUIRED

Site: Poston Court, Vowchurch, Herefordshire. HR2 ORJ

Description: Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development – proposed road.

Application No: 182700 **Grid Ref:** 336554:238167

7.3 AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY BUILDINGS & OPERATIONS – PRIOR APPROVAL IS NOT REQUIRED

Site: Poston Court, Vowchurch, Herefordshire. HR2 ORJ

Description: Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development – proposed building.

Application No: 182701 **Grid Ref:** 336231:238123

8. FINANCE

8.1 Confirmation of bank balance - £12605.56 Statement Sheet No. 124 issued 17th August 2018.

8.2 Receipts – None.

8.3 Payment to Mrs Linda Cowles for August 2018 Clerk's hours – **Payment agreed.**

8.4 Payment to Mr T Griffiths, invoice no. TGC0524 for Roads account August 2018 (1) of £364.00 plus VAT – **Payment agreed.**

8.5 PAYE refund - It was agreed not to apply for a refund but to use the funds to offset future PAYE payments.

9. FOOTPATH VO53 & VO57 – The Chairman reported that Herefordshire Council's Rights of Way Officer had now made it clear that the Parish Council would not be liable for legal costs if they made a reasonable objection to the proposed change of route of the VO53 & VO57. There was general agreement that the process under which proposed changes to footpaths were made was not clear. It is now the applicant's responsibility to conduct a pre-order consultation of the key user groups and directly affected parties. Local people have a chance to comment if the Council decides to make an order under which the changes are implemented. At that stage notices go up on site and in the newspaper inviting comments. In addition to the objection made by the Parish Council a local resident has now made a formal objection to Herefordshire Council. Councillors had established that other local people are opposed to the proposed route but would accept the proposed alternative route. Since the Parish Council was now clear about the basis on which the proposal to divert a footpath had to be judged under the Highways Act 1980, it was agreed that they would revise their objections accordingly. The Chairman will draft a response to be circulated to Councillors for agreement.

10. TURNASTONE COURT – The Enforcement Officer has visited the site and has concluded that no breach of planning control has occurred and he will be taking no further action. The enforcement case has now been closed. The Parish Council noted that the caravan has been moved and some vehicles are due to be removed in the coming months. The site has significantly improved. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Parishioners who have commented to advise accordingly.

11. VOWCHURCH COMMON ROAD – The Locality Steward has agreed that an additional road sign stating 'unsuitable for heavy vehicles' can be erected on the opposite bank to the existing sign on the U75402. The sign will be £37.50, £7.50 for the post plus 9% fee charge. It will be the responsibility of the Parish Council to cover these costs although it is hoped that Balfour Beatty will cover the cost to erect the sign. It was agreed that the Clerk could go ahead and order the sign from Balfour Beatty.

12. POTHOLE REPAIRS AND OTHER PUBLIC REALM SERVICES – It was agreed to make no comments.

13. OCTOBER NEWSLETTER – Parish Councillors vacancies and new website address.

14. NOTE THE CORRESPONDENCE SHEET – The correspondence sheet was noted.

15. RAISE MATTERS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Thursday 18th October at 7.30pm in Newton Church Room – None at present.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2030

Signed.....

Dated.....

DRAFT