

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

**Minutes of the Vowchurch Group Parish Council meeting held on  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019 at 7.30pm in Newton Church Room**

**PRESENT** – Mr P Mason (Chairman), Mr H Franklin, Mr A Picton, Mr R Lloyd, Mr K Hortin and Mr J Kernahan.

**IN ATTENDANCE** – Mrs L Cowles (Clerk), Mr T Griffiths (Lengthsman) and Mr N Lewis (Footpaths Officer).

- 1. ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Mr T Williams, Mr E Williams, Mrs S Cole, Ms E May and Ward Councillor Peter Jinman.
- 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** – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – 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. FOOTPATHS OFFICER** – The Chairman welcomed Mr Neil Lewis to the meeting who has kindly volunteered to be the Footpath Officer covering Vowchurch and Turnastone. It was agreed that he would attend a Parish Council meeting every quarter and would liaise with the Clerk if any issues. It was agreed that the Clerk would request a variety of footpath signs from the Locality Steward as these will need updating.
- 6. REPORTS**
  - 6.1 Local Police** – The local police were unable to attend the meeting.
  - 6.2 Ward Councillor** – Ward Councillor Peter Jinman was unable to attend the meeting. His latest report was circulated to Parish Councillors and included information on the county budget, council tax increase and the movement request for footpaths VO53 & VO57 has yet to be resolved.
  - 6.3 Lengthsman report** – The Lengthsman reported that the 4-maintenance day route system has been working well and the majority of the ditches are now quite clear. The route 4 day has been useful for clearing any outstanding work and responding to last minute issues. The on-going issue at Bridge End has now been resolved with the removal of a tree stump. A number of issues have been reported to the Clerk to forward to Balfour Beatty, many of these defects are still outstanding. The Clerk confirmed these have been reported and are awaiting investigation. There is a large area of ditch that needs digging out on the U75015 near Maerdy Farm/Pucha Farm to prevent water continually sitting on the road, this work would cost approximately £1300 to complete. Whilst ditches are the responsibility of the landowner it was thought that this land was currently rented. It was agreed that Mr Picton would contact the Locality Steward to arrange a visit. Mr Franklin has been contacted to confirm if the lane to Blaney Farm, Michaelchurch was a council owned road as the road is now a gravel track. The Clerk advised that she thought it was a council lane but would confirm with the Locality Steward. The Clerk had been contacted regarding water and red mud running down the C1206 from the B4348. The Locality Steward has confirmed he has passed this to the drainage team. The traffic safety mirror at the junction of the Abbeydore road onto the B4348 needs adjusting as drivers are unable to see on-coming traffic.
- 7. CLERKS UPDATE** – The Clerk confirmed that the Vowchurch road sign on the Hereford side of the B4348 has been cleaned. It has also been confirmed that Herefordshire Council will not install a road safety mirror at the Fairfield school junction as these can be as problematic as solving a problem. The new bus sign has been installed at the bottom of the Vowchurch Common road. There will be a hearing on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March regarding the proposed travellers sites at Bosbury and Madley. This is an order to consider 'Are the proposed allocations suitable and justified and are they deliverable'.



The draft Mineral and Waste Local Plan Consultation runs until 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

The River Wye & Lugg Natural Flood Management Project launched locally on the 12<sup>th</sup> February at Ewyas Harold.

The Great British Spring Clean runs from 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.

The Planning Enforcement Officer is due to visit Well Green, Newton St Margaret by the end of the month as it has been reported that a mobile home is now on site and a new entrance constructed.

The U75402, Vowchurch Common road will be closed from 13<sup>th</sup> March for 3 days whilst Welsh Water complete works. The road should be open to residents.

The Local Elections are due to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. There is a prospective candidate briefing on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 which will be open to all. Herefordshire Council has launched a campaign to encourage residents to stand as ward or parish councillors. The website is

[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/beacouncillor](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/beacouncillor). The Clerk will be attending a briefing session on 6<sup>th</sup> March and will be collecting nomination packs that evening. Councillors were reminded that all nomination papers etc must be hand delivered by the candidate, or by someone that they trust by the close of nominations at 4pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.

## 8. CONSIDER PLANNING

### 8.1 PLANNING CONSULTATION – The additional comments sent to planning on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were noted

**Site:** Barn at Cwarelau Farm, Cwarelau Road, Newton St Margarets. HR2 0QT

**Proposal:** Proposed conversion of a redundant farm building.

**Application No:** 172857/172858 **Grid Ref:** 335871:231582

### 8.2 PLANNING CONSULTATION

**Site:** Old House, Newton St Margarets, Herefordshire. HR2 0QR

**Description:** Proposed replacement roof to single storey extension with increase to pitch.

**Application No.** 184487/184488 **Grid Ref:** 334870:232398

**NO OBJECTIONS**

### 8.3 PLANNING CONSULTATION

**Site:** Old House, Newton St Margarets, Herefordshire. HR2 0QR

**Description:** Proposed repairs to roof timbers, replacement of tin roof with slate and replacement of two windows to a door.

**Application No:** 184483 **Grid Ref:** 334870:232398

**NO OBJECTIONS**

### 8.4 CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL USE OR DEVELOPMENT

**Site:** The Meadows, Rock Road, Newton St Margarets, Herefordshire HR2 0QW

**Description:** One storey timber framed & glazed extension to the south elevation measuring 6100mm long x 3600mm wide x 3363mm high to top of hipped tiled roof.

**Application No:** 184429 **Grid Ref:** 335483:233797

## 9. FINANCE

**9.1** Confirmation of updated bank balance - £11,838.24 Statement Sheet No. 130 issued 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**9.2** Receipts – None.

**9.3** Payment to Mrs Linda Cowles for January 2019 Clerk's hours and £37.00 plus VAT for ink cartridges – **Payment agreed.**

**9.4** Payment to Mr T Griffiths, invoice no. TGC0645 for January 2019 (1) roads account of £364.00 plus VAT and invoice no. TGC0665 for January 2019 (2) roads account of £364.00 plus VAT – **Payment agreed.**

**9.5** Payment to Information Commissioners Office for Data Protection Registration of £40.00 – **Payment agreed.**

**10. LENGTHSMAN CONTRACT 2019/20** – The Clerk has received a tender for the Lengthsman contract covering 2019/20. Mr T Griffiths also confirmed that he would be interested in continuing and his rates would remain the same as 2018/19. It was agreed to discuss at the March meeting but to complete BBLP Expression of Interest Form 2019/20.



- 11. VOWCHURCH COMMON ROAD SIGNS** – A response from Balfour Beatty’s Senior Engineer had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting regarding the request to install additional signage at the bottom of the U75402. It was agreed that this response was very unhelpful. It was agreed that the draft response circulated to Councillors by the Chairman would be sent to Balfour Beatty.
- 12. B4348 DRAFT RESURFACE JUSTIFICATION REPORT** – It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the initiative to improve the condition of the B4348. It was noted that the Parish Council had requested an introduction of a speed limit on the Vowchurch section four to five years ago. There is also concern that the road markings are in a poor condition.
- 13. FOOTPATH VO53 & VO57** – The Clerk has contacted the Rights of Way Team Leader who has confirmed that if an order were to be made, it would be advertised on site and in the local paper with 28 days for objections. However, she is still not entirely clear whether she will be recommending making or rejecting an order yet.
- 14. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE LINKS** – The Clerk confirmed that there are currently 7 links to local organisations on the Parish Council website. It was suggested to also include Peterchurch Hub and Michaelchurch Escley Youth Club. It was also agreed to encourage other organisations to request a link and advertise this in the April Newsletter. Public Rights of Way defects can also be reported via the existing link to Herefordshire Councils website. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the website password to Mr Kernahan for him to establish how many times the website has been visited. The Clerk would also investigate the possibility of a Facebook page for the Parish Council.
- 15. MARCH NEWSLETTER** – Article already sent which included Parish Councillor vacancy, Lengthsman contract 2019/20, Footpath Officers and reporting problems via Herefordshire Council website.
- 16. NOTE THE CORRESPONDENCE SHEET** – The correspondence sheet was noted.
- 17. RAISE MATTERS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 at 7.30pm in Vowchurch & Turnastone Memorial Hall – Lengthsman contract, Website/Facebook page, Footpaths and road sign on the Vowchurch Common road.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed.....  
 Dated.....